

existence, on the great lord, on Ugra, the annihilator of terrible sins, on Śarva the moon-crested”.

44. The intelligent devotee shall perform the worship of Śiva with this mantra or with the Vedic mantra with great devotion and abandoning errors. Śiva accords benefits when with devotion he is propitiated.

45. Notwithstanding the Vedic mode of worship as stated above, O brahmins, we now proceed to explain the common procedure of Śiva's worship.

46. This mode of worship of Śiva's earthen phallic image is the muttering of the names of Śiva. O excellent sages, it yields all cherished desires. Please listen to me. I shall explain it.

47-48. The eight names of Śiva viz :—Hara, Maheśvara, Śambhu, Śūlapāṇi, Pinākadhṛk, Śiva, Paśupati and Mahādeva shall be used respectively for the rites of bringing the clay, kneading, installation, invocation, ceremonial ablu-tion, worship, craving the forbearance and ritualistic farewell.

49. Each of the names shall be prefixed with Omkāra. The name shall be used in the dative case and Namaḥ shall be added to them. The rites shall be performed respectively with great devotion and joy.

50. The Nyāsa rite shall be duly performed and the Aṅganyāsa of the two hands shall also be performed. The devotee shall perform meditation with the six-syllabled mantra—Om namaśśivāya.

51. The devotee shall meditate on Śiva seated in the middle of his seat on the pedestal in Kailāsa, worshipped by Sananda<sup>146</sup> and others. Śiva is a forest fire, as it were, for the dry wood in the form of the distress of the devotees. He is immeasurable. He is the Ornament of the universe being closely embraced by his consort, Uma.

52. He shall meditate on Śiva always in the following way :—He is like a silver mountain. He wears the beautiful moon, on his forehead. His limbs are resplendent with ornaments of gems. He holds the axe, the deer, the Mudrā of boon and the Mudrā of freedom from fear in His four hands. He is joyful. He is seated in the lotus pose. The

146. Sananda is one of the 4, 7 or 10 mind-born sons of Brahmā.