

humiliated, Viṣṇu thought within himself, "I am the benefactor of the gods. But what can I do in this affair? The sons of Tāraka are the devotees of Śiva." After thinking like this, he thought upon the Supreme Viṣṇu, the lord of sacrifices, the primordial Puruṣa.

22. Immediately on being thought upon by Viṣṇu all the sacrifices came where Viṣṇu was stationed.

23. With palms joined in reverence they bowed to and eulogised Viṣṇu, the lord of sacrifices and the primordial Puruṣa.

24. The eternal lord Viṣṇu saw the eternal sacrifices and told them looking at the gods too including Indra.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

25. In order to destroy the three cities and to bring about prosperity in the three worlds, O gods perform the worship of lord Śiva along with the lord of sacrifices.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

26. On hearing the words of Viṣṇu, the intelligent lord of the gods and bowing to him lovingly, the gods eulogised the lord of sacrifices.

27. O sage, eulogising thus, the gods worshipped the Sacrificial Being in accordance with the rules governing the same with the complete rites.

28. Then from the sacrificial pit rose up thousands of Bhūtas of huge size and armed with tridents, spears, iron clubs and other weapons.

29-31. The gods saw thousands of Bhūtasāṅghas armed with tridents and spears and possessing various weapons such as staffs, bows, stones, etc. They had various missiles to strike with. They were in different guises. They resembled the destructive fire and Rudra. They were on a par with the destructive Sun. When they bowed to him and stood waiting in front, Viṣṇu saw them. The glorious lord of sacrifices who carried out the behests of Rudra, spoke to them.

32. Viṣṇu said—"O Bhūtas, listen to my statement. You are all very powerful and have risen up for fulfilling