

the gods, sages and seers. He is a great favourite of Śiva.

19. He is of pure soul, an abode of austerities. He sanctifies even the great souls. He is the bestower of the benefit of austerities. He is the auspicious storehouse of multifarious minerals.

20. He is of a divine form. He is beautiful in every part. He is the unaffected part of Viṣṇu. He is the king of leading mountains and a great favourite of the good.

21. Due to the desire for the benefit of the manes and the gods and for the stabilisation of his race as well as for the increase of virtue, Himācala wanted to marry.

22. At that time, considering their own interest entirely, O excellent sage, the gods approached the celestial forefathers and said lovingly to them.

*The gods said :—*

23. “O ye forefathers, listen to our words with pleasure. If you desire that the affairs of the gods be fulfilled you must act accordingly soon.

24-25. Uniting your eldest daughter Menā of auspicious features with Himācala, a great benefit will accrue to everyone. At every step, the miseries of the gods and those of yours as well can be reduced”.

*Brahmā said :—*

26. On hearing these words of the gods, pondering over them and remembering the curse incurred by their daughters, the forefathers said “Amen” to their proposals.

27. They gave their daughter Menā to Himavat. In that auspicious marriage there were great festivities.

28. Viṣṇu, the other gods and the sages reached there with their hearts set on Śiva.

29. Giving many charitable gifts they made the celebration a great success. They praised the celestial forefathers and the Himavat.

30. All the gods and the sages rejoiced and returned to their own abodes with their hearts set on Śiva.

31. After receiving many articles as gifts and