

25. That trident of Śaiva nature blazing around with the lustre exceeding the fire at the close of the Yugas wanted to burn the armed Gods.

26. All the weapons hurled by the devas of whom Nārāyaṇa and Indra were the most important, bowed down in reverence to that trident.

27. Bereft of their virility, the heaven-dwelling devas fled. Viṣṇu, alone, the foremost of those who make use of Māyā, remained there but he was afraid.

28. Viṣṇu, the lord, created out of his body millions of divine beings like himself.

29. O celestial sage, those Viṣṇugaṇas of heroic power fought with the single sage Dadhīca identical with Śiva.

30. Then withstanding the entire hosts of Viṣṇugaṇas, Dadhīca, the most excellent of the devotees of Śiva, burnt them all in the battle.

31. Then, in order to confound the sage Dadhīca, Viṣṇu, clever in the use of illusion, became multi-formed.

32. In that body of Viṣṇu, the most excellent brahmin Dadhīca saw thousands of devas and living beings.

33. There were crores of Bhūtas, crores of Gaṇas and crores of universes in the body of multiformed Viṣṇu then.

34. On seeing all things spread there, Dadhīca, the son of Cyavana spoke to Viṣṇu, the all-pervading, unborn, lord of the universe, eulogised by the whole universe.

*Dadhīca said:—*

35. O long-armed one, cast-off this illusion. On consideration, this is only a sham appearance. O Viṣṇu, thousands of inscrutable things are known to me also.

36. I shall give you a divine vision. You will see in me the entire universe including you, Brahmā and Rudra. You shall then be alert.

*Brahmā said :—*

37. After saying so, the saintly son of Cyavana, of body fully infused with the brilliance of Śiva, showed the entire universe in his body.