

The Devas said :—

9. “Whose worship shall we perform regularly for the removal of misery ?”

10. On hearing these words, the lord favourably disposed to the devotees, spoke as follows favouring me and the devas.

The lord said :—

11. O Brahmā, hear. You and these devas have already heard this. Yet I shall repeat it to you and to the devas.

12-13. It has been seen. It is being seen. Then why is it being asked now ? O Brahmā, Lord Śiva, the destroyer of all miseries, shall be served always by all who wish to achieve things. He Himself has told me as well as Brahmā particularly about this.

14. His worship shall never be forsaken by those who wish to attain happiness. A wonderful example has been narrated to and seen by you all.

15. When they abandoned worshipping the lord of the Devas—Maheśvara in the form of the Liṅga, the sons of Tāra²⁰¹ along with their kinsmen perished.

16. They had been enchanted by me. By my illusion they were driven far by me. When they were devoid of Śiva, they were all destroyed and exterminated.

17. Hence Śiva in the form of phallic image shall be worshipped always. He, the foremost among deities, shall be served with special faith.

18. It is by the worship of the liṅga of Śiva that all good men, devas, daityas, I and you, O Brahmā, are sustained. How is it that it was forgotten by you ?

19. Hence, O Brahmā, His liṅga shall be regularly worshipped whatever may be the aim. Śiva shall be worshipped whatever the desire may be.

20. If an hour or even a moment is spent without the worship of Śiva, it is a loss. It is an imperfection, a great foible, blindness, stupidity and foolishness.

201. Tāraputras—the children of Daitya Tāraka who was conquered by Indra with the help of Skanda—the son of Śiva. The episode is the central theme of Kālidāsa's Kumārasambhava.