

high in the world, that Brahma-hatyā (the sin of slaying a brahmin) and other sins display themselves.

6. It is only as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world, that the evil portents of Kali fearlessly roam about.

7. It is only as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world, that the different sacred texts clash together in disputation.

8. It is difficult even to great men to comprehend Śiva's features as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

9. The cruel attendants of Yama roam about fearlessly as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

10. All the other Purāṇas roar loudly on the earth as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

11. All the holy centres enter into mutual wrangles and disputes on the earth as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

12. All the mantras rejoice in mutual disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

13. All the sectors of pilgrimage engage themselves in mutual disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

14. All the altars and pedestals engage themselves in mutual disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

15. All the gifts engage themselves in disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

16. All those gods engage themselves in mutual disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

17. All the philosophical tenets engage themselves in mutual disputes as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen high in the world.

18. O foremost among brahmanical sages, I cannot adequately describe the fruit accruing from reciting and listening to this Śivapurāṇa.

19. Even then, O sinless ones, I shall succinctly describe its greatness as narrated to me by Vyāsa. Please listen attentively.

20. He who reads a single stanza or even half of it pious-