

sins of slaughter of women and cows and that of heroes and horses. There is no doubt about it.

56-60. By means of Tripuṇḍra, the following and similar others of innumerable sorts are destroyed immediately :— Theft of others' wealth, outraging the modesty of other men's wives, censuring others, usurping and forcibly occupying others' fields, harassing others, theft of plants, parks etc, incendiarism, acceptance from base people of the gifts of cow, gold, buffalo, gingelly seeds, blankets, cloths, cooked rice, food-grains, water etc; sexual intercourse with prostitutes, women of the tribal castes, fisher women, slave women, actresses, widows, virgins and women in their menstrual periods, selling of flesh, hides, gravy etc. and salt, calumny perjury, deceitful arguments and utterance of falsehood.

61. The theft of Śiva's property, censure of Śiva in certain places and the censure of the devotees of Śiva can be dispelled by the rites of expiation.

62. Even a Cāṇḍāla who wears Rudrākṣa over his body and the Tripuṇḍra on his forehead, is worthy of respect. He is the most excellent of all castes.

63. He who wears the Tripuṇḍraka on his forehead gains the same merit as one who takes his bath in the sacred rivers like Gaṅgā and whatever other sacred ponds, lakes and holy centres there are in the world.

64. The five-syllabled mantra which grants Śiva Kaivalya is on a par with seven crores of great and many crores of other mantras.

65. O sage, mantras of other deities bestowing all blessedness are easily accessible to the devotee who wears the Tripuṇḍra.

66. He who wears Tripuṇḍra raises a thousand predecessors and a thousand successors in his family.

67. In this life he will enjoy all worldly pleasures and live long without any disease. At the end of the span of his life he will have a peaceful death.

68-70. He will assume then a divine auspicious body endowed with eight accomplishments. He will travel by a divine aerial chariot attended by celestial gods. He will enjoy the pleasures of Vidyādhara, powerful Gandharvas, in the worlds of Indra and other guardians of the quarters