

and becoming me, O lord of the three worlds, you are the creator and hence the lord of all the worlds. Please tell me. What is my honourable and suitable place? Who is going to be my wife?"

*Sūta said :—*

35-36. On hearing the words of the noble-souled person Kāma, the creator did not say anything for a short while in his surprised predicament. Then steadying his mind and abandoning his surprised look, Brahmā, already a victim of Kāma, spoke to the person thus :—

*Brahmā said :—*

37. In this form and with your five flower-arrows<sup>236</sup> you can enamour and captivate men and women and carry on the eternal task of creation.

38. In this universe consisting of three worlds, mobile and immobile beings, none of the living beings including the Devas will be competent to defy you.

39. O best of beings, not to speak of ordinary living beings even I Brahmā, Vāsudeva and Śiva will be in your control.

40. Invisibly you enter the hearts of living beings, excite thrilling feelings of pleasure and carry on the activities of creation that is to last for ever.

41. The minds of all living beings will become an easy target of your five-flower arrows. You will be the cause of their elation.

42. Thus I have assigned you the task of facilitating creation. These sons of mine will confer names and titles on you.

*Brahmā said :—*

43. O best of the celestials, after saying this and casting a meaningful glance at my sons I resumed my lotus-seat immediately.

<sup>236</sup>. Five flowers that are the missiles of love-God Kāma are stated to be arabinda (a white lotus), aśoka (Jonesia Aśoka), āmra (mango-oot), navamallikā (Jasmine) and nilotpala (a blue lotus).