

37. Going there he performed penance repeating³³² the mantra named Mahāmṛtyuñjaya in accordance with the rules and remembering Śiva with great pleasure.

38. After repeating the mantra for a long time and propitiating Śiva with penance, he delighted Śiva named Mahāmṛtyuñjaya—the conqueror of great death.

39. O great sage, Śiva who is favourably disposed towards his devotees became delighted by that Japa and appeared before him lovingly.

40. On seeing his lord Śiva, the great sage was highly pleased. After bowing to him with devotion and in accordance with rules he eulogised him with palms joined in reverence.

41. O dear one, O sage, Śiva told the son of Cyavana (Dadhīca)—“Please tell me what boon (you require)”

42. On hearing the words of Śiva, Dadhīca, the most excellent devotee, spoke to Śiva who is favourably disposed to his devotees, with palms joined in reverence and a formal salutation.

Dadhīca said :—

43. O great lord, lord of Devas, please give me three boons viz. adamantine bones, impossibility of being killed and absence of distress.

Brahmā said :—

44. On hearing the words mentioned by him, the delightful great lord gave Dadhīca the three boons saying “so be it”.

45. After securing the three boons from Śiva, the great sage, who strictly followed the Vedic path, was delighted and went immediately to kṣuva’s abode.

46. Having secured indestructibility, adamantine bones and absence of distress from Śiva, he kicked the king on the head with the root of his foot.

332. Lord Śiva is called “the Conqueror of Death”. The mantra for the propitiation of that God for the conquest of Death is also called ‘the Conqueror of Death’. The mantra runs as follows : “Tryambakaṃ yajāmahe sugandhim puṣṭivardhanam. Urvārukamīva bandhanān mṛtyor-mukṣīya māmṛtāt.”