

any time, thanks to the power of the Pināka-wielding Śiva, the lord of Devas”.

*Brahmā said :—*

15. Then, on hearing the words of the sage, Viṣṇu became angry. He lifted his discus and stood as if he would burn the excellent sage.

16. When hurled upon the brahmin, the terrible discus became blunted in the presence of the king, thanks to the power of Śiva.

17. On seeing the discus blunted at the edges, Dadhīca smilingly spoke to Viṣṇu, the cause of discrimination between the existent and the non-existent.

*Dadhīca said :—*

18. O lord Viṣṇu, formerly the famous terrible discus Sudarśana<sup>333</sup> was secured by you with great effort.

19. That is the auspicious discus of Śiva. It does not kill me here. O lord Viṣṇu, furious at me you can endeavour to hurl all the weapons such as Brahmāstra<sup>333</sup> at me one by one.

*Brahmā said :—*

20. Viṣṇu, on hearing his words, thought that he was only a man devoid of virility and hence hurled at him all the weapons.

21. Thereupon the devas of crooked intellect rendered help to Viṣṇu who was engaged in fighting with a single brahmin.

22. Indra and others, partisans of Viṣṇu, hurled with force their own different weapons from all round, on Dadhīca.

23. Taking a fistful of Kuśa grass and remembering Śiva, Dadhīca of adamant bones and self-control discharged it against all the Gods.

24. O sage, thanks to the power of Śiva, the fistful Kuśa grass of the sage became the divine trident equal in potentiality to the fire of the god of death.

<sup>333</sup>. It is a mythical weapon causing infallible destruction. It is so called because it is presided over by Brahmā.