

3. The lord has Himself raised up these temples and holy centres in different places for the liberation of the residents of these localities.

4. These temples whether self-risen or not, in view of their being accepted (as their frequent resort) by the sages and Devas are intended for the redemption of the people.

5. In these holy centres and temples, ablutions, charitable gifts, Japas etc must be regularly performed. Otherwise men are sure to be affected by ailments, penury, dumbness etc.

6. If a man dies anywhere in the Bhāratavarṣa⁵¹ he shall be reborn again as a man if he has resided in a holy centre where there is a self-risen phallic emblem of Śiva.

7. O brahmins, committing sins in a holy centre is of ineffable character. When a man stays in a holy centre he must not commit even the smallest sin.

8. Somehow men must strive to find a residence in a holy centre. On the shores of the ocean in the confluence of hundreds of rivers there are many such holy centres and temples.

9. The holy river Sarasvatī is said to have sixty mouths or holy centres on its banks. Hence an intelligent man must stay on its banks. He shall attain Brahma's region gradually.

10-11. The river Gaṅgā flowing from the Himālaya mountains is very holy with its hundred mouths. There are many holy centres on its banks such as Kāśī etc. Its banks are highly sacred in the month of Mārgaśīrṣa or when Bṛhaspati (Jupiter) is in the zodiac 'Capricornus'. The river Śoṇabhadra⁵² of ten mouths is holy and yields all cherished

51. Bhārata Varṣa is one of the nine divisions of the earth as separated off by certain mountain ranges, the other eight divisions being Kuru, Hiraṇmaya, Rāmyaka, Ilāvṛta, Hari, Ketumāla, Bhadrāśva and Kinnara. It is surrounded by oceans in the south west and east and by the Himālaya in the North. Sk vii. 1.11.13.

Bharata who gave his name to this country was the descendant of Svāyambhuva Manu. He was a king of Agnīdhra's family.

52. The river Śoṇa (also called Sone, Sonā) rises in Gondwana, in Madhya Pradesh, on the table-land of Amarakantaka, four or five miles east of the source of Narmadā river and running first northerly and then easterly for 500 miles falls into the Ganges above Pāṭaliputra or Patna. It is called Māgadhi nadī, since it forms the Western boundary of Magadha. Sk 1. iii u 2.7 (ii).