

20. On seeing him resplendent, Bṛhaspati realised immediately that he was lord Śiva himself and bowed to him.

21. Then the noble-minded Bṛhaspati joined his palms in reverence. He prostrated before him on the ground and began to eulogise the lord.

Bṛhaspati said:—

22. Obeisance to Śiva, the chief lord of the gods, the supreme soul, the three-eyed, possessed of matted hair.

23. Obeisance to the succouring lord of the distressed, the destroyer of Andhaka²⁰⁴ and the Tripuras, and identical with Brahmā, the Parameṣṭhin.

24. Obeisance to Śiva of odd eyes, of diverse, deformed and surpassing features, going beyond all forms.

25. Obeisance to the destroyer of sacrifice of Dakṣa, to the bestower of fruits of sacrifice, identical with sacrifice and the initiator of the greatest rites.

26. Obeisance to Śiva the annihilator of Time, of the form of Time, the wearer of black serpents, the great lord and the omnipresent.

27. Obeisance to the destroyer of Brahmā's head,²⁰⁵ the one eulogised by Brahmā and the moon. Obeisance to you favourably disposed to Brahmins. Obeisance to you the great soul.

28. You are the fire, the wind, the ether, the waters, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the solar system.

29. You alone are Viṣṇu, Brahmā, and eulogised by them; you are the great lord, the sages Sanaka etc. You are Nārada the great saint.

30. You alone are the lord of all the worlds, the soul of the universe. You are converging in everything and different from everything; you alone are greater than Prakṛti.

204. Andhaka was an Asura of great prowess who became so arrogant that he attempted to abduct both Śiva and Pārvatī. A great battle was fought between the two in the Mahākāla forest of Avanti. Śiva slew the Asura and obtained the appellation 'the slayer of Andhaka' for himself.

205. See Note 43 P. 58.