

44. "Why do you talk so much ? Your words will bring up disaster. You are neither the lord, nor the supreme Brahman. There must be a creator of yours."

45. Deluded by the illusion created by Śiva the great lord, I fought a terrific battle with Viṣṇu.

46. Inimical to each other due to Rajoguṇa, we fought a fierce battle in the middle of that vast expanse of the sea of Dissolution.

47. Meanwhile a phallic image appeared before us in order to enlighten us and to settle out dispute.

48. It had no beginning, middle or end. It had neither decrease nor increase. It was as furious as hundreds of the fire of death with thousands of leaping rows of flames.

49. It was unequalled, inexpressible unmanifest universal Being. The lord Viṣṇu became unconscious by its thousand flames.

50. When I too became senseless, Viṣṇu said to me. Oh, why do you contend with me now ? A third person has now come. Let our quarrel cease.

51. Whence has this arisen ? Let us examine this fire-Being. I shall go down to find the root of this matchless column of fire.

52. "O lord of subjects, with the speed of the wind you will please go up to examine its top."

*Brahmā continues the story :—*

53. Having said so, Viṣṇu assumed the form of a Boar. O sage, I became a swan immediately.

54. From that time onwards, people call me Haṁsa-Haṁsa, a supreme Being<sup>182</sup>, Virāṭ, an illustrious Being. He who repeats 'HaṁsaHaṁsa', shall become a swan (a symbol of purity and discrimination).

55. Very white of complexion and endowed with wings on either side I flew up and up with the speed of the mind and wind.

56-58. Nārāyaṇa, the soul of the universe too, became white then. His body was ten yojanas wide and a hundred yojanas long, as huge as the mountain Meru. He had white