

becoming your daughter. Your wish has been fulfilled now. You can carry on your activities of penance.

40. Having spoken thus to Dakṣa, the Goddess assumed infancy through her illusory power and began to cry near her mother.

41. On heaving the cry, the woman spoke in agitation. The servant-maids too became pleasantly agitated.

42. On seeing the comely form of Asiknī's daughter, the women rejoiced. The citizens raised shouts of Victory then.

43. There were great festivities with songs and musical instruments. On seeing the unearthly face of their daughter the pleasure of Dakṣa and Asiknī knew no bounds.

44. Dakṣa duly performed all the conventional ceremonies and the rites of the Vedas. He gave various gifts to the brahmins and money to others.

45. Songs and dances were performed everywhere in a befitting manner. Musical instruments played auspicious songs repeatedly.

46. Hari and other Gods came with their attendants, along with the sages and joined the festivities.

47. On seeing the daughter of Dakṣa, the Goddess mother of the universe, they bowed and eulogised her with auspicious hymns.

48. In their great delight they shouted cries of victory. They praised Dakṣa and Viriṇī in particular.

49. Then at their bidding, the delighted Dakṣa named her Umā²⁵⁸ since she inherited good qualities and was greatly admired.

50. Her other names in the world were assigned afterwards. They are auspicious and quell miseries in particular.

51. With palms joined in reverence Dakṣa bowed to Hari, me, devas and sages. He eulogised and worshipped all.

52. Then Viṣṇu and others praised Dakṣa and in joyous

258. Umā; It is the name of the daughter of Dakṣa and Viriṇī and later (Cp. Kumārasambhava) transferred to Pārvatī, the daughter of Himavat. It is said to be derived from 'U' mā' 'O (child) do not (practise austerities), the exclamation addressed to her by her mother.