

40. Those who were not opposed to the Gods were saved by Śiva's brilliance, those who devoutly sought refuge in lord Śiva at the time of adversity.

41. Whether Asuras or other beings those whose collective activities were not destructive were saved; others of contrary activities were burnt in fire.

42. Hence, all possible efforts shall be made by good men to avoid despicable activities whereby people waste away themselves.

43. Let there be no predicament to any as it happened in regard to the residents of the three cities. This is the opinion of all. By chance if it happens, let it.

44. Those who worshipped Śiva along with their family attained Gaṇapati's region, thanks to the worship of Śiva.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

(*The Gods' prayer*)

*Vyāsa said:—*

1. O son of Brahmā, of great intellect, O most excellent among the devotees of Śiva, you are blessed. When the three cities were burnt what did the gods do ?

2. Where did Maya who was spared go ? Where did the ascetics go ? Please narrate all, if it relates to Śiva's story.

*Sūta said :—*

3. On hearing the words of Vyāsa, Sanatkumāra the holy son of the creator remembered the feet of Śiva and spoke.

*Sanatkumāra said: —*

4. Listen O Vyāsa, son of Parāśara, and of great intellect, to the sin-destroying story of the great lord, who follows worldly conventions.

5. When the three cities of Asuras were utterly burnt, the Gods became surprised.

6. The gods including Indra, Viṣṇu and others became silent and bewildered on seeing the excessively brilliant Śiva.