

Laṅkā under the name Laiṅkālakṣmī. When Hanumān jumped to Laṅkā she prevented him, and he struck her down to the ground. (Kāṁpa Rāmāyaṇa, Sundara Kāṇḍa).

6) *Brahmā cursing the daughters of Himavān.* Three daughters named Kuṭilā, Rāgiṇī and Pārvatī and a son named Sunābha were born to Himavān by his wife Menā. The three daughters went to the Himālayas for penance, to get Śiva as husband. They were not even six years old then. The devas saw them. The Ādityas and the Vasus took Kuṭilā who was doing penance, to the world of the gods. All the gods gathered together and asked Brahmā. "Oh Lord, be pleased to tell us if this girl will be able to bear a son who could kill Mahiṣāsura". Brahmā replied. "This poor girl will not be capable of bearing the radiance of Śiva. So let her go away." Kuṭilā got angry at Brahmā and said "Lord, I will try to become fit to bear the unbearable radiance of Śiva. Harken, I will do penance properly and please Viṣṇu and make Śiva bow his head. I take a vow to that effect." Brahmā became angry and told Kuṭilā, "You, wicked Kuṭilā, you did not succumb to my words. So by my curse you will be turned to water."

Kuṭilā having been cursed by Brahmā became water and began to flood the world of Brahmā. Seeing the flow of water, Brahmā made cause-ways on four sides with the Vedas of Ṛg, Yajus, Sāma and Atharva. Thus being tied up she stays in the world of Brahmā.

The Devas took Rāgiṇī also before Brahmā and put the same question. The reply of Brahmā was the same as before. She also got angry and said to Brahmā. "I will do great penance so as to enable to give birth to one in my family to be the killer of Mahiṣāsura." Brahmā cursed her also. "You are deliberately disobeying my words which even devas won't gainsay. So you will become the colours of the twilight." Thus she became the fast colours of the twilight, and her body was divided among the Pleiades. (Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 51).

7) *Giving a boon to a tiger and golden colour to Pārvatī.* The first name of Pārvatī, the daughter of Himavān was Kālī. She was given this name (Kālī) because of her dark complexion. After the marriage Śiva and Pārvatī led a household life in the golden house built by Viśvakarmā. Once Śiva called Devī humorously, by the name Kālī. Pārvatī got angry and said to her husband. "A wound by an arrow will be cured. If you cut down a tree by an axe it will sprout again. A wound inflicted by hard words will never be cured. The arrows of words shoot out of the mouth. Those who are hit by them suffer pain day and night. Wise people should not shoot them at others. You have violated that principle. So my lord, I am going to do intensive penance. I will endeavour to create such a condition, that you may not call me by the name Kālī again." Saying thus, Pārvatī bowed before Parameśvara and bidding good-bye she went up into the air and reached the peak of Himālayas and thought of Jayā, Vijayā, Jayantī and Aparājitā. Instantly they arrived to see Kālī. They got permission and stayed with Pārvatī to attend on her.

While Pārvatī was engaged in doing penance, a tiger, with his weapons of tusks and claws came there from the jungles of the Himālayas. Umā (Pārvatī) was standing on one leg. The tiger began to think, "I shall do it when

it is needed". Thinking thus it gazed at the face of Devī with staring eyes and consequently it lost one eye. Pronouncing the word Brahmā Devī did penance for a hundred years. After that Brahmā, the Lord of the three worlds appeared before her and said to her: "I am much pleased. Your penance was flawless. Ask your boon." Kālī replied, "Oh, Lotus-born! First give this tiger a boon. It will please me." Then Brahmā gave the wonderful tiger leadership of the Gaṇas, devotion to Śiva, invincibility and righteousness. After giving the tiger this boon Brahmā told Pārvatī, "Now, Ambikā, ask your boon. Don't hesitate, I will grant the boon." Then Pārvatī asked the boon. "Brahmā, give me golden colour". Brahmā said "Let it be so", and disappeared. The dark complexion of Pārvatī disappeared. She got the colour of the filament of the lotus flower. From the discarded skin Kātyāyanī was born. Then Indra appeared and asked for her as a gift. Indra requested Pārvatī on behalf of heaven. "Let me have her. Let this Kauśikī be my sister. Because she was born from your Kośa, (outer skin) she is Kauśikī, I am also Kauśika." Devī gave the beautiful Kauśikī to Indra. Sahasrākṣa (Indra who has thousand eyes) took her to the Vindhya mountain; when they reached there Indra told her. "You stay on this mount, honoured and revered by gods. You will be known as Vindhyaśinī (who stays on the Vindhya). He consecrated the goddess there. She was given a lion as her carrier (Vāhana) "You destroy the asuras?" saying so Indra returned to Heaven. (Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 54).

8) *Brahmā became river.* Long ago in the period of Cākṣuṣa manvantara (the age of a Manu), Brahmā decided to perform a sacrifice on the Sahya Mountain and preparations were made for it. Brahmā came with Viṣṇu and Śiva. Bhṛgu and the other hermits took their seats. Mahāviṣṇu called Svarādevī, the wife of Brahmā. But she was very slow in coming. The hermit Bhṛgu said to Viṣṇu: "You yourself have gone to call Devī. But she is very slow. The auspicious moment is coming to an end. So how are we to commence the rituals?" "If Svarā does not appear before the end of the stipulated time we shall seat Gāyatrī in her place," said Viṣṇu. Śiva also agreed to it. So Bhṛgu seated Gāyatrī on the right side of Brahmā and the rituals were performed. By then Svarā reached the sacrificial hall. When she saw that Gāyatrī was placed in her place and the rituals were performed she became angry, because of her quarrel with her co-wife. She called out: "Where the person to whom respect is due, is not given respect and where the person who ought not to be respected is given undue respect, there, scarcity, death and fear will be rampant. She dared to sit on the right in my place. So she will grow lean and become a river which will not be seen in the world. All of you will become rivers because you have placed a person lower than me in my position." Hearing the curse of Svarā, Gāyatrī rose up trembling, and cursed Svarā also to become a river. Before Svarā was changed to a river, Brahmā and the other gods rose up and requested for absolution from the curse. Svarā said, "Gods, it is because you have not given oblations to Gaṇapati in the beginning of the sacrifice, that this break, due to my anger, has been caused. My curse cannot be futile. So each of you change to a river by your portions and we, your wives, will also become rivers by our portions, and flow to the west."