

to the devotees; obeisance be to Thee, O wielder of illusion over the universe.

*Brahmā said:—*

15. O sage, thus eulogised by Dakṣa of purified soul, the Goddess spoke to Dakṣa, although she knew what his desire was.

*The Goddess said:—*

16. O Dakṣa I am very much delighted by your great devotion. Choose a boon according to your desire. There is nothing which shall not be granted to you.

*Brahmā said :—*

17. On hearing the words of the mother of the universe, Dakṣa Prajāpati was very happy and he said to Śivā after bowing to her frequently.

*Dakṣa said:—*

18. O wielder of great illusion, O mother of the universe, if you wish to grant me any boon please listen to my words with pleasure. Be pleased to fulfil my desire.

19. My lord and master Śiva has manifested Himself as Brahmā's son in the name of Rudra. He is the perfect and fullfledged incarnation of the supreme soul.

20. You have not so far incarnated. Who will be His wife ? Hence O Śivā, take an incarnation on the Earth and fascinate the great lord.

21. Excepting you, no other lady will ever be competent to enthrall Him. Hence be born as my daughter and become Śiva's consort.

22. Exhibiting your divine sports as this, O Goddess, you be the enchantress of Śiva, this is the only boon I crave of you. I speak out the truth to you.

23. This fulfils my own interests. Indeed it fulfils the interests of all the worlds as well as those of Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva. Hence I have been induced by Brahmā in this direction.

*Brahmā said :—*

24. On hearing these words of Dakṣa the mother of the universe replied smilingly after thinking on Śiva.