

2. When Vasiṣṭha went back to his abode after instructing her in the rites of penance, Sandhyā was greatly pleased on learning the procedure of penance.

3. On the bank of the lake Bṛhallohita she began to perform penance after she had put on the dress of a person of blissful mind.

4. She worshipped Śiva with the mantra taught by Vasiṣṭha as the adjunct of penance in the manner explained by him.

5. A period of four Yugas elapsed during which she continued her great penance with mind fixed and duly concentrated on Śiva.

6. Propitiated by her penance Śiva was greatly delighted. He revealed Himself to her within and without as well as in the heaven.

7. Śiva became visible to her in the form in which she was meditating upon him.

8. She rejoiced much on seeing in front of her, the lord Śiva with face beaming with delight, in the same form as she was meditating on.

9. "What shall I say ? How shall I eulogise ?" in this agitation she closed her eyes with fear.

10. As she remained with eyes shut, Śiva entered her heart and blessed her with divine wisdom, divine speech and divine eyes.

11. She thus acquired divine wisdom, divine eyes and divine speech. Directly perceiving the lord of Durgā she eulogised the lord of the worlds.

*Sandhyā said:—*

12. That which has no specific form, that which can be known through perfect knowledge; that which is neither gross, nor subtle, nor high; that which is to be meditated upon by Yogins within themselves—obeisance be to Thee who art of this sort and the creator of the worlds.

13. I bow to Thee, lord Śiva, whose form is like a road to heaven, beyond the path of darkness, and who art calm, pure, changeless incomprehensible through worldly knowledge, self-illuminated and unaltered.

14. Obeisance to Thee whose form is solitary, pure,