

grew a tender Aśoka plant when Br̥haspati and others told her that she would have a real son and that trees and dolls were no satisfaction;<sup>10</sup> once she heard a yell of noise and was told of the play engaged in by Gaṇas, and then her eyes attracted Viraka. She expressed to Śiva for a son like Viraka. Śiva asked her to have him as her child. He was sent for and nursed by Umā.<sup>11</sup>

Touched by Goddess of Night, she became black in colour. Śiva found fault with her and after reproaching him with his past deeds, she left him for penance. Viraka appealed to her when she said she would return as Gaurī. She asked Viraka to see that no lady entered her harem. Meanwhile Āḍi, son of Andhakāsura entered Śiva's abode in the guise of Umā but was slain by Śiva. Hearing from Vāyu that a lady entered her home, she cursed Viraka to be born on the earth; out of her rage came out a lion which Brahmā gave to the Goddess of Night, who was asked to leave Umā for the Vindhya hills. Now Umā became Gaurī and entered Śiva's abode when Viraka stopped her, as he did not at first recognise her. Convinced of his mother's identity, he requested her to recall her curse and was assured of a place in Devagaṇa.<sup>12</sup>

While Umā was sporting with Śiva, Agni entered the harem in the form of a parrot. Noticing this Umā left the bed and Śiva made Agni drink his *vīrya*. Out of the scattered *vīrya*, there sprang up a beautiful pond where the six Pleiades bathed and took water in a lotus leaf. Blessed by them the Devī got the *garbha* and out of her left side came out Subrahmaṇya.<sup>13</sup>

Going through the *Udyānam* again Śiva spoke to her of the greatness of Benares.<sup>14</sup> Satī in previous birth.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>10</sup> M. 154. 506-510.    <sup>11</sup> M. 154. 522-555.    <sup>12</sup> M. 154. 588; chap. 155-58.    <sup>13</sup> M. 158. 24-48; Vā. 72 (whole).    <sup>14</sup> M. 180. 20-79; 181. 6-8; 191. 113; 193. 46.    <sup>15</sup> Vā. 30. 71; 54. 20; 55. 42; Br. II. 13. 77.

Umā (II)—the goddess enshrined at Vināyaka.