

51. Haven't you seen what Satī did ? Haven't you heard what Dadhīci said ?

52. You too came to Dakṣa's sacrifice for the sake of sacrificial gifts. O long-armed one, I shall now offer you Avadāna* (i.e. I shall cut you to pieces).

53. O Viṣṇu, I shall split your chest with my trident. Who is your protector who dare come near me ?

54. I shall dash you to the ground. I shall burn you with fire. I shall pound you after burning you.

55. O Viṣṇu, of evil conduct, O the worst of Śiva's haters, don't you know the greatness and sanctity of lord Śiva ?

56. Still O long-armed one, if you stand face to face with me wishing for a fight I shall rout you, if at all you can steady yourself.

Brahmā said :—

57. On hearing the words of Virabhadra, Viṣṇu the intelligent lord of Devas, laughed gleefully and said :—

Viṣṇu said :—

58. O Virabhadra, listen. I shall tell you. I am a servant of Śiva. Do not call me inimical to Śiva.

59. At first I had been requested repeatedly by Dakṣa foolishly, since he is too much addicted to rituals and did not know the true state of facts. He wanted me to protect the sacrifice.

60. I am subservient to my devotees, so also is lord Śiva. O dear one, Dakṣa is my devotee. Hence I came to this sacrifice.

61. O heroic one, you have the features and splendour of Śiva, you are born of Śiva's fury. O lord, you are the receptacle of exploits; listen to the vow taken by me.

62. I shall withstand you. You can try to stop me. Let whatever is destined to happen, befall. I shall definitely show my prowess.

Brahmā said :—

63. When Viṣṇu said thus, the long-armed (Vīra-

* Avadāna means a sacrificial gift as well as cutting one to pieces.