

the mother of the universe and blazing brilliantly spoke—  
“O mother, be pleased to command.”

9. O great sage, on hearing that, Pārvatī, the Śakti of Śiva, the Prakṛti, the great Māyā, spoke to them all in great fury.

*The goddess said:—*

10. O Śaktis, O goddesses, now a great deluge shall be created by you at my bidding. You need not hesitate in this regard.

11. “O friends, devour forcibly all these sages, gods, Yakṣas, Rākṣasas belonging to us and others.”

*Brahmā said:—*

12. On being commanded by her, the infuriated Śaktis got ready to destroy the gods and others.

13. Just as the fire consumes dry grass so also these Śaktis attempted to destroy.

14-15. Leaders of Gaṇas or Viṣṇu, Brahmā or Śiva, Indra or Kubera, Skanda or the Sun—Śaktis began to destroy them. Wherever one looked, Śaktis were present.

16. Karālīs (the Terrific), Kubjakās (the hump-backed), Khañjās (the lame), Lambaśīrṣās (the tall-headed) the innumerable Śaktis took up the gods with their hands and threw them in their own mouths.

17-18. On seeing that Śiva, Brahmā, Viṣṇu, Indra, the other gods, Gaṇas and the sages began to doubt what the Goddess Pārvatī would be doing, whether she would create an untimely dissolution. Their hopes and aspirations for life were quelled.

19. They all gathered together and discussed—“What shall be done now? Let us ponder.” Discussing thus they spoke to one another.

20. “Only when the goddess Pārvatī is pleased can there be a relief; not otherwise, even with our maximum efforts.

21. Even Śiva who is an expert in different sports and is deluding us all, seems distressed like an ordinary man.