

from adversities, so also thou art the saviour of the good. Thou art the watch and ward of Social Conventions. Thou punishest the wicked.

40. The great lord has been wounded by me by the shafts of piercing harsh words. I have made the gods, who conferred blessings on me, very dejected.

41. O Śiva, the helper of the distressed, Thou art greater than the greatest. Thou art favourably disposed to thy devotees. Thou art satisfied by thine own action of great value.

*Brahmā said:—*

42. Having thus eulogised lord Śiva, the benefactor of the worlds and the great lord, the patriarch Dakṣa humbly stopped.

43. Then the delighted Viṣṇu, with palms joined in reverence, eulogised the bull-bannered Śiva in a speech choked with tears after bowing to him.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

44. O great God, O supreme God, the bestower of blessings on the world, O storehouse of mercy, the helper of the distressed, Thou art the great Brahman, the great soul.

45-46. O Lord, Thou art all-pervasive and independent. Thy glory can be known only through the Vedas. This Dakṣa is my devotee. He has been wicked to censure you before. He has committed an offence making us meritless. O great lord, Thou must forgive him since thou art free from aberrations.

47. O Śiva, out of delusion. I too have committed offence against you since I took sides with Dakṣa and fought with Virabhadra, Thy attendant.

48. O Sadāśiva, Thou art my master, the supreme Brahman. I am Thy slave. I shall be sustained by Thee always since thou art the father unto us all.

*Brahmā said :—*

49. O great lord, lord of devas, O lord, O ocean of mercy, Thou art the independent great soul, the great Śiva, unchanging and without a second.