

blooming like a lotus with pleasure and his body excited with horripilation by the surging waves of joy.

23. With the palms raised and joined on the head in reverence and repeating "Victory, Victory", the delighted sage eulogised the eight-formed³¹⁶ Śiva with the blooming eyes.

Bhārgava said:—

24. O lord of the universe, Obeisance to you. O jewel of heaven, you shine brilliantly in the firmament for the benefit of the three worlds. With these lustrous rays you subdue all darkness and the desires of the Asuras.

25. O eye of the world, you shine in heaven, on the earth and in the sky, brilliantly lit by your excessive refulgence. You have driven away darkness. You are filled by the nectar of the moon. Obeisance to you.

26. You are the wind, the goal in the holy path. You are worthy of being adored. O enlivener of the worlds, who can live here without you? O all-pervasive, benumber of storms, nourisher of creatures, delighter of the race of serpents, obeisance to you.

27. O sole purifier of the universe, O protector of those who bow to you, O wielder of the power of fire, you are the fire, bestowing calmness at every step. Obeisance to you.

28. O water-formed one, O great Īśa, the whole universe is holy. Really you make it variegated. O lord of the universe, this universe is free from dirt by diving into the water. Hence I bow to you.

29. O sky-formed one, because you give space within and without, that this universe evolves and expands; O merciful one, it always breathes in you and naturally merges in you. Hence I bow to you.

30. O earth-formed one, O lord, you support and hold the universe. O lord of the universe, who else can be the enemy of darkness? You of this nature destroy my

316. Bhārgava eulogises Śiva in his eight forms represented by ether, air, fire, water, earth, the sun, the moon and the Ātman. The concept is popular with most of the poets in Sanskrit literature. Cp. Kāli. Śāk. Verse 1.