

they pursue illicit connections with paramours; they turn away from their own husbands.

34. As for sons, they are invariably wicked without any filial affection; they take lessons in ignorant activities and succumb to various ailments.

35. O Sūta, how can these deluded people who have abandoned their traditional virtues get salvation here and hereafter.

36. Hence our minds are always agitated. Indeed there is no virtue equal to helping others.

37. Since thou art conversant with the essentials of all tenets, please tell us the easiest remedy for the immediate destruction of the sins of these people.

Vyāsa said :—

38. On hearing these words of the sages of sanctified souls Sūta thought of Śiva and told them thus.

CHAPTER TWO

(Answers Clarifying the Doubts of the Sages)

Sūta said :—

1. O saintly men, the question that you put me is very pertinent. Prompted by my love towards you all I shall, remembering my preceptor, the benefactor of the three worlds, tell you everything. All of you listen attentively.

2. The entire essence of Vedānta is contained in the excellent Śivapurāṇa. It dispells all sins. It affords the attainment of the highest truth (Brahma) hereafter.

3. O brahmins, the great glory of Śiva, that destroys the sin of the Kali age, unfolds itself in the Purāṇa and yields the fruits of the four varieties (Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa).

4. By the single-minded study of that most excellent Śivapurāṇa excellent brahmins will attain salvation.

5. It is only as long as the Śivapurāṇa has not risen