

21. O Viṣṇu you are the cosmic witness of sacred rites and the protector of sacrifices. You are the saviour of Vedic virtue, O great lord.

22. Hence, O lord, you shall offer protection to my sacrifice here. Who else, other than you, is competent for it ? You are the lord of all.

*Brahmā said :—*

23. On hearing these piteous words of Dakṣa, Viṣṇu spoke enlightening Dakṣa who was averse to Śiva's principles.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

24. O Dakṣa, protection shall be offered to your sacrifice. My promise of protecting Dharma is truly well known.

25. You have stated the truth, but you have transgressed the same. O Dakṣa listen, I shall tell you. Cast off your cruelty.

26. What transpired at Naimiṣa, the holy place in a surprisingly mysterious manner is evidently not remembered by you, O Dakṣa. Did you forget it in your evil way ?

27. Who can save you from Rudra's anger ? O Dakṣa, a person who protects you, the wicked one, finds no approval anywhere.

28. An evil-minded man does not see what is good and what is not. A sacred action or rite cannot be efficacious always.

29. You must know that to be your duty which is naturally efficacious. Except Śiva none can be the bestower of action.

30. Śiva bestows the fruit of the actions upon the person who is tranquil on account of devotion to the lord and whose mind is fixed in him alone.

31. Depending upon Knowledge alone if they eschew devotion to God they will fall into hell and remain there for hundreds of crores of Kalpas.

32. Those who solely depend on actions are bound

326. Naimiṣa, modern Nimsar, is a sacred region of Uttara Pradeśa in the district of Sitāpur on the bank of Gomati.