

sublime lustre he acquired an unassailable residence and unobstructed pleasure.

59. Thus I have narrated this holy anecdote that removes sins, is highly delightful to Śiva and Pārvatī in pure and heightening devotion.

60. He who listens to this account with devotion and recites this piously shall enjoy immense pleasures and obtain liberation.

CHAPTER SIX

(Rules for listening to Śivapurāṇa)

Śaunaka said :—

1—2. O Sūta, O highly intelligent disciple of Vyāsa, obeisance to thee. Thou art blessed and the foremost among Śiva's devotees. Thy attributes are highly praiseworthy. Please tell me about the rules for listening to Śivapurāṇa whereby the listener shall obtain all excellent fruits.

Sūta said :—

3. O sage Śaunaka, I shall tell you the rules for listening to Śivapurāṇa so that the entire fruit may be derived by their observance.

4. The householder must invite an astrologer and propitiate him to fix an auspicious day for the beginning, so that it may conclude without obstacles in the middle.

5. News must be circulated in different localities that the auspicious discourse is to take place and all who seek welfare must be present.

6. Women, Śūdra and others who are far removed from holy discourses and stay away from singing glories of Śiva shall attend this discourse whence they may have some enlightenment.

7. Wherever there are devotees of Śiva, eager to listen to the songs of praise in the neighbourhood, they must also be invited with due reverence.