

is unknowable through thousands of Vedic passages without devotion. So says the great Vedic passage.

28. Sadāśiva shall be known through his own blessings by mental tranquility and supreme vision without aberrations and distractions.

29. But, O Lord of devas, in the matter of discussion about what shall be done and what not, I shall explain the aspect of fulfilment of our desire. Hear that in your own interest.

30. It is your childishness that prompted you to be present here in the sacrifice of Dakṣa along with the other guardians of quarters. What shall you do with the exhibition of your valour ?

31. These infuriated assistants of Rudra have come here to stop the sacrifice and they will do it undoubtedly.

32. There is no remedy to prevent the destruction of the sacrifice. True, I am telling you the truth.

*Brahmā said :—*

33. On hearing these words of Bṛhaspati the guardians of the quarters, dwellers in heaven including Indra fell athinking.

34. Then, remembering Śiva mentally Virabhadra surrounded by the heroic attendants of Śiva spoke to Indra and other guardians of the quarters.

*Virabhadra said :—*

35. “On account of your childishness you came here for this glorious act. I shall now offer you Avadāna (i.e. I shall cut you to pieces). Come near me.

36-37. O Indra, O Agni, O Sun, O Moon, O Kubera, O Varuṇa, O Wind, O Nirṛti, O Yama, O Śeṣa, O Devas and Asuras, O clever ones, come here. I shall give you Avadānas. The boon will be tasted by you till you are satiated.”

*Brahmā said :*

38-39. Saying so, Virabhadra, the leader of the attendants became furious and hit all the devas with sharp arrows. Severely wounded by the arrows, Indra and other leaders of devas fled in all the ten directions. When the guardians of