

## CHAPTER TWENTYTHREE

## Installation of Someśvara

*Īsvara said:*

1-3. Although surprised, Candramas retained his mental calmness. With devotion to Śambhu filling his soul, he reached and stayed at Prabhāsa Kṣetra.

*Vidhu* (Moon-god) duly carried out what he had been told earlier by the Lord. He went to the interior of the ocean and picked up the excellent Liṅga. Summoning Viśvakarman along with his attendants, Soma ordered Tvaṣṭṛ, the divine architect.

*Candra said:*

4. O Viśvakarman, this Liṅga has been given to me by Śambhu. Take this, O mighty one, and install it at a proper spot.

5. Guard this, O Lord, I am going to my abode. I shall bring in the meanwhile all the requisites for the Yajña.

*Īśvara said:*

6-9. After saying this, Candra went to Candraloka. It is highly refulgent and extends to a crore of Yojanas. It is splendid and full of nectar always. O great goddess, he summoned the porter Sumedhas and the minister Hemagarbhāṅga who was on a par with Bṛhaspati in intellect, and ordered him: "Gather together everything necessary for a Yajña and hasten to Prabhāsa Kṣetra at my bidding. You should be accompanied by Brāhmaṇas with the sacred fires when you go to the excellent holy spot.

10-12. Gather everything together quickly so that the Yajña can be initiated duly. Send separate aerial chariots to everyone of the Brāhmaṇas residing in Candraloka. Ample wealth should be distributed among them. One million cows should be given along with their calves. Their lustre should be that of Kāmadhenu. They shall be bedecked with a *Bhāra* (weight) of gold. They must yield plenty of milk. Send one and one fourth million horses with black ears.

13. There should be ten thousand elephants fully resplendent with ornaments and bells. There should be four thousand chariots having the speed of wind.

14. There should be a hundred thousand camels laden with jewels and rubies. Ten million armies each consisting of four divisions should be sent.

15. For the Brāhmaṇas, there should be garments as pure as the sacred fire. For the Rtviks, there should be splendid divine ornaments.

16. Different kinds of articles of food and edibles and various kinds of beverages should be kept ready. There should be a hundred thousand servants and the same number of maid servants.

17. Whatever money is set apart for wooden pieces etc. as per my order and other things the Brāhmaṇas may ask for, should be brought there.

18-19. Let there be a general proclamation inviting Devas, Dānavas, Yakṣas, Gandharvas, Rākṣasas staying in the seven Pātāla worlds, Kings of the seven continents, thousands of kings elsewhere. Let there be repeated announcements requesting the people to come to Prabhāsa."

20. After saying thus to the minister, Candramas hurriedly went to Brahmāloka to the presence of Brahmā, for the purpose of Yajña.

21. Hemagarbha, the highly refulgent minister of Candramas, took the command of Soma earnestly with his head bowed down and gathered the requisites for the Yajña.

22. He duly arrived at Prabhāsa and engaged himself in making provisions and arrangement for the Yajña. He invited all the residents of *Bhūh*, *Bhuvah* and *Svah* (*Lokas*).

23-24. On hearing the invitation, all of them hastened to that place. Surveying the entire holy spot extending to twelve Yojanas, the minister of Soma addressed the Brāhmaṇas: "O Brāhmaṇas, all the ancillaries of the Yajñas have been brought here at the behest of Soma. What should be done next may be carried out by you venerable ones."

25. On being told thus, all the Brāhmaṇas who had rid themselves of the sins through penance met Tvaṣṭṛ, the divine architect, there itself.

26. On seeing him and the Liṅga too nearby, those Brāhmaṇas said: "How is this, O Viśvakarman, tell us. Why are you present here with a crores of other artisans?"

*Viśvakarman said:*

27. I have been commanded by Soma and so am engaged in guarding this Liṅga. Due effort is being done by me to carry out his command, O Brāhmaṇas.

*Īśvara said:*

28. On hearing this, the Brāhmaṇas understood the real purpose. Then they were glad and began the necessary preliminary rites of the Yajña.

29. The splendid place of sacrifice unto the Devas (*Devayajana*) extended to a Yojana. After making the *Devayajana* they made the *Patnīśālā* (chamber of the honoured wives of Yajamānas) ready.

30. They made ready all the parts of the sacrificial chamber such as *Havirdhāna*, *Sadas*, *Uttarā Vedī*, the abode of Brahmā and Agnidhrī.

31. Viśvakarman erected *Yūpas* (sacrificial posts) in various places over a distance of a Yojana. *Maṇḍapas* (pavilions) and various kinds of *Kuṇḍas* were made.

32-35. There were thousands of *Kundas* to the end of the

*Maṇḍapas*. All the Brāhmaṇas were experts in the rites of installation and Yajñas.

They were adorned with various kinds of ornaments. They referred to the scriptural texts frequently and performed the rites duly.

Trees, divine medicinal herbs, sacrificial twigs, flowers, Darbha grass, ingredients for Homa, plenty of ghee and fresh milk and all other requisite things for the purpose of Yajña were kept ready. *Vardhanīkalaśa* and other utensils were of gold and were auspicious.

36. Groups of Brāhmaṇas performed the holy Yajña of the installation duly. They were duly fed and honoured. They were delighted by the various kinds of foodstuffs.

37. The sounds of the chanting of the Vedic Mantras touched heaven and earth. The Maṇḍapa decorated with banners shone well.

38. There were divine thrones in the Maṇḍapa. Pearl strings, divine sandal garlands and festoons of the sprouts of Kalpa trees added to its beauty.

39. Scents of celestial fragrance transformed it into a heavenly place. Fourteen kinds of *Bhūtagrāma* (living beings) had arrived there.

40-42. *Sthāvara* (stationary beings), reptiles like those of serpent class, classes of birds, the fourth group of *Mṛgas* (deer etc.) the fifth one called *Paśus* (beasts), human beings constituting the sixth group, *Paiśāca* (ghosts) making up the seventh, the eighth one mentioned as *Rākṣasas*, the ninth group that of *Yakṣas* and the other groups in the fourteen referred to before, being *Gandharvas*, *Gaṇas* called *Śākras*, *Saumyas*, *Prājāpatyas* and the *Brahma* group (had arrived).

43. There were *Viśvedevas*, *Sādhyas*, *Maruts*, *Vasus*, the eight Guardians of the Quarters and the Constellations along with the Planets.

44. When the Yajña rite started at the *Prabhāsaka Kṣetra* all the *Devas* present in the whole Cosmic Egg had arrived there.

45. Rivers of ghee and milk flowed there. Curds and milk puddings constituted veritable quagmires there. Heaps of cooked food and fruits resembled mountains.

46. Various such heaps were seen in the place where the great festivity of the Yajña took place. The *Gandharvas* sang and the groups of celestial damsels danced.

47. The Devas, the sages and the fourteen types of *Bhūtas* (Beings) were fully satisfied with the different kinds of edibles and foodstuffs and beverages etc. as desired by them.

48. After having got together all the requisites for the Yajña, the minister (of Soma), appointing guards (for protecting) there itself, went to Brahmāloka to call Soma.

*Īśvara said:*

49-52. He saw the highly refulgent Soma standing by the side of Brahmā. He prostrated on the ground like a log of wood before Soma and Brahmā. With palms joined in reverence and bending down his neck (head) he spoke:

*Hemagarbha said:*

O holy Sir, at your behest the entire requisites for the Yajña have been collected together at the Prābhāsika Kṣetra by me. All the Brāhmaṇa-sages and the saintly kings are awaiting your arrival with great eagerness. It behoves you to carry out what should be done henceforth.

*Īśvara said:*

53. On being requested thus by the son of Samudra (i.e. Hemagarbha) Candra smiled and spoke to Brahmā, the witness unto all the worlds:

54. "O Lord, O Lord of all the Devas, be pleased to accept my hospitality with a desire to bless me. I am desirous of performing the Yajña of installation (of the Liṅga).

55. Today my birth has become fruitful, O Lord, and my penance has borne fruit. O Brahmā, with your favour, I will attain Devahood today.

56. With a very severe penance I have obtained this Liṅga of the Consort of Umā. It behoves you to perform the installation thereof."

*Brahmā said:*

57. Certainly I will perform the installation ceremony of Śaṅkara in the Someśa Liṅga which you have to propitiate with special emphasis.

58. It is the primordial deity of all belonging to the family of Soma, of all Niśākaras (Moon-gods) whether they be by-gones or are yet to be born.