

by me from sacrifices, an outcaste and ugly-shaped, obtain his share along with the devas”.

*Brahmā said :—*

19-20. On hearing these words of Dakṣa, Bhṛgu<sup>299</sup> and others reproached Śiva. After duly saluting Śiva along with the devas, Nandin, the attendant of Śiva who had heard the words of Dakṣa, was very furious and rolled his eyes. With an intention to curse him, he immediately spoke to Dakṣa.

*Nandiśvara said :—*

21. “O foolish Dakṣa, of roguish and wicked intention, how is it that you have expelled my lord Śiva from sacrifice ?

22. How is it that you cursed him whose thought makes all sacrifices fruitful and all sacred places holy ?

23. O Dakṣa, of wicked intentions, in vain did you curse him by your inconsiderate rashness as a brahmin. The great lord Śiva who is free from defects, has in vain been ridiculed by you.

24. O vile brahmin, how is it that you cursed Śiva the great lord, by whom this universe is created, sustained and destroyed in the end ?”

25. Censured and rebuked thus by Nandin, Dakṣa the patriarch who was still furious cursed Nandin too.

*Dakṣa said :—*

26. “You all, the attendants of Śiva, are expelled from Vedic rites. You will be abandoned by the followers of the Vedic path as well as by great sages.

27. “You all will be confirmed heretics, out of the conventions of society. You will indulge in drinking wine. Matted hair, ashes and bones will be your embellishments”.

299. Bhṛgu is one of the Prajāpatīs and great sages and is regarded as the founder of the race of the Bhṛgus or Bhārgavas, in which Jamadagni and Paraśurāma were born.