

beloved of the mountain addressed her lord; the chaste lady who loved her daughter as ardently as her own life spoke to the lord of mountains thus.

*Menā said :—*

5. As but is natural to women, the words of the sage have not been understood by me well. (I think it is better) that you perform the marriage of our daughter with a handsome bridegroom.

6. Let the bridegroom of Pārvatī be born of a good family endowed with good characteristic signs. In every respect that marriage will yield an unprecedented happiness.

7. Obeisance to you. Do everything necessary to make our daughter, as beloved to us as our own lives, very happy and delighted after being united with a good bridegroom.

*Brahmā said :—*

8. After saying this, with tears in her eyes Menā fell at the feet of her husband. Raising her, the lord of mountains, the most excellent among intelligent people, made a true statement.

*Himācala said:—*

9. O gentle lady Menakā, listen. I shall tell you the truth. Do not be under false impressions. The sage's statement will never be false.

10. If you feel affectionate towards your daughter, zealously instruct your daughter. Let her perform the penance with Śiva as the object, devotedly and steadily.

11. If Śiva is delighted, O Menakā, He will marry her. Everything shall be auspicious. The inauspicious features indicated by Nārada will perish.

12. All inauspicious things are auspicious in Sadāśiva. Hence immediately teach your daughter to hasten to perform the penance for attaining Śiva.

*Brahmā said :—*

13. On hearing these words of the lord of mountains, Menā was greatly delighted. She approached her daughter to advise her to take interest in penance.