

everything conducive to the happiness of the Gods. You have fulfilled the desire of Menā. Now, you fulfil that of Śiva.

*Brahmā said :—*

41. After eulogising Śivā thus, Viṣṇu and other gods bowed to her again delightedly and returned to their abodes praising her great divine ways.

42. O Nārada, Menā rejoiced much on seeing goddess Umā of the splendour of the blue lotus as her daughter.

43. On seeing her divine features, the beloved of the mountain attained perfect knowledge. After that realisation she eulogised the supreme Goddess with very great delight.

*Menā said :—*

44. “Great favour has been shown by you, O Goddess, O mother of the universe, inasmuch as you have manifested yourself in front of me brilliantly.

45. You are the primordial one among all Energies. O Śivā, you are the mother of the three worlds. O Goddess you are the beloved of Śiva, you are great goddess eulogised by the gods.

46. O great Goddess, be pleased. Remain in my meditation in this form, but have the form of my daughter in public view.”

*Brahmā said :—*

47. On hearing these words of Menā, the wife of the mountain, the delighted goddess Śivā replied to Menā, the beloved of the mountain thus.

*The Goddess said :—*

48. “O Menā, formerly you served me excellently. I am delighted by your devotion. I have come near you to grant you a boon.

49. On hearing my words “Express your wish and choose a boon” you had chosen the boon “great Goddess, become my daughter. Do what is beneficent to the gods.”

50. Accordingly granting you the boon I returned to