

supreme happiness. Out of His sympathy He has granted His vision to your daughter.

Brahmā said:—

83. Then Menā said to them after sobbing frequently—
“My riches are not to be given to Śiva of hideous form.

84 Why are you Siddhas collectively attempting to make her exquisite beauty futile ?”

85. When this was mentioned by her I became stunned. All the gods, Siddhas, sages and human beings were bewildered.

86. In the meantime, on hearing of her persistent obduracy, Viṣṇu a favourite of Śiva came there and spoke as follows.

Viṣṇu said:—

87-88. You are the beloved mental daughter of the Pitṛs. You are endowed with all good qualities. You are wife of Himavat himself. Yours is the excellent race of Brahmā. Your well-wishers in the world are also like him (Brahmā). You are really blessed. What more can I say? You are reputed to be a patron of virtue. Why do you then eschew virtue ?

89. May this be pondered over by you yourself. Can anything against you be mentioned by the gods, sages, or Brahmā or by myself ?

90. You do not know Śiva. He is both possessed and devoid of attributes. He is hideous as well as comely. He is worthy of worship by all. He is the ultimate goal of the good.

91. The primordial nature is created by Him alone. Near her, the excellent primordial Being has also been created by Him.

92. Brahmā and I are created thereafter. Then, with the three attributes, Śiva Himself, incarnated in order to be beneficial to the worlds.

93. The Vedas originated from Him. The gods sprang up from Him. Whatever mobile and immobile there is in the universe, sprang up from him.

94. Who has described His form? By whom can it be