

of a saint, what is it that you have done to those good people—my sons? To those engaged in good actions the accursed path of a mendicant has been pointed out by you.

35. Ruthless rogue that you are, even when they were not free from the three debts<sup>255</sup> you put obstacles in the path of their progress both here as well as hereafter.

36. He who renounces the world desiring salvation, without repaying the three debts and departs from the house forsaking his parents surely courts downfall.

37. You are unkind, shameless, distorter of the tender intellect of children, and a destroyer of fame. Why do you, a foolish fellow, move about among the attendants of Viṣṇu in vain?

38. Frequently you have committed offences against me, O basest of the base. Hence roaming ever in the worlds your feet will never be steady anywhere.

39-40. Grief-stricken Dakṣa cursed you thus, you who are honoured by saints. It was Śiva's power of delusion that prevented him from understanding the will of Īśvara. Without your mind being affected the least, you accepted the curse. All saintly Brahminical saints forbear thus.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

*(The birth of Satī and her childish sports)*

*Brahmā said :—*

1. In the mean time, O celestial sage I, the grandfather of the worlds, came there, on hearing the incident.

2. I consoled Dakṣa as before. Clever that I was I made him friendly with you.

255. Reference is made to the three debts which every person belonging to first three varṇas owes to the ancient seers, the ancestors, and the Gods. He owes Brahmācarya or study of the Vedas to the Ṛṣis, sacrifice and worship to the Gods, procreation of a son to the Manes. See Manu VI. 35. In later times two more debts—benevolence to mankind and hospitality to guests are added.