

sort of Pārvatī. Men who frequently indulge in passions of love and hatred will never have devotion for Śiva.

57. The devotion for Śiva that extends to other deities is futile. It is necessary to be exclusively devoted to Śiva.

58. It is my conviction that salvation is easy of access only to the person who has exclusive and unflinching devotion for Śiva and not for any other.

59. Even if he commits endless sins, he will be freed from them all, if he has true devotion for Śiva. There is no doubt about it.

60. Just as trees in the forest are reduced to ashes in the wild fire so also the sins of the devotees of Śiva are burnt away in the fire of Śiva's name.

61. He who is ever devoted to the worship of Śiva with his body purified by the ash, definitely crosses the terrible and endless expanse of the ocean of worldly existence.

62. A man serving the three-eyed¹⁸³ Śiva is never sullied by sins even if he misappropriates a brahmin's wealth or kills many brahmins.

63. After going through all the Vedas this has been definitely concluded by ancestors that the sole means of destroying worldly existence is the worship of Śiva.

64. From now onwards you shall always worship lord Śiva who is Sāmba and SadāŚiva, with care, effort and due observance of the rules of procedure.

65. Dusting profusely and carefully your body from head to foot with the particles of ashes, you shall perform the Japa of the six-syllabled mantra¹⁸⁴ of Śiva, well-known in all the Vedas.

66. You shall wear on the different parts of your body Rudrākṣa beads pleasing to Śiva, repeating the respective mantras with devotion and observing the rules of procedure.

67. Listen to Śiva's anecdotes for ever. Narrate the stories of Śiva always. Strenuously worship the devotees of Śiva again and again.

68. Without blundering ever seek refuge in Śiva, be-

183. Śiva is called Virūpākṣa 'odd-eyed', because he is represented as having three eyes : two on either side of the nose and one on the forehead.

184. The six-syllabled mantra : ॐ नमश्शिवाय ।