

has now turned to the pure path of repentance and detachment towards worldly pleasures.

5. Repentance is the only way of acquittance for all sinners. Saintly men have extolled it as the only way of expiation for all sins.

6. Purity can be realised by repentance alone. If the sinner expiates in the manner advised by saintly men it removes all sins.

7. After due expiation he becomes free from fear. By repentance he attains salvation undoubtedly.

8. The mental purity that one derives on hearing the story of Śivapurāṇa cannot be gained by any other means.

9. As a mirror becomes free from dirt on being wiped with a cloth, so is the mind undoubtedly purified by listening to this story.

10. Accompanied by Ambā, Śiva stays in the minds of pure men. The sanctified soul thereupon attains the region of Śiva and Ambā.

11. Hence this story is the means of realising the four-fold aim of life. It is for this that Mahādeva earnestly created this.

12. Listening to the story of Pārvatī's consort (Śiva) brings about steady contemplation. Contemplation leads to perfect knowledge which certainly brings in salvation.

13. A person who listens to the story in this birth though he be unable to meditate, realises the same in the next birth after which he reaches the goal of Śiva.

14. Many repentant sinners have meditated upon Śiva after hearing this story and have achieved salvation.

15. Listening to the excellent story is the cause of beatitude for all men. Properly entertained, it dispels the ailment of worldly bondage.

16. Listening to the story of Śiva, constant meditations thereon and repeated musings certainly purify the mind.

17. That (the purity of the mind) leads the meditator to a devotion of Maheśa and his two sons (Gaṇeśa and Kārtikeya). With their blessings one undoubtedly attains liberation.

18. A person devoid of that devotion with his mind