

25. O excellent sage, a terrible fight ensued between Śiva's attendants and the demons who had firebrands for their weapons. Their hair stood on end when people heard the uproar.

26. The attendants were killed by the Ṛbhus of powerful valour and favoured with Brahminical splendour. They were forced to run without difficulty.

27. It had been the desire of Śiva of the great Śakti that the attendants were killed and routed quickly. It was a wonderful scene.

28. On seeing this, the sages, Indra and other devas, the Maruts, the Viśvedevas, the Aśvins and the guardians of the quarters kept silent.

29. Some of them went to request and consult with Viṣṇu frequently for preventing obstacles. They were greatly agitated.

30. The sensible devas, Viṣṇu and others, became agitated on pondering over the results of Pramathas' destruction and routing.

31. Such was the obstacle to the sacrifice of Dakṣa who rivalled with Śiva, who was wicked and who professed to be a kinsman of Brahmā, O sage.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

(*The Celestial Voice*)

Brahmā said :—

1. O excellent sage, in the meantime a celestial voice arose, even as Dakṣa, the devas and others were listening.

The celestial Voice said:—

2. O Dakṣa, of evil conduct, of haughty disposition, what is it that you have foolishly done now, this misdeed bringing in many an unhappy calamity in its wake ?

3. You never gave any credence to the words of Dadhici, the king of devotees of Śiva. O fool, if it had been