

in his kingdom. Men burn plants and take the essence thereof.

68. The gastirc fire burns different kinds of foodstuffs and with their essence nourishes the body.

69. Similarly the great lord Śiva, the creator of the universe, burns the universe presided over by Him and takes the essence of the same.

70. After burning the universe He applies the ashes over his body. Under the pretext of annihilation He has taken the essence out of the same.

71. He assigned the essence to His own body. The essence Ākāśa (the Ether) constitutes His hair. The essence of the wind principle constitutes His face.

72. The essence of the Fire principle constitutes His heart, that of the principles of waters the hip and that of the principle of the Earth the knees. Thus the other limbs too.

73. The Tripuṇḍraka (the three parallel lines of ash marks over the forehead) is the essence of Trinity: Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Rudra. Similarly Maheśvara has retained the essence of everything in the form of Tilaka (the small circular mark) on the forehead.

74. The word Bhasma means that which has controlled the essence of the whole universe. (Bha—Vṛddhi—flourishing essence. Sma—Svayam. Manyate—considers his own).

75-77. The word Śiva signifies him who controls everything and whom none can control, (Śiva Vaśī) just as Simha signifies the creature who attacks other animals and whom other animals cannot attack (Simha=Himsa). The word Śiva is given another interpretation. The syllable Ś means Permanent Bliss. The letter “i” means Puruṣa (the primordial male energy), the syllable “Va” means Śakti (the primordial female energy). A harmonious compound of these syllables is Śiva. The devotee shall likewise make his own soul a harmonious whole and worship Śiva.

78. Ashes must first be smeared in the dust form and then in the Tripuṇḍraka form. At the time of worship water is added to the ashes. For mere sanctification the ashes are used without water.

79. The devotee, whether it is day or night, whether it is a man or a woman shall use water with the ashes and wear Tripuṇḍra at the time of adoration.