

performance of the sacrifice and sixtyfour thousand Udgāṭṛs. The celestial sages Nārada and others acted as Adhvaryus and Hotṛs. They too were as many. The seven sages<sup>304</sup> (jointly and) severally repeated the Sāman hymns.

19. In his great sacrifice Dakṣa extended his invitation to Gandharvas, Vidyādhara, Siddhas, Ādityas, all the innumerable Nāgas along with their followers and sacrificial ritualists.

20. Brahminical, Royal and celestial sages, kings, with their friends, ministers, armies etc, Vasus<sup>305</sup> and other chief Gaṇadevatas—all of them were invited by him in the sacrifice.

21. With the proper initiation, tying of the holy thread round his wrist and Svastyayana<sup>306</sup> rites duly performed, Dakṣa along with his wife, shone well.

22. Dakṣa, the evil-minded, did not invite Śiva for that sacrifice, deciding that He was not worthy of taking part in the sacrifice because He was a Kapālin<sup>307</sup>.

23. In view of the fact that Satī was the wife of Kapālin, she was not invited, though she was his beloved daughter, by Dakṣa who was blind to her qualities.

24. While the great festivities in the sacrifice of Dakṣa were being celebrated those who had assembled for the same were engrossed in their respective activities.

25. In the meantime, Dadhīci<sup>308</sup> a devotee of Śiva, realising that lord Śiva was not there became dispirited and spoke thus.

*Dadhīci said :—*

26. O ye all ! celestial sages and others, pay heed to my words. Why has not Śiva taken part in the festivities of this sacrifice ?

27. Of course, the chiefs of devas, the great sages and the guardians of the quarters have all come. Yet the sacri-

304. See Note No. 164 P. 163.

305. See Note No. 163 P. 162.

306. A set of Vedic Mantras recited for causing prosperity and good fortune.

307. Śiva is called Kapālin for He bears skulls of men (Kapāla) as ornament.

308. Dadhīci. Compare Mbh. XII, 20283, where he blames Dakṣa.