

and other gods spoke to Śiva with faces beaming with pleasure.

*The gods said:—*

57. “O lord, Tāraka will certainly be killed by Kumāra. It is for that purpose that he is born.

58. Hence in our effort to kill him we shall start this very day. Please give your directions to Kumāra. I let him slay Tāraka for our happiness.

59. Thinking that it shall be so, lord Śiva entrusted his son to the gods in order to kill Tāraka, urged by his mercy that he was.

60. At the bidding of Śiva, Brahmā, Viṣṇu and other gods jointly started from the mountain keeping Kumāra in front.

61. After coming out of Kailāsa, at the behest of Viṣṇu, Tvaṣṭṛ built a wonderfully fine city very near the mountain.

62. There he built a divine, exquisite and wonderfully brilliant house for Kumāra. Tvaṣṭṛ set up an excellent throne there.

63. The intelligent Viṣṇu performed the auspicious ceremony of crowning Kārttikeya in the company of the gods by means of waters from all holy centres.

64. He bedecked Kārttikeya in every manner and dressed him gorgeously. He went through the ceremony in brief and made everyone celebrate the event with pleasure.

65. Viṣṇu joyously gave him the suzerainty of the universe. He applied the Tilaka mark and worshipped him along with the gods.

66. Bowing to Karttikeya with pleasure along with the gods and sages he eulogised the eternal form of Śiva with various hymns.

67. Karttikeya seated in the excellent throne and assuming the lordship and protectorate of the universe shone extremely well.