

3. Varuṇa rode on a crocodile; the wind-god rode on a deer; Kubera sat in his chariot Puṣpaka and he was ready and alert.

4. The others in the hosts of devas, Yakṣas, Cāraṇas and Guhyakas all very powerful, rode on their own respective vehicles.

5. Seeing their enterprise, Dakṣa with blood rushing to his face in his excitement approached them along with his wife and spoke.

*Dakṣa said:—*

6. Depending on your support and strength alone have I begun this great sacrifice. Such brilliant persons as you, are authorities in the achievement of all good actions.

*Brahmā said :—*

7. On hearing these words of Dakṣa, the gods including Indra set off immediately in their readiness to fight.

8. Indra and other devas and the guardians of the quarters, deluded by Śiva's Māyā fought with their full power.

9. A great fight ensued between the devas and the gaṇas. Those powerful warriors fought with each other with sharp spikes, iron clubs etc.

10. Conchs were blown. Drums were beaten in that great war festival. Battle drums were sounded both big and small.

11. Being encouraged by that sound, the devas in the company of the guardians of the quarters hit and thrashed the attendants of Śiva.

12. O excellent sage, on account of the incantations of Bhṛgu, the attendants of Śiva were routed by Indra and other guardians of the quarters.

13. Their defeat was effected by Bhṛgu the sacrificial priest, for the continuance of the worship of the deities and for the satisfaction of Dakṣa who had been initiated in the sacrifice.

14-15. On seeing his people defeated, Virabhadra became infuriated. He asked the goblins, ghosts and spirits