

26. The sons of the mountain came back to their abode with his permission and informed the king of mountains gladly that the bridegroom and the party were on their way there.

27. O sage, on hearing the request thus made, Viṣṇu and other gods with the lord rejoiced much.

28. Dressed richly and exquisitely the gods, the gaṇas, the sages and others started towards the abode of lord Himavat.

29. In the meantime, Menā desired to see Śiva. O sage, through her lord, you, the excellent sage, were requisitioned there.

30. O sage, urged by the lord who desired to fulfil the task of Śiva you went there.

31. O sage, after bowing to you, Menā with her heart full of surprise told you that she wanted to see the real form of lord Śiva that dispels haughtiness.

CHAPTER FORTYTHREE

(Description of Śiva's wonderful sport)

Menā said :—

1. O sage, I shall first see the bridegroom of Pārvatī. Let me have an idea of the form and features of Śiva for which she performed the great penance.

Brahmā said :—

2. Thus, urged by ignorance, O sage, she went to the terrace along with you to see Śiva.

3. Then Śiva, realising her false pride in herself, spoke to Viṣṇu and me as a part of His wonderful sport.

Śiva said :—

4. "At my bidding, O dear ones, both of you go one by one accompanied by the gods to the threshold of the mountain. I shall follow afterwards."