

13. Rudra, Hari, Hara and other lords of Devas are ever desirous of seeing Him, moved by great devotion.

14. Of what avail is a verbose statement ? One is liberated by devotion unto Śiva. Devotion to the deity is due to His Grace; and His grace is due to devotion just as the seed gives rise to the sprout and the sprout produces the seed.

15. Hence, O Brahmins, all of you descend to the earth, to propitiate the Lord. You have to perform a sacrifice of long duration for a thousand years.

16. It is by the grace of Śiva alone who will be the presiding deity of this sacrifice that the means of achievement of the Achievable can be realised and that is the essence of the Vidyā (mystic learning) mentioned in the Vedas.

*The sages said :—*

17. What is that great Achievable ? What is that great means of achievement ? Of what sort is the performer of the rite ? Please mention these precisely.

*Brahmā said :—*

18. The attainment of Śiva's region is the Achievable. Means of achievement is the service rendered unto Him. Sādhaka (the performer of the rite) is the person who is free from desire even for permanence which attitude is the result of His grace.

19. Rites mentioned in the Vedas should be performed with the fruits thereof dedicated to Him. Thence, through Sālokya<sup>33</sup> he attains the feet of the great Lord.

20. All attain the great fruit according to the standard in devotion achieved. The ways of achieving these standards are manifold as expounded by Īśa Himself.

21—22. I shall condense the same and tell you the essential means. Listening to the glory of Śiva, glorifying him by means of words, and deliberation in the mind, these con-

<sup>33</sup>. The devotee attains exemption from further transmigration and his identification with the deity, gradually through four stages ; viz. Sālokya (being in the same world with the deity), (Sāmīpya (nearness to the deity), Sāyujya (intimate union with the deity) and Sārūpya (assimilation to the deity). *SP.* adds Sārṣṭi (9.26) (equality in rank, condition or power) as one of the grades of Mukti.