

Brahmā said :—

5. On hearing it Viṣṇu called all and told them of his suggestion. The gods then walked in accordance with that suggestion enthusiastically.

6. O sage, the lord of the universe, let Menā stand on the terrace and see the procession along with you in order to make her mind confused.

7. In the meantime, seeing the splendid vast army, O sage, Menā became delighted as usual.

8. At the head of procession came the beautiful fastidious Gandharvas, dressed in rich clothes and bedecked in fine ornaments.

9. They rode on different vehicles. They played on musical instruments. Flags and banners of various colours and sizes fluttered on their chariots. The heavenly nymphs accompanied them.

10. On seeing Vasu,¹⁰¹ the lord of Vasus, along with Vasus, Menā became delighted and exclaimed—"O this is Śiva".

11. O excellent sage, you told her "These are only the attendants of Śiva. This is not Śiva, the bridegroom."

12. On hearing this, Menā fell athinking "A person greater than this ! Hā, how will he be !"

13. In the meantime she saw Maṇigrīva,¹⁰² the other Yakṣas and their vast army with twice the splendour of Vasus.

14. On seeing the lustrous Maṇigrīva the lord of Yakṣas, Menā was delighted and said—"This is Śiva, the bridegroom of Pārvatī."

15. "This is not Śiva, the bridegroom of Pārvatī. He is only an attendant of Śiva" said you to Menā, the wife of the mountain. By that time the god of fire passed by.

16. On seeing his splendour twice that of Yakṣas, she

101. Vasu is the chief of the eight Vasus who in fact are personifications of natural phenomena, viz. water, pole-star, moon, earth, wind, fire, dawn and light. Cf. Note 163, P. 162.

102. Maṇigrīva is one of the sons of Kubera, distinct from Maṇibhadra who is also a Yakṣa.