

story of Śiva it is different. When drunk, it straightway accords salvation.

4. Thou art blessed, blessed indeed. Blessed, blessed is the story of Śiva on hearing which a man attains Śivaloka.

Sūta said :—

5. O Śaunaka, please listen I shall tell you, though it is a great secret, since you are the foremost among Vedic scholars and a leading devotee of Śiva.

6. There is a seaside village “Bāṣkala”¹⁴ where sinful people bereft of Vedic virtue reside.

7. They are wicked debauchees with deceptive means of livelihood, atheists, farmers bearing weapons and adulterous rogues.

8. They know not anything about true knowledge, detachment or true virtue. They are brutish in their mental make-up and take a great deal of interest in listening to evil gossips and slander.

9. People of different castes are equally roguish never paying attention to their duties. Always drawn to worldly pleasures they are ever engrossed in one evil action or another.

10. All the women too are equally crooked, whorish and sinful. Evil-tempered, loose in morals they are devoid of good behaviour and disciplined life.

11. In the village “Bāṣkala” peopled by wicked people, there was a base brahmin called Binduga.

12. He was a wicked sinner traversing evil paths. Although he had a beautiful wife he was enamoured of a prostitute. His passion for her completely upset his mind.

13. He forsook his devoted wife Cañculā and indulged in sexual dalliance with the prostitute overwhelmed by Cupid’s arrows.

14. Many years thus elapsed without any abatement in his evil action. Afraid of violating her chastity Cañculā, though smitten by Cupid bore her distress (calmly for a short while).

15. But later on as her youthful health and boisterous

14. Bāṣkala grāma—Cf. SK III. 111. 32. 50. It has not been possible to identify and locate this village.