

(Ekapāṭalā-Vā. P.) Ekaparnā and Aparnā who married respectively Rudra, Asita and Jaigīṣavya (Devara-Vā. P.); the second took to the nyagrodha and pāṭala trees; the first performed *tapas* for thousands of years, whom the mother said "So-mā", and hence Umā; on the eve of her giving birth to Umā, the goddess of Night entered her eyes; persuaded by the seven sages Menā and Himavān gave Umā in marriage to Śiva; and their son was the warrior God;<sup>1</sup> spoke to Umā of her poverty-stricken husband, Maheśvara living in their house after marriage.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bhā. IV. 7. 58; Br. III. 9. 2; 10. 6-20; M. 13. 7; 154. 86-93, 413; Vā. 30. 28-9, 31-2; 71. 3; 92. 31; Vi. I. 8. 14; Br. II. 13. 30 ff. 77. <sup>2</sup> Ib. III. 67. 34.

*Menā* (II)—a daughter of Svadhā and Pitṛs. A Brah-mavādinī.

Vi. I. 10. 19.

*Meru* (I)—(Mt.) the hill that stands in the middle of Ilāvṛta, equal in height to the length of Jambūdvīpa, surrounded on four sides by Mandara, Merumandara, Supārśva and Kumuda. In these four ranges are four great trees—Mango, Jambu, Kaṇḍamba and Banyan; four pools of milk, honey, sugarcane and fresh water; four celestial gardens—Nandana, Caitraratha, Vaibhrājaka, and Sarvatobhadra. Encircling the base of Meru, stand two hills. On the east are Jaṭhara and Devakūṭa; on the west Pavana and Pāri-yātra; on the south Kailāsa and Karavīra, and on the north Triśṛṅga and Makara. In the central part of its summit is Brahmā's square city of gold. Surrounding the outskirts of that city, are the eight cities of the eight guardians.<sup>1</sup> There is a forest at its foot where Rudra sports with Pārvatī; Bhāgavan identified with;<sup>2</sup> one of the six Varṣaparvatas of Jambūdvīpa occupying the middle portion. The dwelling-