

with all the devas. You too, the sages free from sins, have come.

41. Whoever is worthy of being included in the sacrifice and deserves honour has come. You all know the Vedic texts and their meanings. You all are steady in your rites.

42. Of what avail is Śiva to us in this place ? O brahmin, of course I have given my daughter to Him but that was because I was persuaded by Brahmā.

43. O brahmin, this Śiva is not a man of nobility. He has neither father nor mother. He is the lord of goblins, ghosts and spirits and is incorrigible.

44. He is a haughty self-conceited fool with false prestige and hostility. He is unworthy of this sacred rite. Hence he is not invited by me.

45. Therefore you shall never make such statements as these henceforth. My great sacrifice has to be made fruitful by all of you.

*Brahmā said:—*

46 On hearing those words, Dadhīci spoke aloud within the hearing of devas and sages. His words were pregnant with meaning.

*Dadhīci said:—*

47. This sacrifice has become “Non-sacrifice” without the presence of Śiva. Indeed your destruction is imminent in this very sacrifice.

48. Saying this, Dadhīci walked out of the sacrifice of Dakṣa and immediately returned to his hermitage.

49. Then some important devotees of Śiva who were initiated in the Śaiva cult cursed Dakṣa and returned to their respective abodes.

50. When the sage Dadhīci and others staged a walk-out, the evil-minded Dakṣa, inimical to Śiva, said mocking at them.

*Dakṣa said:—*

51. Gone is that brahmin favourite of Śiva named Dadhīci and others too of his ilk have gone out of my sacrifice.