

He is merciful. My previous merits too may have been the cause. As for the lord there is no affectation or change in Him.

62. O Brahmā, if you desire that Śiva should take a wife unto Himself, you should employ some means with modesty. This is what I think proper in the circumstances.

Brahmā said:—

63. Saying this, Kāma returned to his abode along with his followers after saluting me and remembering Śiva, the destroyer of arrogance and the favourite of His devotees.

CHAPTER TEN

(Brahmā-Viṣṇu dialogue)

Nārada said :—

1. O Brahmā, the fortunate, the dispenser of the fruits of our actions, you are a blessed devotee of Śiva, as your mind is fixed in him. You have narrated to me the good story of Śiva, the great soul.

2. When Kāma returned to his hermitage with Rati and his followers what happened and what steps you took? Please narrate that now.

Brahmā said :—

3. O Nārada listen lovingly to the story of the moon-crested lord, a mere listening to which makes a man free from depravity and decay.

4. When Kāma returned to his abode with Rati and his followers what happened next, you can hear from me in full detail.

5. O sage Nārada, my arrogance was quashed when my desire remained unrealised. And surprise filled my dissatisfied and distressed heart.

6. How will Śiva who is free from depravity, who has conquered himself and who is devoted to Yogic practices take up a wife unto himself? Thinking thus I bewailed a lot.