

3. O best of sages, I consoled you—my own son, beloved of the Devas, and taking you with love effected conciliation.

4. Then Dakṣa, consoled by me, begot of his wife sixty comely daughters.

5. Without any lassitude he performed their marriages with Dharma and others. O excellent sage, listen to that with pleasure.

6. Dakṣa gave ten of his daughters duly in marriage to Dharma, thirteen to Kaśyapa the sage, and twenty seven to the moon.

7-8. He gave two daughters each to Bhṛgu, Aṅgiras and Kṛśāśva. The other daughters were given to Tārksya. The sons and grandsons and descendants of these filled the three worlds. A detailed narration is not attempted here.

9. Some say that Śivā was the eldest of his daughters, some say that she was the middle and some say that she was the youngest. All the three opinions are correct in different Kalpas.

10. After the birth of his daughter, Dakṣa Prajāpati and his wife meditated on the mother of the universe with pleasure.

11. Then he lovingly eulogised her with words choked at the throat and repeatedly paid respects to her humbly joining the palms in reverence.

12. The Goddess, who was highly delighted, thought within himself. "I shall incarnate in Vīriṇī in order to keep my word".

13. O excellent sage, then the mother of the universe spoke to Dakṣa in mind. Then Dakṣa shone forth splendidly.

14. In an auspicious hour he deposited his semen in his wife. Thus full of compassion, Śivā began to reside in the womb of Dakṣa's consort.

15. All the characteristic signs of pregnancy appeared in her.

16. Dear one, thanks to the power of the presence of Śivā, Vīriṇī had an auspicious appearance and shone all the more with mental pleasure.

17. As befitting the loftiness of his mind, customs