

sense-organs. He shall adore (with flowers) to the extent of his strength. He shall not deceive any one.

13. By the worship on Śivarātrī day the devotee attains that fruit which usually accrues to one who continuously worships me for a year.

14. This is the time when the virtue of devotion to me increases like the tide in the ocean at the rise of the moon. Festivities like the installation of my idols etc. on that day are very auspicious.

15. The day on which I manifested myself in the form of a column of fire is the Ārdrā star in the month of Mārgaśīrṣa (November-December), O children.

16. He who sees me on the day of Ārdrā star in the month of Mārgaśīrṣa in the company of Umā and worships my phallic emblem or embodied image is dearer to me than even Guha (Kārtikeya).

17. On that auspicious day the vision alone accords ample results. If he worships too, the result cannot be adequately described.

18. Since I manifested myself in the form of phallic emblem in the field of battle, this place will be known as Līngasthāna.

19. O sons, this column without root or top will henceforth be diminutive in size for the sake of the vision and worship of the world.

20. The phallic emblem confers enjoyment. It is the only means of worldly enjoyment and salvation. Viewed, touched or meditated upon, it wards off all future births of the living beings.

21. Since the phallic emblem rose high resembling a mountain of fire, this shall be famous as Ruddy (Aruṇa) mountain.⁴⁴

22. Many holy centres will spring up here. A residence or death in this holy place ensures liberation.

23. The celebration of chariot festivals, the congregation of devotees, the presentation of ordinary as well as sacri-

44. Aruṇācala : The Aruṇa mountain lies to the west of Kailāsa and is the abode of Śiva (*Vā.* 47. 17-18; *Br.* II. 18. 18; *Sk.* III. 59-61; IV 9. 13. 21. 37; also Kern : *M. I. P.* 3; See Awasthi : *Studies in Skanda Purāṇa* P. 54.