

What a repulsive body he has ! What has he, on seeing which I may be tempted to give my good daughter to him ?”

*Brahmā said:—*

72. O sage she lamented thus and in many a similar manner she cried in the excess of her grief.

73. Then I came there quickly and narrated to her the principles of Śiva which ought to have dispelled her perverted knowledge.

74. “O Menā, you shall listen lovingly to my auspicious words whereby your evil inclination shall cease.

75. Śiva is the creator, sustainer and annihilator of the universe. You do not know His real form. Wherefore do you then seek sorrow ?

76. The lord has several forms and names. He indulges in many kinds of divine sports. He is the lord of all and independent. He is the master of delusion and free from doubtful alternatives.

77. Realising this, O Menā, give your daughter to Śiva. Abandon your misplaced stubbornness. Your evil inclination is destructive of all affairs”.

78. Thus addressed by me Menā continued to cry again and again. Slowly, O sage, she eschewed all shame and spoke to me.

*Menā said:—*

79. O Brahmā, why do you render her excellent beauty futile ? Why don't you kill her yourself ?

80. You shall not tell me again that she should be given to Śiva. I will not give my daughter, dearer than my own life, to Śiva.

*Brahmā said:—*

81. O great sage, when she expressed thus, Sanaka and other Siddhas came there and spoke lovingly.

*Siddhas said:—*

82. This Śiva is the supreme being, the bestower of