

and Menā the hand of Pārvatī as alms. He, the source of great enjoyment did not accept anything else.

52-54. The lord of mountains deluded by Śiva's magic did not accede to this request. The mendicant too did not take anything. He vanished from the scene. Then Himavat and Menā realised that Śiva had deceived them and gone to His abode. After some pondering, they developed a feeling of devotion to Śiva who is the cause of salvation, the bestower of divine bliss.

CHAPTER THIRTYONE

(Description of Śiva's magic)

Brahmā said:—

1. On knowing their undistracted great devotion to Śiva, O Nārada, Indra and other gods, thought like this.

The gods said :—

2. If the mountain were to give his daughter to Śiva with singleminded devotion he will attain salvation immediately and will disappear from Bhārata.⁴⁵

3. The mountain is the storehouse of endless gems. If he were to leave off the Earth and go, the name of the Earth—Ratnagarbhā (having gems in the womb)—shall be a misnomer.

4. He will cast off his immobile aspect and assume a divine form. He will give his daughter to the Trident bearing deity and will go to Śiva's region.

5. He will undoubtedly attain merge into lord Śiva. having enjoyed pleasures there, he will attain salvation.

Brahmā said:—

6. Thinking like this and consulting one another they, in their bewilderment, decided to send god Bṛhaspati there.

45. Bhārata, the land of Bharatas, derives its name from the Bharatas, an ancient powerful Aryan tribe mentioned in the Ṛgveda.