

worship of Śiva. Hence O benevolent one, please tell me precisely making me understand the truth.

Nandikeśvara said :—

19. It is impossible to answer this question without revealing the secret of Brahman.

20-24. O sinless one, since you are pious I shall tell you what Śiva Himself has said . Since Śiva has the bodiless aspect in virtue of His being the supreme Brahman, the Niṣkala liṅga, in conformity with the Vedic implication, is used only in His worship. Since He has an embodied form as well, His embodied form is also worshipped and accepted by all people. According to the decision in the Vedas, the embodied form alone is to be used in the worship of other deities who are only individual souls embodied. Devas have only the embodied aspect in their manifestation. In sacred literature both the phallic and the embodied forms are mentioned for Śiva.

Sanatkumāra said :—

25. O Fortunate one, you have explained the worship of phallus and image distinctly for Śiva and the other deities. Hence, O lord of Yogins, I wish to hear the feature of the manifestation of the phallic aspect of Śiva.

Nandikeśvara said :—

26-27. O dear one, out of love for you I shall tell you the truth. Long long ago, in the famous first Kalpa,³⁹ the noble souls Brahmā and Viṣṇu fought each other.

28. In order to eradicate their arrogance lord Para-meśvara showed his unembodied Niṣkala form in the form of a column in their midst.

29. He showed his phallus emblem separate, evolved out of the column, with a desire to bless the worlds.

39. The term Kalpa in a precise sense means a vast cosmic period but this seems to have been a later application of it, when the scheme of cosmological time was developed. It is often used in a simpler and unspecialized way to mean 'a period of time', 'an age.' This seems to have been its earlier signification, as where it is said 'Purā Kalpe, mahākāle' in old time, long, long ago. In such texts Purākalpa is often used loosely and has the general sense of 'Old time'.