

one derives benefit? Hence you, my greatest friend, must carry out my task.

11. Time being accursed, a great irremediable misery has befallen me. None other than you can dispel it.

12. The test of a donor is at the time of famine; the test of a warrior is at the time of battle; the test of a friend is at the time of adversity and the test of a woman is in the financial weakness of the family.

13. O dear, the test of a real friend is in the time of distress and is also based on what he does behind the back. It is not otherwise. This is truth.

14. Now that an adversity has befallen me, which cannot be thwarted by anyone else, O dear friend, it shall be a test for you today.

15. This is not a matter that brings pleasure to me alone. This is a matter that concerns all the gods and others too.

*Brahmā said :—*

16. On hearing these words of Indra the fish-bannered god Kāma spoke smilingly in words indicating love and gravity.

*Kāma said :—*

17. Why do you say like this? I make no answer to you. A helping unreal friend is neither seen nor spoken of in the world.

18. He who speaks much at the time of adversity will not turn out much. Yet, O king, my lord, I shall say something. Please listen.

19. O dear friend, I shall cause the downfall of that enemy of yours who is performing a severe penance to usurp your position.

20. I shall topple gods, sages, demons and others through the side-glances of a beautiful woman. I do not at all take human beings into consideration.

21. Let your thunderbolt and other weapons of innumerable varieties be set aside. What will they do when I, your friend, am present?

22. I can undoubtedly make Brahmā and Viṣṇu go