

14. Gems, necklaces, diamonds, etc. increased its brilliance. Valuable precious stones were used to stud them. It was brightened by lotus petals.

15. Māṇikya, Padmarāga and other valuable gems were used in the same. It was very wonderful. It was laid according to the desire of Śiva.

16. It had hundreds of steps leading to it, each made of Syamantaka stone; knotted golden threads joined them. Beautiful sprouts of sandal beautified it.

17. Columns of sapphire supported it. It was richly decorated. The wind wafted fragrance everywhere.

18. The chamber was a thousand Yojanas wide. Many servants were in attendance. Viṣṇu the lord of gods saw Śiva seated along with Pārvatī.

19. Śiva was in the midst of his attendants like the moon surrounded by stars. He was seated in a variegated throne set with valuable gems.

20. He had a crown on his head, earrings in his ears. He was embellished with gem necklaces. Ashes were smeared all over his body. He held a toy lotus.

21. He was smilingly watching the song and dance going on in front of him.

22. He was calm and delighted in the mind. He was highly brilliant. He was chewing the fragrant betel leaves offered by the goddess.

23. He was attended upon by Gaṇas with white chowries and eulogised by Siddhas with stooping shoulders with great devotion.

24-25. The great lord Śiva, the progenitor of the three deities, the lord beyond the reach of attributes, who assumes and discards his forms as he pleases and is invariable, who is free from illusion, unborn, the primordial being, the lord of illusion, greater than the greatest and greater than the Prakṛti and Puruṣa.

26. On seeing Śiva of perfect features, Viṣṇu and Brahmā eulogised him together after bowing to him with palms joined in reverence.

*Viṣṇu and Brahmā said:—*

27. O lord Śiva, lord of the gods, O supreme Brahman,