

husk. Spilling away the clarified butter you have eagerly swallowed castor oil.

13. Setting the lion aside a jackal has been served by you. Without listening to the lore of Supreme Brahman¹⁰⁴ you have heard base ballads.

14. O daughter, casting off the holy sacrificial ashes at home you have taken the inauspicious ashes from the funeral pyre.

15. Abandoning the great lords, Viṣṇu and others you have performed penance for Śiva. Your intellect has really gone astray.

16. Fie on you. Fie on your intellect. Fie on your beauty and conduct. Fie on your adviser. Fie on your maids too.

17. Fie on us who brought you thus to the world, O daughter. O Nārada, fie on your intelligence and fie on those seven sages who gave us wrong advice.

18. Fie on the whole family. Fie on the efficiency in performing the rites. Fie on everything done by you. You have inflamed this household. Almost it has been a death blow to me.

19. Let not the king of the mountains come near me. Let not the seven sages show their faces to me.

20. Has anything been achieved? Our whole race is wrecked by all conspiring together. How is it that I have not remained a barren woman? How is it that a miscarriage did not take place when I conceived?

21. How is it that I did not die? How is it that this girl did not die? Why is she not devoured by the demons and others from the sky?

22. I shall cut off your head. What shall I do with the bodies? Abandoning you where shall I go? Alas, my whole life is doomed.

Brahmā said :—

23. After saying this Menā fell unconscious on the

¹⁰⁴. It refers to the spiritual knowledge as revealed in the Upaniṣads and other treatises, e.g. the identity of the individual soul with the universal soul, the reality of the spirit over the unreality of the matter and so on.