

Śiva, thus requested by the lord of Devas on behalf of Kṣuva, immediately replied thus.

*Dadhica said :—*

5. O brahmin, your purpose has been understood by me. You have come here on behalf of Kṣuva. You are the lord Viṣṇu in the form of a brahmin due to your illusion.

6. O lord of Devas, O Viṣṇu, thanks to the grace of Śiva, the past, future and present, everything in the three periods of time is known to me.

7. I know you to be Viṣṇu, O observer of good rites, leave off your disguise of brahminhood. You have been propitiated by king Kṣuva of wicked intellect.

8. O lord Viṣṇu, I know your favouritism towards your devotees. Cast off this deception. Assume your own real form. Remember Śiva.

9. If any one is afraid of me in view of my being engrossed in the worship of Śiva, you will please tell me bearing in mind the true state of things.

10. With my mind drawn to the memory of Śiva, I never tell a lie. I am not afraid of devas or demons in the whole universe.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

11. “O Dadhica of good rites, all sorts of fear are at an end for you. Since you are actively engaged in the worship of Śiva you are omniscient.

12. You will please say for once that you are afraid. Obeisance to you. At my behest please bear with Kṣuva the leader of kings”.

*Brahmā said :*

13. Even after hearing this request of Viṣṇu, the great sage Dadhica, the most excellent of the devotees of Śiva, laughed and said fearlessly:—

*Dadhica said :—*

14. “I am not at all afraid of anything anywhere at