

known ? Even Brahmā and I were not able to gauge him.

95. Whatever is seen in the universe from Brahmā down to a blade of grass is identical with Śiva. Know it. There need not be any hesitation in this matter.

96. He alone, in the course of his divine sport, has incarnated himself in divine form. It was by the fascination of Pārvati's penance that He has come to your threshold.

97. Hence, O wife of Himavat, eschew your sorrow. Worship Śiva. You will have great pleasure. All pain will be quelled.

Brahmā said:—

98. O sage, when instructed by Viṣṇu, Menakā's mind was somewhat softened.

99. But she did not give up her obduracy. She did not consent to the proposal of giving her daughter to Śiva. Menā was deluded by Śiva's magic.

100. On hearing the pleasing words of Viṣṇu, the beloved of the mountain, the mother of Pārvatī became slightly enlightened and spoke to Viṣṇu.

101. If He assumes a lovely form and body my daughter may be given to Him and not otherwise even if you attempt it a thousand times. This is my firm decision.

102. After saying thus Menā of steady resolve kept quiet. She was induced by Śiva's will whose magical power deludes all.

CHAPTER FORTYFIVE

*(Śiva's comely form and the Jubilation of the
Citizens)*

Brahmā said :—

1. In the meantime, O sage, urged by Viṣṇu you went immediately to Śiva to conciliate Him.

2. After reaching there, with a desire to get the task of the gods fulfilled, you pleaded with Śiva after eulogising Him with different kinds of hymns.