

prescribed manner shall worship the eight¹⁵¹ cosmic bodies (of Śiva) consisting of the three worlds.

46. The Earth, the waters, the fire, the wind, the Ether, the sun, the moon and the sacrificer—these are the eight cosmic bodies.

47. Śarva, Bhava, Rudra, Ugra, Bhīma, Īśvara, Mahādeva and Paśupati are the manifestations of Śiva who shall be worshipped with these cosmic bodies respectively.

48. Then he shall worship retinue of Śiva with great devotion with sandal paste, raw rice and holy leaves in the quarters beginning with North-east.

49. They are Īśāna, Nandī, Caṇḍa, Mahākāla, Bhṛṅgin, Vṛṣa, Skanda, Kapardīśa, Soma and Śukra.

50. Vīrabhadra in front and Kīrtimukha at the back. Then he shall worship eleven Rudras.

51-52. Then he shall repeat the five-syllabled mantra, Śatarudriya, many Śaiva hymns and read Pañcāṅga and perform circumambulation. After obeisance he shall bid farewell to the phallic image. Thus have I mentioned the worship of Śiva with due devotion.

53-54. Divine rites shall always be performed facing the north in the night. Similarly Śiva's worship shall always be performed facing the north, not the east. Śaktisamhitā shall not be recited facing the north or the west since it is the back.

55-56. Śiva shall not be worshipped without Tripuṇḍra, Rudrākṣa and Bilvapatra. O best of sages ! when the worship is on, if the ash is not available, Tripuṇḍra, (three lines on the forehead) shall be drawn with the white clay.

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

(Decision on the partaking of the Naivedya of Śiva by others and the greatness of Bilva¹⁵²)

The sages said:—

1. O good sage, we have heard before, that the offering of eatables (Naivedya) made to Śiva should not be taken by

151. Aṣṭamūrti Śiva. See note 89. P. 132.

152. Its leaves and fruits are sacred to Śiva.