

46. But on seeing his greatness we both consented to give our daughter in marriage to him. O beloved, keep that promise.

*Brahmā said:—*

47. After saying thus, the lord of the mountains stopped, O sage. On hearing it Menā, the mother of Śivā, spoke to Himavat.

*Menā said:—*

48-50. “O lord, let my words be heard. You can carry out what I say. Take your daughter Pārvatī, tie her up and cast her down into a deep abysmal chasm. Or drown her in the deep sea and be happy. I am not going to give her to Śiva. If you give your daughter to him who is of hideous features, O lord, I shall certainly leave off this mortal frame.

*Brahmā said:—*

51. When these words were spoken by Menā in her obduracy, Pārvatī voluntarily spoke in a sweet voice.

*Pārvatī said:—*

52. “O mother, your noble intellect has become perverted. Why do you forsake virtue, you who ought to depend on virtue alone ?

53. This Śiva has no one else greater than him. He is Śiva. the source of everything. He is beautiful, pleasing and eulogised in all the Vedas.

54. Śiva is the benefactor. He is the lord of gods. He is self-ruler. O mother, He is of many forms and names. He is served by Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others.

55. He is the support of everything. He is the creator and annihilator. He is free from aberrations. He is the lord of the three deities. He is indestructible and eternal.

56. It is for him that all the gods, as attendants, have come here. They stand in a festive mood at your threshold. What more pleasure do you need ?

57. Hence get up. Endeavour to make your life fruitful. Give me to Śiva. Make my effort meaningful.