

abandoned by those who seek salvation. Śruti lays down that they shall not get negligent.

11-12. Śiva, Viṣṇu, Umā, Lakṣmī, goddess of speech and other gods and goddesses, brahmins, kṣatriyas, vaiśyas and persons of mixed castes and hill tribes have observed Tripuṇḍra and dusting always.

13. Those who do not observe Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana cannot practise well the various rites of the different Varṇas and Āśramas.

14. Those who do not observe with faith Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana cannot be liberated from the world even if they take ten million births.

15. Even after hundreds of crores of Kalpas, Śiva-knowledge will not dawn upon those who do not observe with faith Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana.

16. This is the final conclusion of all sacred texts that those who do not observe with faith Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana are tarnished by great sins.

17. Any action performed by those who do not observe Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana with faith will give adverse results.

18. O sage, the hatred towards Tripuṇḍra and Uddhūlana is kindled in the hearts of only those great sinners who hate everyone.

19. After performing the sacred rites of Śiva in the fire, the devotee who has realised the Self shall smear the forehead with the ashes repeating the mantra beginning with "Tryāyuṣā^{155A}". The moment the ashes come in contact with his body he will be freed from sins of his impious acts.

20. He who observes Tripuṇḍra with white ashes during the three Sandhyās every day becomes free from all sins and rejoices with Śiva.

21. He who makes the Tripuṇḍra on the forehead with white ashes shall attain, on death, the primordial worlds.

22. No one shall repeat the six-syllabled mantra without applying ashes on the body. After making the Tripuṇḍra with the ashes he shall perform the Japa.