

imperial nature, the lord of the mobile and immobile and the follower of Vedic injunctions, stopped.

12. On hearing his speech, Viṣṇu and other gods were delighted and sent out cries of approbation.

13-14. Then at the invitation of Viṣṇu and other gods, Śiva went to Kanakhala at the sacrificial altar of Dakṣa Prajāpati. The celestial sages and I too accompanied him there.

15. Then Rudra saw the extent of destruction carried out by Virabhadra, of the sacrifice and of the celestial sages.

16-17. Svāhā, Svadhā, Pūṣan, Tuṣṭi, Dhṛti, Sarasvatī, the sages, the manes, Agnis, many others like Yakṣas, Gandharvas, Rākṣasas who were mutilated, wounded or killed in the battle were seen by him laughingly.

18. On seeing this destruction of the sacrifice, He called the chieftain of Gaṇas, Virabhadra of great virility and spoke to him.

19. O Virabhadra of powerful arms, what is it that you have done? O dear, in your hurry you have inflicted very severe punishment on the celestial sages and others.

20. Bring Dakṣa here quickly. O dear, he performed a sacrifice contrary to rules, whence this result arose.

*Brahmā said :—*

21. Thus commanded by Śiva, Virabhadra, hastened to bring the headless body of Dakṣa which he threw in front of Śiva.

22-23. O excellent sage, on seeing the headless body, Śiva, the benefactor of the worlds, spoke laughingly to Virabhadra—"Where is the head of Dakṣa?", Virabhadra replied—"O lord Śiva, at that time itself, the head was consigned to fire by me."

24-26. On hearing the words of Virabhadra, Śiva commanded the gods in the manner as mentioned before. After doing in accordance with what lord Śiva had said, Viṣṇu, the gods and I acquainted Bhṛgu with the same quickly. At the bidding of Śiva, they immediately joined the head of the sacrificial animal, the goat, with the body of Dakṣa.