

and great joy. With a resplendent brilliance, he, of lofty mind, became invincible like a blazing fire.

5. Then, in a beneficent hour, the lord of the mountains deposited in his beloved the entire constituent element of Śiva by means of ecstatic contemplation.

6. The wife of the mountain, by the grace of the goddess who had sympathetically stationed herself in the mind of the mountain, conceived.

7. The beloved of the mountain, Menā, shone all the more by the presence of the goddess who bore the entire universe. She appeared as if she was in a brilliant sphere.

8. Menā bore the characteristic signs of pregnancy which almost indicated the imminent rise in pleasure of her lord and served as the auspicious cause for the future bliss of the gods.

9. The weakness of her body did not allow her to wear ornaments. Her face became pale like the Lodhra flower. She resembled the night when there are very few stars and the moon is in a waning state.<sup>13</sup>

10. Kissing her face, emitting the fragrance of the earth in the course of his secret dalliance, the lord of the mountains, was not satiated. His love increased.<sup>14</sup>

11. The lord of mountains asked Menā's friends frequently—"What are the desires of Menā? She herself does not express them out of bashfulness."<sup>15</sup>

12. Whatever product of the mountain she wished to have in the course of her pregnancy she found brought to her. There was nothing which he, the lord of the mountain, could not accomplish in the heaven too.

13. Surmounting the difficulties of the early days of pregnancy, she grew more plump in her limbs. Menā then shone like a tender creeper putting forth more leaves and flowers.

14. The lord of the mountains considered his pregnant queen like the earth with a treasure within and like the Śamī twig with latent fire in it.<sup>16</sup>

13. For the similarity of idea and verbal expression compare Kālidāsa's *Raghuvamśa*. III. 2.

14. Cf. *Ibid.* III. 3.

15. Cf. *Ibid.* III. 5.

16. *Ibid.* III. 9.