

with Vāsuki and other serpents turned round his body, holding Pināka and other weapons, having the eight Siddhis²⁰³ (accomplishments) dancing constantly in front of Him, served by crowds of devotees crying loudly “Be victorious. Be victorious.” of unbearable sight due to excessive splendour, served by all devas, the sole refuge for all living beings, of beaming face shining like lotus and always eulogised by Viṣṇu and Brahmā as extolled by the Vedas and sacred texts.” After the meditation of Śiva along with his consort, the seat shall be arranged for.

54. Worship shall be performed with the names ending in dative case. Pādya and Arghya shall be offered to Śiva.

55. After offering Ācamana, the supreme Ātman Śiva shall be bathed with five materials (milk, curds, honey, etc.)

56. Then the offerings shall be made with great devotion reciting the requisite Vedic mantras or the names ending in the dative case.

57. Similarly any desirable and desired material shall be offered to Śiva. Thereafter the Vāruṇa Snāna rite (ceremonial ablution) shall be performed to Śiva.

58. Sweet-smelling sandal paste and other unguents shall then be applied. The water poured over the deity in a continuous current shall be rendered fragrant.

59. The water ablutions shall be made reciting Vedic mantras or six-syllabled mantra eleven times, if so much time can be spared, then the deity shall be wiped with a cloth.

60-61. Then the Ācamana shall be offered and cloth dedicated. Gingelly seeds, barley grains, wheat, green gram or black gram shall then be offered to Śiva with various mantras. Then flowers shall be offered to the five-faced noble soul.

62-64. Lotuses, rose, Śaṅkha, and Kuśa flowers, Dhattūras, Mandāras grown in a wooden vessel, holy basil leaves or Bilva leaves shall be offered to each of the faces in

203. The eight Siddhis are : अणिमा, लघिमा, प्राप्ति, प्राकाम्य महिमा, ईशित्व, वशित्व and कामावसायिता । The last one is sometimes substituted by सर्वज्ञत्व Some other Siddhis such as दूरश्रवण, अग्निस्तम्भ etc. are also added to these.