

CHAPTER FORTYTWO

(*The removal of Dakṣa's misery*)

Brahmā said:—

1. Lord Śiva was delighted on being conciliated and cajoled by Viṣṇu, Brahmā and the sages.

2. Consoling Viṣṇu and other devas and laughing, the merciful lord Śiva blessed them and spoke.

Lord Śiva said :—

3. O excellent devas, both of you listen with attention. O dear ones, I shall state the truth. I have always borne your wrath.

4. I do not take into account the sin committed by my children. I have inflicted punishment on those who are afflicted by my illusion.

5. The destruction of the sacrifice of Dakṣa was not done by me. If a person hates another, ultimately it recoils on him alone.

6. No action that involves the affliction of others will be indulged in by me at any time. If anyone hates another it will recoil on him alone.

7. Let the head (the sacrificial head) of Dakṣa be that of a goat. Let the god Bhaga receive his share in the sacrifice in conjunction with the sun.

8. O dear ones, the god Pūṣan who used to grip the cooked offerings in a sacrifice with his teeth has been rendered broken-toothed and will remain as such. I have spoken the truth.

9. Bhṛgu who opposed me shall become goat-bearded. The gods who tried to uproot me shall have their physical bodies.

10. Let the Adhvaryu priests be borne through the arms of Aśvins and the hands of Pūṣan. I have spoken thus out of love for you.

Brahmā said:—

11. Saying thus, the lord Śiva though merciful, yet of