

bhadra) laughed and said “I am glad to know that you are a favourite of our lord”.

64. Then the delighted Virabhadra, the leader of the Gaṇas, laughed and stooped humbly and spoke to lord Viṣṇu,

Virabhadra said:—

65. O great lord, I had said thus in order to test your feelings. Now I shall speak in real earnest. You listen with attention.

66. As Śiva, so you. As you, so Śiva. O Viṣṇu, thus speak the Vedas at the bidding of Śiva.

67. O lord of Lakṣmī, all of us are the servants of Śiva. We work at the bidding of Śiva. Still due to respect we speak and argue thus.

Brahmā said:—

68. On hearing these words of Virabhadra, Viṣṇu laughed and spoke these words beneficent to Virabhadra.

Viṣṇu said:—

69. O great hero, unhesitatingly fight with me. Hit all over my body by your arrows. I shall return to my hermitage.

Brahmā said :

70. Saying thus, he stopped and got ready for the fight. The powerful Virabhadra too got ready in the company of his attendants.

CHAPTER THIRTYSEVEN

(Destruction of Dakṣa's sacrifice)

Brahmā said :—

1-2. Mentally meditating on Śiva, the remover of all adversities and seated in his divine chariot, the powerful Virabhadra took up all the great miraculous weapons for his fight with Viṣṇu and roared like a lion.