

layas.¹ A group of celestial women who often go to Mount Kailāsa.² Thirty-four³ wait on Indra.⁴ Joined the gods in offering prayers to Hari.⁵ Take their origin from the sportful motion of Hari.⁶ Danced at the *avatār* of Kṛṣṇa.⁷ Went to Dvāraka with gods and prayed for the return of Hari to Vaikuṇṭha.⁸ Their association with the wise and the righteous.⁹ Welcome Kṛṣṇa back to his own region.¹⁰ Were asked by Indra to obstruct the completion of Mārkaṇḍeya's *tapas*.¹¹ Dance in front of the Sun god and move with him by turns.¹² Live in Meru: Kāmadeva was their overlord,¹³ born on earth as 16000 gopis during Kṛṣṇa's *avatāra*,¹⁴ sprung from the churning of the ocean,¹⁵ strew fired grain at the conquering tour of Lalitā.¹⁶ Fourteen birth spots for them distinguished.¹⁷ Once when the Apsaras ladies, all daughters of Agni, were engaged in water sports in Mānasa, there came Nārada. Without saluting him they asked him how to attain the Lord as husband. He gave them a *vrata*m but cursed that they would be separated from the Lord and become slaves of robbers; became the *rekhas* on the body of Vāmana.¹⁸

¹ M. 6. 45; 10. 24; 15. 3; 22. 59; 120. 1. ² Bhā. II. 1. 36; IV. 6. 9. ³ Vā. 69. 4; 101. 28. ⁴ Bhā. VI. 7. 4. ⁵ Ib. VII. 8. 38. ⁶ Ib. VIII. 5. 40. ⁷ Ib. X. 3. 6; 4. 11. ⁸ Ib. XI. 6. 3. ⁹ Ib. XI. 12. 3. ¹⁰ Ib. XI. 31. 2. ¹¹ Ib. XII. 8. 16. ¹² Ib. XII. 11. 47; Br. II. 23. 27 and 50. ¹³ Br. II. 15. 49; III. 8. 15; 7. 25-26. ¹⁴ Ib. III. 71. 243-4; IV. 2. 26. ¹⁵ Bhā. VIII. 8. 7. ¹⁶ Br. IV. 18. 9. ¹⁷ Ib. IV. 33. 18-25. ¹⁸ M. 70. 21-5; 246. 54.

Apsarasa gaṇas—fourteen in number, the mindborn daughters of Brahmā, daughters of Manu, etc. most of them were wives and mothers of gods and sages.

Vā. 9. 55; 30. 87; 69. 53, 62; 96. 235.

Apsareśam—a *tīrtham* in the Narmadā.

M. 194. 16-17.

Abalā—a sister of Dattātreya and Durvāsās; a Brahmvādinī.

Vā. 70. 76.