

*Śaunaka said :—*

1—2. O Sūta, Sūta of great intellect, thou art foremost among devotees of Śiva and the most blessed. Thou hast narrated this wonderfully auspicious story, O sage, please tell me the rules governing those who perform the rite of listening to Śivapurāṇa, for the benefit of the whole world.

*Sūta said :—*

3. O Śaunaka, listen with devotion to the rules governing those persons. If you hear the excellent story with due observance of the rules, the fruit is excellent and there is no obstacle in the achievement of the fruit.

4. Persons devoid of initiation are not entitled to listen to the story. Hence those who wish to listen must take initiation, O sage, from the discourser.

5. The devotee who takes up this rite shall take his daily meal only at the end of the daily discourse. He must observe Brahmacharya (celibacy) during those days. He must lie on the ground and take food only in the Patrāvallī (a number of leaves stitched together to serve the purpose of a plate).

6. The man who has the strength in abundance shall observe fast till the conclusion of the whole Purāṇa and listen to the excellent Śivapurāṇa with great devotion and purity.

7. He may drink only milk or ghee throughout and listen to the story with pleasure. He may live on fruit diet or take a single meal or even eschew that and proceed with the listening rite.

8. Or he may take Haviṣyāṇna (cooked rice soaked in ghee and sacrificially offered) once a day and maintain the rite. The diet part is according to convenience and comfort but the listening shall be strictly maintained.

9. If there is more facility in hearing let the devotee take food. If observing fast causes hindrance to listening to the story it is not to be recommended.

10—12. The householder taking the rite shall avoid heavy indigestible pulses like Niṣpāva, Masūrikā etc., stale food, defiled food, brinjals, gourds, radish, pumpkins, cocoa-nuts, garlic, onion, asafoetida, intoxicating beverages and all kinds of meat.