

2. O lord Śiva, why do you delude us by your illusion which is inscrutable and which deludes people always.

3. You are the supreme Brahman, greater than Prakṛti and Puruṣa, the material and activating cause of the universe. You are incomprehensible and inexpressible.

4. You alone create, sustain and annihilate the universe under your control like a spider (weaving its web). You sport about with Śivaśakti—your own manifestation.

5. O Siva, merciful that you are, you alone created the sacrifice through Dakṣa for the fulfilment of the Vedas.

6. The delimitations which brahmins, experts in the Vedic path and rituals, believe in, end with you in the world.

7. O lord, the activities of auspicious nature result in happiness to the doer whereas inauspicious activities end in adverse, or in partially good and bad results.

8. You alone are the bestower of the fruits of all actions. You are the lord of glorious things according to the Vedas.

9. Vulgar persons who observe sacrificial rites alone are acrimonious and wicked. With harsh words and jealousy these deluded persons inflict pain on others.

10. O lord, let not the destruction of these gods be carried out by you. O lord, great god, be merciful.

11. Obeisance to Śiva who is calm, the supreme and the highest soul, of matted hair, great lord and the bright one.

12. You are the creator of the creators of the universe. You are the sustainer and the forefather, possessed of three attributes and attributeless. You are greater than primordial nature and the supreme Being.

13. Obeisance to Thee the blue-necked, the creator, the supreme soul, the universe, the speed of the universe and the cause of the bliss of the universe.

14. You are Omkāra, Vaṣaṭkāra,³³⁹ the initiator of enterprises, Hantakāra, Svadhākāra* and the partaker of

339. Vaṣaṭ or Vauṣaṭ is an exclamation uttered by the Hotṛ priest at the end of the sacrificial verse on hearing which the Adhvaryu priest casts the oblation offered to the deity into the fire.

*Hantakāra and Svadhākāra are particular formulas of benediction. In the present context the three—Vaṣaṭkāra, Hantakāra and Svadhākāra are personified and described as identical with Śiva.