

3. On hearing your words Śiva joyously assumed a wonderfully excellent and divine form and showed His mercifulness.

4. O sage, on seeing the comely form of Śiva, the receptacle of exquisite beauty, far better than that of the cupid, you were greatly delighted.

5. Highly delighted you eulogised Him again and again with different kinds of hymns and returned to the place where Menā was seated along with other gods.

6. Reaching there, O sage, with great affection and delight, you spoke to the great pleasure of Menā, the wife of Himavat.

*Nārada said :—*

7. O Menā of wide eyes, see the excellent features of Śiva. The merciful Śiva has taken great pity on us.

*Brahmā said :—*

8. Extremely surprised on hearing your words, Menā the beloved wife of the mountain, saw Śiva's form that afforded great bliss.

9-12. It was as refulgent as that of a thousand suns. Every part of the body was exquisite. The garments were of variegated colours. He was embellished with different ornaments. He was smiling with great delight. His comeliness was highly pleasing. He was fair-complexioned and lustrous. The crescent moon added to his beauty. Viṣṇu and other gods lovingly served Him. The sun acted as His royal umbrella. The moon embellished Him. In every way He was extremely handsome bedecked in ornaments. It was impossible to describe adequately the great beauty of His vehicle.

13. The Gaṅgā and the Yamunā were waving the Chowries. The eight Siddhis<sup>105</sup> danced in front of Him.

14. Viṣṇu, I, Indra and the other gods bedecked their bodies and dress and accompanied Śiva.

15. The Gaṇas of various forms and features shouted

<sup>105</sup>. The eightfold Siddhis are personified here. For details see Note 203 P. 235