

cut with weapons he kicked his chest with the foot and wrested the head with his hand.

61. Vīrabhadra the leader of the Gaṇas threw the head of the wicked Dakṣa, the enemy of Śiva, into the fire-pit.

62. Vīrabhadra whirling the trident in his hand looked splendid indeed. The angry Raṇākṣa and Saṁvarta looked like the blazing mountains.

63. After killing them without difficulty Vīrabhadra in his fury burnt them in the fire like a blazing conflagration consuming moths.

64. Seeing Dakṣa and others entirely burnt, he laughed boisterously filling the three worlds with the sound.

95. He was surrounded by heroic glory. Then a divine shower of flowers originating from the celestial park fell over Vīrabhadra accompanied by his Gaṇas.

66. Cool breezes blew gently fragrant and pleasing. Divine drums sounded simultaneously.

67. The hero who had accomplished his duties went to Kailāsa quickly like the sun who quells darkness.

68. On seeing Vīrabhadra who had fulfilled his task, lord Śiva was pleased and he made him the presiding officer of his Gaṇas.

CHAPTER THIRTYEIGHT

(The dialogue between Kṣuva and Dadhīca)

Sūta said:—

1. After hearing these words of Brahmā of immeasurable intellect, Nārada the brahmin was surprised and he lovingly asked him thus.

Nārada said:—

2. Please tell me for what reason did Viṣṇu go to the sacrifice of Dakṣa along with the devas but leaving off Śiva, for there so much of ignominy was in store for him ?

3. Does not Viṣṇu know Śiva who has the power of