

17. After praising you, the lord asked you about Satī's news at the sacrifice of Dakṣa and the incidents there.

18. O dear, when you were thus asked by Śiva, you identified with Śiva and narrated to him in detail about what had happened in Dakṣa's sacrifice.

19. O sage, on hearing the words spoken by you, Śiva became furious in a trice, Śiva of great fury and valour.

20. Then Rudra, the destroyer of the world, plucked out a cluster of his matted hair and struck the top of the mountain with it.

21. O sage, the cluster of the matted hair of the lord split into two, on being struck on the mountain. A loud explosive sound was heard which was as terrific as the sound at the time of dissolution.

22. O celestial sage, from the first half of that cluster of matted hair, rose up the powerful Virabhadra²¹⁹, the terrific leader of the Gaṇas.

23. He stood lofty with two thousand hands blazing like the consuming fire. He enveloped the world all round and towered over it ten inches more.

24. From the furious breath of Śiva, the great Rudra, hundred fevers and thirteen humours came out.

25. From the other half of the cluster of matted hair Mahākālī²²⁰ was born. O dear one, she was very terrible and was surrounded by crores of goblins.

26. The ruthless fevers had embodied forms. They were capable of terrifying the world. They were blazing with their fiery splendour.

27. Then the heroic Virabhadra, eloquent in speech, joined his palms in reverence and bowed to lord Śiva. Virabhadra said thus :—

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28. O Rudra of terrific appearance, with the moon, the sun and the fire for your eyes what am I to do ? O lord, command me quickly.

319. See Note No. 235 P. 276.

320. Mahākālī is represented with a black skin, a hideous or terrible countenance, dripping with snakes, hung round with skulls and human heads, and in all respects resembling a fury rather than a Goddess. H.M. P. 86.