

be done (by you) along with the king accompanied by (the council of) his ministers.

37. Consult your daughter and let the reply be given.

DECISION OF DHARAṆĪ AND OTHERS ABOUT THE MARRIAGE
(OF PADMINĪ) AT THE INSTANCE OF BAKULAMĀLIKĀ

Śrī Varāha said:

38-39. On hearing her words the queen became delighted. She called King Ākāśa and both of them went to Kamalālayā. In the midst of the assembly of ministers the queen repeated the words of Bakulamālikā. On hearing them the king became delighted and spoke to the ministers and the priests:

King Ākāśa said:

40-44. This girl is not born of a womb. Kamalālayā is divine and highly fortunate. She has been sought by the Lord of Devas residing on Venkaṭādri. My desire is fulfilled today. Tell me whether it (the proposal) is acceptable to you.

On hearing the excellent words of the king all the ministers became delighted. They said to King Viyat:

“We are satisfied and happy, O great King. Your family will become the highest of all. Your matchless daughter will sport about along with Śrī. Let her be given to the Śārṅga-wielding Lord of Devas, the Supreme Soul. This spring season is glorious. Let the auspicious rite be performed quickly.

45-46. Let Dhiṣaṇa (Bṛhaspati, the preceptor of gods) be called and the auspicious hour for the marriage be fixed.”

CONFIRMATION OF THE EXACT AUSPICIOUS TIME
FOR MARRIAGE AS PER ADVICE OF BRHASPATI

Saying “so be it” the Lord of men called Bṛhaspati from the world of Suras and asked him about (the hour) for the marriage of the girl and the bridegroom.

The King asked:

47. The native star of the girl is Mṛgaśīrṣa; that of the Lord is Śravaṇa. Let the conjunction of these two be considered.

48-49. On hearing it Dhiṣaṇa said: "The star Uttarā-phālgunī suits both of them for the increase of their happiness. It is declared so by the divine astrologers. Let their marriage be celebrated on the Uttarāphālgunī day." He said, "Let it be celebrated duly in the month of Vaiśākha."

Śrī Varāha said:

50-52. The king honoured Dhiṣaṇa duly and bade him farewell. He then said to the lady messenger, "O splendid lady, go to the abode of the Lord. Intimate to the Lord of Devas, O lady of holy rites, that the wedding shall be in the month of Vaiśākha. Let him be pleased to come here after making all arrangements for the marriage."

Thereafter, he sent Śuka, one of the favourites of the queen, as a messenger along with her. He sent his son Vāyu to bring Indra and others.

DECORATION OF THE CITY BY VIŚVAKARMĀ AND OTHERS

53. He called Viśvakarman and employed him in the job of decorating the city. He did it within a moment.

54. Indra discharged a shower of flowers. Groups of celestial damsels danced. Dhanada (Kubera) filled that abode with wealth, foodgrains etc.

55. Yama made the men on the earth free from sickness. Varuṇa filled (the place) with clusters of jewels and precious stones such as pearls etc.

56. After making arrangements for everything Devas went to Vṛṣācala.¹

BAKULAMĀLIKĀ ACCOMPANIED BY ŚUKA COMES TO ŚRĪNIVĀSA

Śrī Varāha said:

57-59. Then Bakulamālikā accompanied by Śuka mounted a horse and went ahead. She reached Śrīveṅkaṭādri and got down

1. A hill on the northern side of Suvarṇamukhari.