

mountain, we have come here to achieve a purpose. In this important affair how can we entertain opposite views ?

36. The very vision of Śiva is the greatest gain. He has come to your palace as the suppliant for your gift”.

*Brahmā said :—*

37. Though advised by them, Menā did not accept their proposal. Weak in knowledge she spoke to the sages in anger.

*Menā said :—*

38. I would rather slay her with weapons than give her to Śiva. All of you go away. You shall never come near me.

*Brahmā said :—*

39. O sage, on saying thus she stopped. She cried aloud in great excitement. A great hue and cry ensued due to her intercession.

40. Then Himācala himself came there extremely agitated. In order to convince her he spoke lovingly pointing to her the reality of the situation.

*Himācala said :—*

41. O beloved Menā, listen to my words. How is it that you have become dispirited ? How many important persons have come to our abode ! And you are insulting them !

42. You do not know Śiva. Śiva has many names and many forms. Seeing a peculiar distorted form you have become excited.

43. He has been realised by me. He is the protector of everyone. He is worthy of worship of the most adorable. He can bless and countermand.

44. Do not be obstinate. O faultless beloved, do not be grief-stricken. Get up. Hasten. O virtuous one, carry on your duties.

45. Let me remind you of a former incident when Śiva came to our place in a hideous form and exhibited his sports.