

73. The devotee shall take some flowers in his hands, stand up with palms joined in reverence and repeating the following mantra shall pray again to Īśāna, Śaṅkara.

74. O Śiva, may this Japa, Pūjā etc. performed by me with or without the requisite knowledge be fruitful, thanks to Thy grace.

75-76. After repeating the above mantra he shall place the flowers joyously over the Śivaliṅga. Then the rites of Svastyayana¹⁹⁸ Āśīrvāda (benediction), Mārjana shall be performed. Then Homage, a prayer for forgiveness and Ācamana shall be performed.

77-78. Repeating the Agha¹⁹⁹ mantras for the expiation of sins namaskāra shall be duly performed. He shall pray with devout feelings. "Devotion to Śiva, devotion to Śiva, devotion to Śiva in every birth. I have no other refuge. You alone are my refuge."

79. After praying thus to the lord of the Gods, the bestower of all achievements, the devotee shall loudly pray.

80. He shall then perform namaskāra along with the members of his family. He shall feel delighted in all these and thereafter carry on his daily routine according to convenience.

81. He who performs the worship regularly like this with great devotion to Śiva shall achieve success at every step.

82-83. He will become eloquent. He will achieve all he desires. The Supreme lord Śiva will quell all his miseries, ailments, sorrows, heart-burns, crookedness, poisonings and everything distressing quickly.

84. Just as the moon waxes in the bright half, his joy and merits shall increase day by day certainly by the worship of Śiva.

85. O foremost among sages, thus I have told you the mode of worship of Śiva. O Nārada what else do you wish to hear ?

¹⁹⁸. Ibid. 1.86.6.

¹⁹⁹. Ibid. 20.29.