

luminary heavenly bodies were quiet; the sky was clear and there was brilliance in all the quarters.

27. The earth consisting of forests, villages and oceans was very auspicious. Lotuses blossomed in lakes, rivers and tanks.

28. O excellent sage, diverse winds gentle to the touch blew; good men rejoiced and bad people became unhappy.

29. The gods stood in the sky and sounded big drums. A shower of flowers fell. Excellent Gandharvas sang sweet songs.

30. Vidyādhara women and the celestial nymphs danced in the sky; in the heavenly region great festivities were celebrated by the gods and others.

31. At that time Śivā, Satī of perfect power formerly appeared in front of Menā in her real form.

32. She was born at midnight when the constellation Mṛgaśīras was in conjunction with the moon on the ninth day in the month of Madhu (March-April) in the spring season like the Gaṅgā from the moon's sphere.

33. Coming out of the belly of Menā at the proper time in her real form, she resembled Lakṣmī coming out of the ocean.

34. When she was born, Śiva was glad. A slow, fragrant and auspicious wind blew favourably.

35. Along with the rain there was a shower of flowers. Fires calmly glowed and the clouds rumbled.

36. At the time of her birth, riches and prosperity flourished in the city of Himavat. All miseries perished.

37. Viṣṇu and other gods reached there in time and saw the mother of the universe. They were delighted and happy.

38. They eulogised Śivā the mother of the universe, the beloved of Śiva, of great illusory power, of divine features and resident of Śiva's region.

*The Gods said:—*

39. O great goddess, O mother of the universe, O achiever of all accomplishments, you alone can carry out the work of the gods. Hence we bow to you always.

40. O you favourably disposed to the devotees, do