

fixed in you. My mind is always concentrated in you. O Gaurīśa, O lord of goblins, be pleased with me. Those who stagger and falter on the ground are supported by the ground alone. O lord, those who have offended you shall find in you alone as their refuge. After entreaties like these the devotee shall make a handful of flower-offering. Then he shall bow down many times and take the ritualistic farewell—“O lord be pleased to return to your abode along with your attendants. Please come again when I perform worship”. After requesting thus many times, Śiva who is favourably disposed to His devotees shall be bidden farewell to abide in the heart. The holy water shall then be applied over the head.

O sages, thus I have entirely explained the mode of worshipping Śiva that confers worldly pleasures and salvation. What else do you wish to hear ?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

(Directions for the worship of Śiva)

The sages said :—

1. O disciple of Vyāsa, O fortunate one, please explain to us authoritatively the fruits granted by Śiva for the different worships with different flowers.

Sū'a said :—

2-3. O sages, Śaunaka and others, please listen attentively. I shall lovingly explain to you the mode of offering flowers which is the same as Brahmā explained to Nārada at his request.

Brahmā said :—

4. A person desirous of wealth shall worship lord Śiva with lotuses, Bilva leaves, petals of lotuses or with Śaṅkha flowers.

5. O Brahmin, if a devotee worships Śiva with a hundred flowers, his sins shall be wiped off and the devotee shall become rich.