

the quarters and other devas had fled, Virabhadra came very near the entrance of the sacrificial chamber along with the Gaṇas.

40. Then all the sages who had assembled there were terribly afraid and bowing to Viṣṇu and desirous of informing him said thus:—

*The sages said :—*

41-42. “O lord of Lakṣmī, lord of devas, O great lord, lord of everyone, save the sacrifice of Dakṣa. Undoubtedly you are the sacrifice, the performer of sacrifice, the sacrifice embodied, ancillary to sacrifice and the protector of sacrifice. Please save, save the sacrifice. There is none else than you to protect it.”

*Brahmā said :—*

43. On hearing these words of the sages Viṣṇu, desirous of fighting with Virabhadra went ahead.

44. The powerful Viṣṇu, the four-armed discus-bearing Viṣṇu, fully equipped, came out of the sacrificial chamber along with the devas.

45. The trident-wielding Virabhadra accompanied by the different Gaṇas saw Viṣṇu the great lord desirous of fighting and ready for it.

46. On seeing him Virabhadra knit his eyebrows and his face became awful. He met him as the god of death meeting a sinner or the lion meeting an elephant.

47. On seeing Viṣṇu in such a manner Virabhadra the suppressor of enemies, surrounded by the Gaṇas became furious and said.

*Virabhadra said :*

48. O Viṣṇu, how is it that you set at nought the affirmation of lord Śiva ? Why were you haughty ?

49. Can you dare to transgress the affirmation of lord Śiva ? Who are you ? In the three worlds who is your saviour ?

50. Why did you come here ? We do not know that. How did you become the guardian and saviour of Dakṣa's sacrifice ? Explain it.