

CHAPTER FORTYFOUR

(*Menā regains consciousness*)

Brahmā said:—

1-2. On regaining consciousness, the chaste beloved of the mountain lamented with great agitation and began to rebuke everyone. In faltering words she frequently censured her sons at first and then scolded her daughter.

Menā said :—

3. O sage, formerly it was mentioned be you that Pārvatī would marry Śiva. Afterwards you assigned some activity of worship to Himavat.

4. Its fruit is visible now, to be sure. But it is adverse and meaningless. O sage, O wicked minded one, I the innocent woman have been cheated by you by all means.

5. The fruit of penance which she performed and which is very difficult even for the sages to perform, has been this, painful to every onlooker.

6. What shall I do? Where shall I go? Who will dispel my sorrow? My family is wrecked. My life is doomed.

7. Where are those so called celestial sages? I shall pluck out their beards. Where is that mischievous woman who came here by herself in the guise of the wife of one of them?

8. By whose guilt have I been ruined now?" Saying this she turned to her daughter and began to say harsh words.

9. O wretched daughter, what is it that you have done? This is extremely painful to me. You have given gold and brought a glass piece, O wicked girl.

10. You have cast away sandal paste and smeared yourself with mud. You have driven away the swan and have held a crow in your hands.

11. Setting aside the sacred river water you have drunk the well-water. Losing the sun you have clung to the glowworm in all earnestness.

12. Throwing away cooked rice you have eaten the