

said :—"This is Śiva the master of Pārvatī". Then you said "No".

31. By that time Brahmā passed by. He was in an excellent form of lustre, praised by excellent sages and looking like an embodied Dharma itself.

32. O sage, seeing me the highly delighted Menā said—"This is Pārvatī's husband". You said to her "No".

33-35. In the meantime lord Viṣṇu came that way. He looked glorious and splendid, dark-blue like the fresh cloud and having four arms. He had the handsome features of numberless cupids. He wore yellow garments. He was the king of heaven with eyes resembling the petals of a lotus, and looked very calm. He had Garuḍa as his vehicle. He possessed all the characteristic signs conch etc. He was bedecked in crown and other ornaments. He wore Śrīvatsa on his chest. He had an uncommon splendour that was incomprehensible

36. On seeing him Menā's eyes became dazed. With great delight she said—"This is Śiva himself the bridegroom of Pārvatī. There is no doubt about it".

37-39. On hearing Menakā's words you said—"No, this is not the lord, the cause of protection and enjoyment. This is not the bridegroom of Pārvatī. This is Viṣṇu, the officer-in-charge of the marriage-party of Śiva and a great favourite of Śiva. The bridegroom Śiva is better than him. O Menā, it is impossible for me to describe his beauty. He is the lord of the entire universe, the lord of all, the Self-Emperor".

*Brahmā said :—*

40. On hearing your words, Menā thought her daughter auspicious, rich, fortunate and harbinger of happiness for the three families.

41. Her face was beaming with pleasure and her heart was delighted. Frequently congratulating herself on her good luck she said :—

*Menā said :—*

42. By the birth of Pārvatī, I have become blessed in