

down her head in bashfulness but her smile heightened the beauty of her face.

52. On hearing the story, the lord of mountains stroked her fondly, kissed her on the head and placed her on his seat.

53. O sage, on seeing her seated there you spoke again delighting the lord of mountains, Menakā and her sons.

54-55. "O king of mountains, she will have a better throne than this. Śiva's thigh will be her permanent abode. On getting the seat on the thigh of Śiva your daughter will go to the world where no eye or mind can reach."

*Brahmā said : —*

56. O Nārada, after saying this to the lord of mountains, you went to heaven immediately. The lord of mountains too, whose mind was filled with joy, returned to his palace endowed with all riches.

## CHAPTER NINE

*(The parents advise Pārvatī to propitiate Śiva. Śiva appears before Pārvatī in dream)*

*Nārada said:—*

1. O Brahmā, O dear one, O foremost among the devotees of Śiva, O intelligent one, taking pity on me you have narrated a wonderful story to me and have increased my pleasure thereby.

2. O Brahmā, when I, of divine vision, had gone to my abode what happened thereafter? Please tell me now.

*Brahmā said:—*

3. After you had gone to heaven, some time passed. Once Menā approached the lord of mountains and bowed to him.

4. After waiting there for some time with humility, the