

tened from head to foot, immediately spoke to Viṣṇu.

*Lord Indra said :—*

31. O lord of Lakṣmī, O lord of gods, Tvaṣṭṛ who is agitated due to the grief over his son will surely kill me under this pretext and not otherwise.

*Brahmā said :—*

32. On hearing his words Viṣṇu, the lord of gods laughingly consoled Indra by speaking thus.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

33. O lord of Śacī, formerly you had been enchanted by the demons Nivātakavacas, your previous enemies, by the power of their great spell.

34. O Indra, at my instance, this mountain Himavat and others too were rendered wingless.

35. Let the mountains now create magic on remembering that and wish to surpass us foolishly. We are not to be afraid of our enemies.

36. O Indra, Śiva favourably disposed to His devotees, will undoubtedly look to our welfare.

37. While he was speaking this to Indra of agitated mind, Śiva spoke to Viṣṇu following the worldly custom.

*Śiva said :—*

38. “O Viṣṇu, O lord of gods, what are you speaking to each other?” O sage, after speaking thus to them Śiva addressed you.

39. “O Nārada, what does the great mountain say ? Tell me the truth with details. You must not keep any secret.

40. Does the mountain want to give the daughter or not ? Tell me that quickly. O dear one, on going there, what did you see ? What did you do ? Tell me that quickly.

*Brahmā said :—*

41. Addressed thus by Śiva, O sage, you endowed with divine vision told him secretly what you saw in the altar.