

8. Many strong lions, tigers, crocodiles, huge fishes and thousands of elephants constituted his body-guard.

9. When Virabhadra³²³ set-off quickly for slaying Dakṣa, a shower of flowers fell there let loose by the divine Kalpa³²⁴ tree.

10. During the festivities of their march, the Gaṇas eulogised the heroic Virabhadra who was carrying out the job of Śiva and they exhibited their enthusiasm.

11-12. Mahākālī went ahead for the destruction of Dakṣa accompanied by nine Durgās Viz:—Kālī, Kātyāyanī, Īśānī, Cāmuṇḍā, Muṇḍamardinī, Bhadrakālī, Bhadrā, Tvaritā and Vaiṣṇavī and the goblins.

13-14. Eager in executing the command of Śiva, they accompanied the marching heroes—Ḍākinī, Śākinī, Bhūtas, Pramathas, Guhyakas, Kūsmāṇḍas, Parpaṭas, Caṭakas, Brahma-Rākṣasas, Bhairavas and Kṣetrapālas and set out quickly for the destruction of Dakṣa's sacrifice.

15. The host of Yoginīs³²⁵ with their sixtyfour groups set out angrily and hurriedly to destroy Dakṣa's sacrifice.

16. O Nārada, listen to the numerical strength of the most important and courageous of those groups.

17. The chief of Gaṇas-Śaṅkukarṇa went ahead with ten crores of his attendants; Kekarākṣa with ten crores and Vikṛta with eight crores.

18. Viśākha with sixtyfour crores, Pāriyātraka with nine crores; Sarvāṅkaka and the heroic Vikṛtānana each with six crores.

19. The chief of Gaṇas, Jvālakeśa went with twelve crores; Dhīmān with seven crores and Dudrabha with eight crores.

323. See Note No. 9 P. 3.

324. Nine Durgās are variously named in the Purāṇas. For instance, compare the names of nine Durgās in the Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa.

प्रथमं शैलपुत्रीति द्वितीयं ब्रह्मचारिणी ।

तृतीयं चन्द्रघण्टेति कूष्माण्डेति चतुर्थकम् ॥

पञ्चमं स्कन्दमातेति षष्ठं कात्यायनीति च ।

सप्तमं कालरात्रिश्च महागौरीति चाष्टमम् ।

नवमं सिद्धदात्री च नवदुर्गाः प्रकीर्तिताः ॥

None of these names occurs in the present counting of the nine Durgās.

325. Yoginīs are female sorceresses attendant on Durgā. They are represented as sixty-four in number.