

ground. Agitated by grief and anger she did not go near her husband.

24. There was a great hue and cry at that time, O great sage. The gods came near her.

25. O celestial sage, I too came myself. On seeing me, O excellent sage, you spoke to her.

*Nārada said :—*

26. The real handsome form of Śiva is not known by you. This form is assumed by Śiva in a sportive mood. It is not the real form.

27. Hence, O chaste lady, cast off anger. Be calm. Leave off your obduracy. Do what is proper to be done. Give Pārvatī to Śiva.

*Brahmā said :—*

28. On hearing your words, Menā spoke to you—“O wicked one, get up and go away. You are base”.

29. When she said thus, Indra and all other gods and the guardians of the quarters came and spoke.

*The gods said :—*

30. O Menā, O daughter of the Pitṛs, listen to our words joyously. This Śiva is the Supreme lord Himself, the bestower of the greatest happiness.

31. He is favourably disposed to good devotees. On seeing your daughter's severe penance He had appeared before her and granted her the boon.

*Brahmā said :—*

32. Menā cried aloud frequently and spoke to the gods—“My daughter will not be given to Śiva of fierce features.

33. Why have you all conspired together to render her beauty futile?”

34. O excellent sages, when she uttered thus, the seven sages, Vasiṣṭha and others, came there and spoke :—

*The seven sages said :—*

35. “O daughter of the Pitṛs, O beloved of the