

and manners current in his family and the injunctions of the Vedas, Dakṣa performed the rites of Purnsavana²⁵⁶ etc. out of affection.

18. Great festivities accompanied those rites. Dakṣa presented liberal sums of money to the brahmins.

19. On coming to know that the Goddess had come to the womb of Viriṇī, Viṣṇu and other Devas became very gay.

20. They all approached her and paid frequent respects to the benefactress of the worlds, eulogising the mother of the universe.

21. Delighted in their hearts they praised Dakṣa and Viriṇī in various ways and went to their respective abodes.

22-23. O Nārada, nine months had passed with due observance of worldly conventions. In the tenth month, in an auspicious happy hour, when the moon, the stars and the planets were favourably disposed, Śivā suddenly appeared, O sage, in front of her mother.

24. As soon as she was born, Dakṣa was highly pleased. On seeing her extremely brilliant he was convinced that she was the Goddess Śivā herself.

25. O excellent sage, when she was born there was a gentle shower from the clouds accompanied by that of flowers. The quarters became tranquil immediately.

26. The devas gathered in the sky and played on musical instruments; sacrificial fires kindled calmly; everything indicated auspiciousness.

27. On seeing the mother of the universe born of Viriṇī, Dakṣa joined his palms in reverence, paid respects to her and eulogised her.

Dakṣa said :—

28. O Goddess, the eternal mother of the universe, obeisance to Thee. O great Goddess, the Truthful and truth-featured, be pleased.

29. I bow to Thee, the bestower of benefits, Thee

256. Purnsavana is a pre-natal rite through which a male child is produced. Compare पुमान् प्रसूयते येन कर्मणा तत्पुंसवनमोरितम् । Śaunaka quoted in V.M.S. Vol. I. P. 166. As to the time of its performance, the authorities differ considerably. It is performed in the third, fourth, sixth or even in the eighth month of pregnancy. Cf. H.S. PP 60-63.