

greatest, the greatest of the great, the all-pervading omniformed lord.

40. Obeisance to Viṣṇukalatra, Viṣṇukṣetra, the sun, Bhairava, the refuge of the refugees, the three-eyed and the sportive.

41. Obeisance to Mr̥tyuñjaya, the cause of sorrow, of the form of three attributes, one with the moon, sun and fire as eyes, to the bridge of each and every cause.

42. The entire universe is pervaded by you with your own splendour; you are the great Brahman, the unchanging consciousness, bliss and light.

43. O lord Śiva, all the Gods headed by Brahmā, Viṣṇu, Indra, the moon, the sages and others are born of you.

44. Since you hold everything by dividing your cosmic body into eight you are known as Aṣṭamūrti³⁴², you are the primordial Śiva, the merciful.

45. Afraid of you the wind blows, the fire blazes, the sun shines and death runs all round.

46. O Great Lord, the ocean of mercy, be pleased. Save us for ever, for we are otherwise doomed as we lack in fortitude.

47. O merciful lord, we have been protected always by you alone from different miseries. Similarly protect us now.

48. O lord the blesser, O lord of Durgā, revive the incomplete sacrifice of Dakṣa Prajāpati immediately.

49. Let Bhaga regain his sight, let the initiated Dakṣa be restored to life, let the teeth of Pūṣan grow, let the moustaches of Bhṛgu appear as before.

50. O Śiva, let the Gods and others whose bodies have been mutilated by weapons and stones, regain their previous normal health under your blessing.

51-52. O lord, the entire share of yours will be allotted to you. Vasiṣṭha will officiate in the sacrifice, the sacrifice will have the share of Rudra, not otherwise. Saying so, Viṣṇu, the lord of Lakṣmī, along with Brahmā craved Śiva's forgiveness by prostrating on the ground.