

without exposing himself to undue strain, and spending only such wealth as he earns by legitimate means.

155. Even water sanctified by the five-syllabled mantra is conducive to happiness like cooked food. Even the alms begged and acquired by an indigent devotee is conducive to perfect knowledge.

156. Charitable food of a devotee of Śiva increases devotion to Śiva. Śivayogins call such charitable food sacrificial offerings to Śiva.

157. The devotee of Śiva shall always be scrupulous about the purity of his food, wherever he stays and whatever means of sustenance he has. He shall observe silence and shall not disclose the secret.

158. To the devotees he shall expound the greatness of Śiva. Only Śiva can know the secret of Śivamantra. No one else.

159. The devotee of Śiva shall always resort to the phallic emblem of Śiva. O brahmins, one becomes Śiva by resorting to stationary phallic emblem.

160. By worshipping the mobile phallic image the liberation is certainly gradual. Thus I have mentioned the achievable and the excellent means of achievement.

161. What has been mentioned formerly by Vyāsa and what has been heard by me before, has been mentioned to you. Welfare attend ye all. May our devotion to Śiva be stable and firm.

162. O scholars, whoever reads this chapter by Śiva's grace and whoever listens to this always shall acquire the knowledge of Śiva.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

(Glorification of the worship of Śiva's Earthen phallic image)

The sages said :—

1-2 O Sūta, Sūta, be long-lived. Thou art a blessed devotee of Śiva. The greatness of Śiva's phallic image in according excellent benefit has been well explained by you.