

For it is not one's years that go with one in samsara; it is one's wisdom that shall bear one across the ocean of samsara - *let this child be wise and let his years be sixteen.*

Act 1 Scene 4

Marudvati

Listen to the calm of the home.

Listen to the love of Mother Earth.

Listen to the peace of the ashram that awakes to a new day.

Listen to the love of Mahadeva, Lord Siva.

O, can you hear my heart that beats with the joy of the child within?

O, can you hear the heartbeat of the child that grows in me?

Listen, for my joyous heart, says:

Om Nama Sivaya. Om Nama Sivaya. Om Nama Sivaya.

Act 1 Scene 5

Mrikandu

Listen, O you revered sages and guests.

Listen, O honoured renunciates who delight in the joy and well-being of others.

I have news that will gladden your hearts: To Marudvati is born a child; Marudvati has given me a son.

What will you call him? I asked my beloved.

Markandeya, said Marudvati.

So it shall be. The son of Marudvati, the son of Mrikandu, the child given to Marudvati and Mrikandu by the Divine shall be called Markandeya.

But, for all given unto me, O, what can I give the Divine? O what can I give to Siva who at the opportune moment gives unto me that which I desire, that which is good?

What can I give to the Lord who gives all, but who himself desires nothing? What can I give Pasupati?

Praise is all I can give.

Pure Praise is all that I can give.

Praise of the Divine that emanates from the love and adoration of the Lord that rise within my heart.

Praise to the rudraksha seed, for each seed is a teardrop the Lord sheds as he bears witness to the suffering of his creatures, the suffering they bring on themselves through ignorance and craving.

Praise to his eyes, the radiant eyes that bestow love upon the good and kind.

Praise to his blue neck, for by that neck Loganathan holds back all that would have destroyed the universe at the beginning of time.

Praise to his matted locks that hold the crescent and the Ganges; praise to his feet that walk and dance on all grounds of the earth and the universe; praise to his arms that hold the damaru and the flame; praise to every part of the Divine manifest.

Praise to the Mahayogi who shows the world the way to conquer Desire and Lust.

Praise to Lord Siva for even to me he appeared in the form of a light, and in his grace, bestowed upon me and my wife, on us the lowliest of beings, the most unworthy of all beings in this loka, bestowed even on me and my wife the child that we call Markandeya.