

lord of all, are pleased with me please be delightful to me.

21. O lord, please forgive my fault formerly perpetrated by me. Please grant me great affection towards my people and devotion to your feet.

*Brahmā said:—*

22. On hearing the words of Kāma, lord Śiva was delighted. Giving consent, the lord of mercy laughingly said.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

23. O Kāma, I am delighted. O intelligent one, do not fear. Go near Viṣṇu and wait outside.

*Brahmā said:—*

24. On hearing these words he bowed to, circum-ambulated and eulogised the lord. Then he went out and bowed to Viṣṇu and gods.

25. Addressing Kāma, the gods congratulated him and offered him their auspicious blessings. Remembering Śiva, Viṣṇu and others spoke to him.

*The gods said:—*

26. O Kāma, you are blessed. Burnt by Śiva you have been blessed by Him. The lord of all has resuscitated you by means of his sympathetic glance, the Sāttvika part.

27. No man causes happiness or sorrow to another man. Man experiences the fruits of what he does. Who can ward off the destined protection, marriage or consummation at the proper time ?

*Brahmā said:—*

28. After saying thus, the gods happily honoured him. Viṣṇu and other gods who had realised their desire stayed there with pleasure.

29. He too remained there, at the bidding of Śiva, with great delight. There were shouts of "Victory" "Obeisance" and "well-done".

30. At the bed-chamber Śiva placed Pārvatī on His