

ly becomes free from sin instantaneously.

21. He who reads every day as much of Śivapurāṇa as he can with devotion and alertness is called Jīvanmukta (a living liberated soul).

22. He who continues to worship this Śivapurāṇa daily derives the fruit of horse-sacrifice undoubtedly.

23. He who with a craving for an ordinary position in life listens to Śivapurāṇa even from a person other than me is freed from sin.

24. He who bows near this Śivapurāṇa derives undoubtedly the fruit of adoration of all the gods.

25. Please listen to the meritorious benefit that accrues to the man who copies Śivapurāṇa and gives the manuscript to the devotees of Śiva.

26. He will have that benefit—very difficult to attain in the world—as that of the study of Śāstras (sacred lore) and of commenting on the Vedas.

27. He who observes fast on the Caturdaśī (fourteenth day in the lunar fortnight) and conducts discourses and comments on the Śivapurāṇa in the assembly of the devotees of Śiva is the most excellent of all.

28. He shall derive the benefit of the repetition of Gāyatrī³⁰ syllable by syllable. He will enjoy all worldly pleasures here and attain salvation hereafter.

29. I shall tell you the benefit derived by him who reads or listens to this after observing fast on the Caturdaśī day by keeping awake in the night.

30—31. This is the truth, undoubtedly the truth that he will get the benefit derived by the man who makes gifts of wealth equal in weight to himself to brahmins with Vyāsas at their head at the complete eclipse of the sun, many a time, in all holy centres, Kurukṣetra³¹ etc.

32. Indra and other devas wait eagerly for the direc-

30. Gāyatrī : a most sacred verse of the Ṛgveda which is the duty of every Brāhmaṇa to repeat in his every day prayers. It is addressed to the Sun, Savitṛ and is called Sāvitrī also.

31. Kurukṣetra, 'land of Kuru' is the territory around Thanesar between the Sarasvatī and Drṣadvatī rivers. It is so called because King Kuru ploughed it. (Vā 99, 115-6; Mat 50, 20-21) whereas it really denoted that it was his cultivated territory (MB. I. 94, 3739), east of which lay his tract (apparently less cultivated) called Kuru-Jāṅgala.—Pargiter *AHIT* P. 76. also Cunningham : *Ancient Geography of India*.