

horns. Some played on Ḍamarus. Some played on Gomukhas.

54. Some had no faces. Some had distorted and deformed faces. Some had many faces. Some had no hands. Others had deformed hands. Some of them had many hands.

55. Some had no eyes. Some had many eyes. Some had no head. Some had deformed heads. Some had no ears. Some had many ears. The Gaṇas had all types of dresses and features.

56. Such and other innumerable deformed Gaṇas, heroic and terrible, strong and strenuous passed by, O dear.

57. O sage, you pointed out the Gaṇas of Śiva to her with your finger and said—"O lovely lady, see the attendants of Śiva and Śiva Himself."

58. O sage, on seeing the innumerable Gaṇas, Bhūtas and Pretas, Menakā was terribly frightened instantaneously.

59-61. On seeing Śiva in their midst, the mother of Pārvatī trembled. She saw Śiva who though devoid of attributes was better than those who had all the attributes, He was seated on the Bull. He had five faces<sup>103</sup> and three eyes. He had ashes smeared over the body. He had matted hair with the crescent moon on His head. He had ten hands with the skull in one of them. His upper cloth was tiger's hide. He held the bow Pināka in one of his hands and the Trident in another. He had odd eyes, ugly features utterly dishevelled and untidy. He wore the hide of an elephant.

62. She was stunned, tremulous agitated and confused. You said to her "This is Śiva" and pointed Him out to her.

63. On hearing your words she fell on the ground like a tender creeper blown by the wind. Menā the chaste lady was grief-stricken.

64. "What is this ? I have been deceived for being too ambitious. Of what use is it to see this deformity ?" Saying this, Menakā fell unconscious there in a trice.

65. Her maids exerted themselves in various ways and attended on her. Then gradually she, the beloved of the lord of mountains, regained consciousness.

103. On the five-faced form of lord Śiva see Note 25 P. 34.