

CHAPTER TWENTY

(The mode of worshipping an earthen phallic image by chanting Vedic mantras)

Sūta said :—

1. Now, the mode of worshipping an earthen phallic image according to the Vedic rites is being explained. It yields worldly pleasures and salvation to the Vedic worshippers.

2. The devotee shall take bath in accordance with the rules prescribed in the sacred code. He shall duly perform his Sandhyā prayers. After performing the Brahma Yajña, one of the five daily sacrifices, he shall perform Tarpaṇa (a rite of offering water oblation to the manes).

3-4. After finishing the daily rites he shall apply ashes and wear Rudrākṣa, all along remembering Lord Śiva. With great devotion he shall then worship the excellent earthen phallic image according to Vedic injunctions in order to realise the full benefit.

5. The worship of the earthen phallic image shall be performed on the bank of a river or a tank or on the top of a mountain or in a forest, or in a Śiva temple. It must be in a clean place.

6. O brahmins, he shall bring clay from a clean place and carefully make the phallic image.

7. White clay is to be used by a brahmin; red clay by a Kṣatriya; yellow clay by a Vaiśya and black clay by a Śūdra. Anything available shall be used if the specified clay is not found.

8. After taking the clay he shall place it in an auspicious place for making the image.

9. After washing the clay clean with water and kneading it slowly he shall prepare a good earthen phallic image according to the Vedic direction.

10. Then he shall worship it with devotion for the sake of enjoying worldly pleasures here and salvation hereafter.

11. The material of worship shall be sprinkled with water, chanting the formula “Namaḥ Śivāya⁹⁰” With the mantra