

12. Alas, Satī, the noble beloved of the bull-bannered deity has become dispirited. She ought to have been honoured duly.

13. This patriarch of hardened heart, inimical to the Brahman, will definitely become infamous in the whole world.

14. Since he refused to comply with the request of his own daughter he will be falling into a terrible hell after death due to his own guilt.

15. When people were saying thus on seeing the self-immolation of Satī, her attendants rose up in anger with their weapons.

16. They had been waiting near the door numbering sixty thousand. Those powerful attendants of lord Śiva became furious.

17. Those attendants of Śiva shouted exclamations—Hā Hā, fie, fie, no, no, loudly and frequently.

18. The quarters were pervaded with the shouts of Hā, Hā. The devas and sages who had assembled there were struck with fear.

19. Consulting one another, the attendants lifted their weapons furiously and the atmosphere was pervaded with the sound of their arms.

20. O celestial sage, some of them excessively stricken with grief cut off their limbs with their weapons, some their heads, some their faces, with the sharp lethal weapons they had.

21. Thus about twentythousand of those attendants courted death along with Satī. It was very surprising.

22. Such of the attendants of the noble-souled Śiva who survived, jumped up with their weapons to kill the furious Dakṣa.

23. On seeing the force of their onslaught, O sages, the holy sage Bhṛgu poured offering in the Dakṣiṇa fire with the Yajur mantra to quell the obstructors of sacrifice.

24. While the sage Bhṛgu³¹⁷ was pouring the offerings, thousands of powerful demons—Ṛbhus rose up.

317. See Note No. 299 P.

318. Ṛbhus : They are the sons of Sudhanvan, a descendant of Aṅgiras, severally named Ṛbhu, Vibhu and Vāja. Through their assiduous performance of good works they obtained superhuman powers and became entitled to receive praise and adoration.