

and the stars shine.

18. My devotee may worship the gods. Being so absorbed he will attain knowledge leading to eternal salvation.

19. Without devotion to Brahmā one cannot have the devotion to Viṣṇu; without devotion to Viṣṇu none will have devotion towards me.

20. After saying this, Śiva, the great lord, the merciful god spoke these words within the hearing of everyone.

21. "If a devotee of Viṣṇu hates me or if a devotee of Śiva hates Viṣṇu, both will incur curses and never realise reality".

*Brahmā said :—*

22. On hearing these pleasing words of lord Śiva, O sage, the devas, sages and others were greatly delighted.

23-24. With great joy, Dakṣa, his family and the gods realised Śiva as the lord of all and was engrossed in devotion to Śiva. Lord Śiva who was delighted in mind granted boons to all, as he received reverence to His great self.

25. Permitted by Śiva and with his blessings, O sage, Dakṣa the devotee of Śiva, with a delighted heart completed his sacrifice.

26. He allotted the full share to Śiva and gave the gods their respective shares. He gave charitable gifts to the brahmins and secured the good blessings of Śiva.

27. Thus the patriarch, Dakṣa, in collaboration with the Ṛtviks, completed that great rite of the gods in accordance with the sacred injunction.

28. O excellent sage, thus the sacrifice of Dakṣa was completed, thanks to the grace of Śiva who is identical with the supreme Brahman.

29. Then the celestial sages, sang the glory of Śiva and left for their abodes with delighted minds. Others too were pleased and left for their homes.

base. The three—Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Rudra—exist in one and one in three and they are comprehended within that one Being who is supreme, secret and the soul of all things.