

8. Viṣṇu was duly requested, respected and brought to the place of sacrifice from Vaikuṇṭha³⁰⁰ along with his aide-de-camp and followers.

9. Similarly others too, equally deluded, came to the sacrifice. Then Dakṣa who was ill disposed towards Śiva received them hospitably.

10. Large divine mansions of great value and brilliant lustre were erected by Tvaṣṭṛ³⁰¹ and assigned to them by Dakṣa.

11. In all those places they stationed themselves in a befitting manner after being duly honoured. They shone along with Viṣṇu and me.

12. In that sacrifice that was being performed in that holy place of Kanakhala,³⁰² Bhṛgu and other sages were made Ṛtviks by him (Dakṣa).

13. Viṣṇu himself was the presiding officer along with the Maruts. I was the Brahmā (a special officiating deity) the director and guide for Vedic rituals.

14. The guardians of the quarters became the gate-keepers and watchmen. They were well-equipped in arms and had many attendants to assist them. They were very enthusiastic.

15. In that altar, sacrifice itself was present in its beautiful embodied form. The excellent sages became the holders of the Vedas.

16. The sacrificial fire evinced its diverse forms in a thousand ways, during the sacrificial festivities, in order to receive the sacrificial offerings of Dakṣa.

17-18. There were eightysix thousand Ṛtviks³⁰³ in the

300. Vaikuṇṭha, also called Vaibhṛa, is the abode of Viṣṇu variously described as situated on the eastern peak of Mount Meru or in the Northern ocean.

301. Tvaṣṭṛ is identified with Viśvakarman, the divine architect. See Note No. 295 P. 389.

302. Kanakhala is a sacred town, near Haradvāra, on the Ganges where Dakṣa performed the great sacrifice in which Sati burnt herself. The river Gaṅgā is held very sacred at Kanakhala.

303. The priests (Ṛtvijas) participating in the Vedic sacrifices are usually four in number. They are (1) Hotṛ, Adhvaryu, Udgātṛ and Brahman corresponding to the four Vedas—Rg, Yajus, Sāman and Atharvan respectively. Each of the priests has three companions or helpers, the total no. is sixteen viz. Hotṛ—Maitrāvaruṇa, Acchāvāka, Grāvastut; Adhvaryu—Pratiprasthātṛ, Neṣṭṛ, Unnetṛ; Udgātṛ—Prastotṛ, Pratihartṛ, Subrahmaṇya and Brahman—Brāhmanācchaṁsin, Agnidra, Potṛ. See Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra IV. 1. 4-6.