

42. Rudra, the lord, is anxious to marry me and hence my incarnation on the Earth at the residence of Menā and Himācala, O gods.

43. In order to propitiate Rudra, I shall incarnate as the daughter of Menā, the wife of Himācala, in accordance with the way of the world.

44. After performing a severe penance as His devotee I shall become Rudra's beloved and then perform the work of the gods. This is truth, real truth, there is no doubt about it.

45. All of you return to your abodes. Continuously worship Śiva. Undoubtedly your miseries will be quelled by His favour.

46. By the grace of merciful lord Śiva, you will achieve auspicious results. As the wife of that lord I shall be honoured and worshipped in the world.

Brahmā said :—

47. O dear, even as the gods were watching, Śivā, the mother of the universe, vanished after saying this and returned immediately to her world.

48. After making obeisance to the direction in which she went, the delighted Viṣṇu and others, sages and the gods, returned to their abodes.

49. O excellent sages, thus I have narrated to you the auspicious narrative of the goddess Durgā. It is always pleasing to men and it bestows worldly pleasures and salvation.

50. Whoever hears or recites this with concentration, reads or teaches this, will obtain the fruits of all desires.

CHAPTER FIVE

(Menā obtains the boon)

Nārada said :—

1. When the Goddess Durgā vanished and the gods returned to their abodes, what happened next?