

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTYSIX

Consecration of silver and golden Images

Varāha said:

1. Getting a pure, well-shaped and well-proportioned silver image, free from all defects,
2. White like the moon and radiating lustre in all directions,
3. The devotee may take it to the temple to the accompaniment of music and the sound of the conch and drums and praises and benedictions.
4. Then taking water for *arghya* and *pādya*, the following mantra is to be recited:
5. The mantra: "O lord of worlds, you who are the *arghya* in all worlds, worshipped by all and honoured by the celestials, the master of my Agnihotra done at Sunrise, be pleased to come here and receive this *arghya*. The glow residing in the middle of the sun".
6. After giving *arghya* with this mantra, the idol should be placed facing north.
7. On the day when the asterism Āśleṣā is in the Zodiacal house Karkaṭaka, when the sun has set, the *adhivāsana* should be done with mantras and in the prescribed manner.
8. Four pots filled with sandal water should be placed there with all herbs and decorated with mango twigs.
9. Then the devotees should do the rituals as instructed by the preceptor.

10. *Namo Nārāyaṇāya* should be uttered and the following mantra recited:

11. The mantra: "O lord the creator of all worlds, the ruler of all, the form of all forms, worshipped by Dhruva and the deities guarding the quarters, be pleased to make your presence in this idol . Bow to Ananta."

12. When the night is over and the sun rises and the quarters are clear, it should be taken to the doorway of the sanctum.

13. Then my devotees should perform the bathing ceremony there.

14. He may perform this bath in the prescribed manner uttering *Namo nārāyaṇāya* and reciting the following mantra:

15. "This water I have brought, O lord, from rivers like Gaṅgā and the Oceans and scented with camphor for your bath".

16. The idol should be taken to the interior and installed there with the following mantra:

17. "O lord of the worlds, known through the Vedas, worshipped by those who know the Vedas, having the form of sacrifice, the giver of the fruit of sacrifice, I invoke you here for sacrifice. Be pleased to remain in this idol. Wealth, people, silver, gold, bow to Ananta."

18. After installation in this manner with a pleasant mind, *arcanā* should be done in the manner stated before.

19. Then blue garments may be offered, as they are dear to me.

20. Taking clothes and kneeling down, *Namo Nārāyaṇāya* should be uttered and the following mantra recited.

21. The mantra: "O lord, resplendent like moonbeams, resembling the conch, jasmine and milk, may you be pleased to accept these garments for my sake : Dress, good dress, O lord, endless, imperishable, causing death, Cause, easy to obtain, difficult to attain, the supreme".

22. After giving me clothes with this mantra, food is to be given with all reverence, uttering *Namo nārāyaṇāya* and reciting the following mantra:

23. "O lord Puruṣottama, may you be pleased to receive this food containing cooked rice and *pāyasa* with sugar and ghee".

24. After this *naivedya*, water should be given.

25. For the welfare of the world, *Śāntipāṭha* should be recited.

26. "Om, peace is brought about by Brahmā, Rudra, Viṣṇu, Sūrya, Rātrī, Sandhyā, Nakṣatras and Diks. Motionless, vibrating, moving, moving in the sky, rapidly moving, having the hue of lotus, Bow to Vāsudeva."

27. After the *Śāntipāṭha* which removes sins, the devotees should be honoured.

28. The Brahmins should then be fed according to capacity and water taken from them should be sprinkled on me.

29. Then Brahmins and relatives should be sent off with folded hands.

30. The preceptor should be worshipped with gifts. When he is worshipped, I am worshipped.

31. He who does this remains in my world for as many thousands of years as there are drops of water falling at the end of the meal.

32. He who worships in this manner liberates his paternal and maternal lines.

33. This is the way to instal silver images. I shall now tell you about the installation of golden images.

34. The golden image may be made in the same manner as the silver image and invocation etc., may be made similarly.

35. The benefit of erecting idols in wood, stone, bronze etc., becomes a crore times more with golden images.

36. Twentyone generations are liberated (by one installing golden idols) and he is finally merged in me without being born again.

37. O Earth, I have thus told you what you desired to know. What else am I to tell you ?

Earth said:

38. You have now told me about the idols made of gold and other metals. You remain in all these, no doubt, but you remain in Sālagrāmas too.

39. O Mādhava, be pleased to tell me the number (of these Sālagrāmas) to be worshipped in homes and the general and special benefits arising therefrom, as also the number in worshipping Śiva and other deities.

Varāha said:

40. In the house two (Śiva)liṅgas should not be worshipped, so also three Śālagrāmas.

41. Two Cakras from Dvārakā should not be worshipped, so also two Sūryas. Three Gaṇeśas should not be worshipped, so also three Śaktis (Ambikās).”

42. A Pair of Śālagrāmas should be worshipped, but not two pairs. Odd number should not be worshipped because this amounts to a single one.

43. Burnt or broken (Śālagrāmas) should not be worshipped at home, as this may bring about calamities.

44. But even if broken, if the Cakra is clear, then it is good enough.

45. I shall tell you, O Earth, the merit of worshipping twelve Śālagrāmas.

46. The same result is attained in a single day as of worshipping twelve crores of liṅgas worshipped with golden lotuses for twelve aeons.

47. The merit that accrues to a man worshipping a hundred Śālagrāmas, I am unable to recount even for hundred years.

48. All deities can be worshipped in idols by people of all castes. Crystal liṅgas can also be done similarly.

49. But a Śālagrāma should not be touched by men of inferior caste or by women and Śūdras.

50. If a woman or Śūdra touches it even out of curiosity, the result will be torment in hell till deluge.

51. But if a woman or Śūdra has devotion (for me through the Śālagrāma), then worship may be got performed by others without oneself touching it. The drinking of that water (used for worship) removes all sins.

52. The offerings made to Śiva like leaf, flower, fruit and water, are prohibited from use. But they get purified by association with Śālagrāma.

53. I shall tell you the merit that accrues to a person who makes gift of a Śālagrāma together with some gold to a devotee.

54. It is equivalent to making gift to a worthy person of the whole earth with its gold, mountains, forests and oceans.

55. Sale of a Śālagrāma leads to hell both the seller and the buyer.

56. I will be unable to say in full about the good results of this worship even if I take a hundred years.

57. I have thus told you about the installation of idols and the specialities relating to the Śālagramas and the Liṅgas.

58. I have also told you about the rules in worship. What else do you wish to know ?