

Rudra, Īśāna, the bestower of boons and Śiva. The Dānava Andhaka meditating on these hundred and eight forms of the supreme soul became free from that great fear.

19. He was drenched with the divine shower of nectar by lord Śiva who was perfectly satisfied. He was brought from the top of the trident and released.

20. He spoke to the Asura Andhaka, the great Daitya. The great lord forgave what the demon had done before.

*The great lord said:—*

21. O lord of Daityas, I am pleased by your restraints and observances, your valour and courage. O you of good rites, choose a boon.

22. Propitiated by you I grant the boons. Free from sins you deserve a boon, O excellent Daitya.

23. For the merits you have acquired by retaining your life for three thousand years you shall attain happiness.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

24. On hearing this, Andhaka joined his palms in reverence. He knelt on the ground and spoke to the lord consort of Pārvatī trembling with awe.

*Andhaka said:—*

25-26. O lord, what you had been told by me before was done with the words choked by excess of pleasure. You the greater than the greatest were addressed as an ordinary poor person. What had been done by me in the battlefield due to delusion was the most despicable in the world. It was because I did not realise you then. O lord, please do not keep that in mind.

27. O great lord, the wicked thing I committed towards Pārvatī was due to my base lust. It may kindly be forgiven. I am the most miserable and unhappy.

28. A miserable person shall be pitied. If he be in a pitiable plight, he shall be all the more treated kindly. I am miserable but always devoted to you.

29. I am miserable and devoted. I have sought