

Droṇa, Maruvaka, Vṛka, Granthiparṇa, Damanaka, the beautiful mango sprouts, Tulasī leaves, Devagandhārī leaves, Bṛhatpatrī leaves, Darbha grass, Nandyāvartas, Agastyas, Śāla, Devadāru, Kāñcanāra, Kuravaka, Dūrvā grass, Kurunṭaka, and lotus petals of various auspicious kinds.

12. He eulogised Śiva with various hymns and repeated a thousand names. He sang songs of Śiva's glory. He danced and made offerings.

13. Śukra worshipped lord Śiva in various ways for five thousand years.

14. When he did not see the lord, the least inclined to grant the boon, he took up still more unbearable and terrible observances and restraints.

15-16. He washed off the dirt of fickleness from his mind by the waters of pure conceptions many times as well as from the sense-organs. After purifying the gem of the mind, he offered the same to the trident-bearing lord. He drank the smoke of powdered husks or bits of grains or balls of iron-ash³¹⁵ for a thousand years.

17. On seeing him performing the terrible penance thus by keeping the mind steady, lord Śiva was delighted.

18. Coming out of the phallic image, lord Śiva the consort of Dākṣāyaṇī appeared before him with a brighter refulgence than that of a thousand suns and said.

Lord Śiva said:—

19. "O great sage, O son of Bhṛgu, O fortunate saint, by your perpetual penance I have been delighted.

20. O Bhārgava, choose anything that you wish as your boon. I shall lovingly bestow on you all your desires. There is nothing that cannot be granted to you."

Sanatkumāra said:—

21. On hearing these pleasing words of Śiva, Bhārgava was very much delighted. He was immersed in the ocean of happiness.

22. The brahmin bowed to Śiva with his eyes