

assembled Devas stand around Him and offer prayers. He wears the hide of the tiger. He is the primordial Being, the seed of the universe. He dispels all fears. He is the three-eyed¹⁴⁷ lord with five faces¹⁴⁸.

53. After the meditation and worship of the excellent earthly image he shall duly perform the Japa of the five-syllabled mantra taught by the preceptor.

54. O foremost among brahmins, the intelligent devotee shall adore the lord of Devas with different sorts of hymns and recite the Śatarudriya mantra.

55. He shall take raw rice grains and flowers by means of palms joined together in the form of a bowl and pray to Śiva by means of the following mantras.

56-60. The hymn—"O Śiva, the merciful, I am Thine. Thy attributes are my vital breath. My mind is ever fixed in Thee. Knowing this, O lord of goblins, be pleased with me. Consciously or unconsciously, whatever I have performed by way of Japa or adoration may that O Śiva, with Thy favour, be fruitful. I am the greatest sinner and Thou art the greatest sanctifier. O Lord of Gaurī, knowing this, do thou whatever thou dost wish. O great lord, Thou art not known by Vedas, Purāṇas, systems of Philosophy or the different sages. O Sadāśiva, how can I know Thee? In whatever manner, I belong to Thee, O Śiva, by all my thoughtforms. I am to be saved by Thee. Be pleased with me O Śiva".

61. After repeating the hymn, the devotee shall place the flowers and the rice-grains over the phallic image of Śiva. O sages, he shall then prostrate before Śiva with devotion (his eight limbs touching the ground).

62. The intelligent devotee shall perform circumambulation in the manner prescribed. He shall pray to the lord of Devas with great faith.

63. Then he shall make a full-throated sound.¹⁴⁹ He

¹⁴⁷. Three-eyed Śiva, so called because a third eye burst from his forehead with a great flame when his wife playfully placed her hands over his eyes after he had been engaged in austerities in the Himalayas. This eye has been very destructive. It reduced Kāma, the God of Love, to ashes. Dowson, H.M. See under Trilocana.

¹⁴⁸. Five-faced Śiva: See note 25 on P. 34.

¹⁴⁹. It is said that Dakṣa's sacrifice being destroyed by the Gaṇas