

Śiva can be attained through penance. Every one attains the desired fruits in penance and not otherwise.

*Brahmā said :—*

40. O Nārada, after saying thus to Pārvatī, you, the favourite of Śiva, went to heaven, a casual visitor engaged in the welfare of the gods.

41. O Nārada, on hearing your words and securing the excellent five-syllabled mantra, Pārvatī was extremely pleased.

## CHAPTER TWENTYTWO

*(Description of Pārvatī's penance)*

*Brahmā said :—*

1. After your departure, O celestial sage, convinced that Śiva could be achieved by means of penance, Pārvatī became glad and decided to perform penance.

2. She took her maids Jayā and Vijayā into confidence and through them made her parents acquainted.

3. First she wanted her father Himavat, the lord of mountains, to hear her humble words.

*The maids said :—*

4-5. O Himavat, let the words of your daughter be heard through us. She wishes to make her body, beauty and family fruitful. This can be achieved through penance and not otherwise.

6. O excellent mountain, the permission may kindly be given—"Let Pārvatī go to the forest and perform penance there".

*Brahmā said :—*

7. O excellent sage, thus requested by Pārvatī through the maids, the lord of the mountains carefully considered the proposal and said:

*Himācala said :—*

8. This appeals to me. I it appeals to Menā as it ought to be, what else can be a better course ?