

38. Remembering Śiva in his mind and laughing fearlessly, the intelligent Dadhica, the most excellent of the devotees of Śiva spoke to Viṣṇu, the lord of Devas, thus.

*Dadhica said :—*

39. O Viṣṇu, of what avail is this illusion of yours or the power of Mantra. You shall give up this illusion and fight in a straight manner.

*Brahmā said :—*

40. On hearing the words of the sage, the fearless Viṣṇu became angry with the sage who had been infused with the brilliance of Śiva.

41. The gods also rushed to the aid of lord Viṣṇu who was desirous of fighting with the sage Dadhica of great valour.

42-43. In the meantime, Kṣuva of noble contact, came there. He prevented the motionless Brahmā, Viṣṇu and the gods from fighting. Even after hearing my words, the defeated Viṣṇu did not go near the sage, nor bowed to her.

44. Kṣuva who became agitated and distressed went near Dadhica the great sage, bowed to him and requested thus.

*Kṣuva said :—*

45. O leader of sages, foremost of the devotees of Śiva, be pleased. Be pleased with Lakṣmī's consort who is difficult to be perceived by the wicked people.

*Brahmā said :—*

46. On hearing the words of the king on behalf of the devas, the brahmin Dadhica, the storehouse of penance, blessed him.

47. Then, on seeing the lord of Lakṣmī Viṣṇu and others, the sage was angry. Remembering Śiva, he cursed Viṣṇu and the devas.

*Dadhica said :—*

48. Let the gods with Indra, the sages and the lord Viṣṇu be burnt in the fire of the anger of Rudra.