

down the unequalled fiery column. Then there came a sage who told him the essence of the truth.

13. Viṣṇu realised that the sage himself was the great lord and the supreme Brahman embodied in the Śabda Brahman. (i.e. the mystic syllable Om).

14. The Brahman is Rudra free from worries. The words and the mind are incapable of comprehending it; without reaching it they return. It can be expressed by the single-syllabled mantra "Om".

15. The supreme Brahman, the Truth, the Bliss, the Amṛta, the greatest of the great and the ultimate cause can be expressed by the single-syllabled mantra.

16. The single syllable "A" is the source of the lord Brahmā. The single syllable "U" is the source of Viṣṇu, the ultimate cause.

17. The single syllable "M" is the source of Rudra. The creator is expressed by the letter "A". The enchanter is expressed by the letter "U"

18. The being expressed by the letter "M" blesses always. It is all-pervasive and progenitor; the letter "A" is the seed.

19. The being expressed by the letter "U" is Viṣṇu. It is the source, the receptacle, the lord of primordial nature and primordial being, the progenitor, the seed, source and sound. All these constitute Lord Śiva.

20. The progenitor is stationed after dividing itself. From the liṅga of the progenitor, the lord, arose the seed—the syllable "A"

21. The Bīja being deposited in the Yoni, the letter "U" began to increase all round. It became a golden egg. It was something known which could not be delineated.

22. The divine egg floated in the waters for many years. Then at the end of a thousand years, it split into two giving birth to Brahmā.

23-24. The egg floating in the waters on being hit by Īśvara split into two. The auspicious golden upper lid became the upper region and the lower one became the Earth of five characteristics. From (the inner part of) the egg was born the four-faced lord (Brahmā) expressed by the letter "KA"