

is very holy and is said to have twenty-seven mouths. It accords all cherished desires. Its banks are the bestowers of heaven and the regions of Brahmā and Viṣṇu.

20-28. The devotees of Śiva are the bestowers of Śivaloka and accord cherished desires. When the Jupiter and the sun are in the zodiac of Meṣa, the devotee shall take the holy bath in Naimiṣa* and Badara.** Worship etc. thereafter accords Brahmāloka. When the sun is in Karkaṭaka or Simha one shall take bath in the Sindhu (Indus)⁶⁵. On that occasion the drinking of the sacred water of Kedāra⁶⁶ and ablution therein accords perfect knowledge. Śiva Himself has mentioned before that the bath in the Godāvārī in the month of Simha when Jupiter is also in the zodiac of Simha accords Śiva region. When Jupiter and the sun are in the zodiac of Kanya, ablution shall be performed in the rivers—Yomunā⁶⁷ and Śoṇa, the fruit of which is great enjoyment in the worlds of Dharma and Dantī (Gaṇeśa). When the sun and the Jupiter are in Tulā, the devotee shall take bath in the Kāverī the fruit whereof is the attainment of all cherished desires as stated by Viṣṇu Himself. The devotee who takes bath in the river Narmadā in the month of Vṛścika, when the Jupiter is in the zodiac of Vṛścika, attains Viṣṇuloka. Brahmā has stated that the bath in the Suvarṇamukharī when the sun and the Jupiter are in the zodiac of Dhanus accords Śivaloka. The devotee shall take bath in the Jāhnavī (Ganges) in the month of Mārgaśīrṣa when Jupiter is in the zodiac of Capricornus. After enjoying pleasures in the regions of Brahmā and Viṣṇu he will gain perfect knowledge in the end.

29-30. In the month of Māgha when the sun is in the zodiac of Kumbha, Śrāddha, offerings of Piṇḍa and water

*Naimiṣa, modern Nimsar, is a sacred region of Uttarapradeśa in the district of Sitapur, on the bank of Gomati. Naimiṣa was sacred in the Kṛta age, as Puṣkara in the Tretā, Kurukṣetra in the Dvāpara, the Ganges in the Kali age.

**Name of the hermitage of Nara and Nārāyaṇa in the neighbourhood of Gaṅgodbheda, the source of the Ganges.

65. This sacred river of Ancient India, takes its rise from the Himālayas, flows in the Western Pakistan and falls into the Western Sea.

66. It refers to Kedāra Gaṅgā or Mandākinī in Garhwal.

67. The river rises in the Himālaya mountains among the Jumnotri peaks, flows for 860 miles on the plains before it joins the Ganges at Allahabad.