

CHAPTER THREE

(Hymn to Śiva by Viṣṇu and other gods)

Nārada said:—

1. O Brahmā, the best of eloquent ones, of great wisdom, please tell me. What is the subsequent story of the good auspicious mountain ?

2. You have narrated the wonderful story of the auspicious antecedents of Menā. The details of the marital rites too are heard. Please continue the subsequent narrative.

3. After marrying Menā what did the mountain do afterwards ? How was Pārvati, the mother of the universe, born of her ?

4. How did she secure Śiva as her husband after performing a severe penance ? Narrate all these things in detail regarding the glory of Śiva.

Brahmā said:—

5. O sage, lovingly listen to the auspicious glory of Śiva on hearing which even a slayer of a brahmin becomes pure and attains all desires.

6. O Nārada, there was great pomp and ceremony in the three worlds when Himācala returned to his abode after marrying Menā.

7. The delighted Himācala too celebrated a great festival. With good intention he worshipped and revered brahmins, kinsmen and others.

8. The contented brahmins returned to their respective abodes after blessing them. The kinsmen and the others also returned.

9. The delighted Himācala⁶ sported with Menā in his cosy abode, Nandana and other parks as well as in several nice places.

10. At that time, O sage, Viṣṇu, the gods and the noble-sould sages approached the mountain.

11. On seeing the gods after their arrival, the noble

6. It is a grove of Indra, lying to the north of Meru.