

region and stay there carrying on your own duties and activities till the advent of the Kali age.

21. When the Kali age begins let your Dharma be revealed. You shall then continue to do so by means of disciples and disciples' disciples.

22. At my bidding your cult shall certainly expand. Depending upon my permission and direction you will attain me as your goal."

23. At the bidding of the lord Śiva transmitted through the thought process, Viṣṇu, the powerful, commanded him thus and vanished.

24. Then the ascetic of shaven head acting in accordance with Viṣṇu's behest created four disciples of the like form as himself and taught them the deceptive cult.

25. The four disciples had shaven heads and were of auspicious features. They bowed to Viṣṇu, the great soul and stood waiting.

26. O sage, the delighted Viṣṇu too, who carries out the behests of Śiva spoke to those four disciples.

27. "Just as your preceptor you too will become blessed at my bidding. There is no doubt in this that you will attain good goal.

28. The four disciples with shaven heads followed the heretic cult. They had the wicker vessel in their hands. They covered their mouths with a piece of cloth.

29. They habitually wore dirty clothes. They did not talk much. Delightedly they used to speak "Dharma is the great gain, the true essence" and some similar words.

30. They held a besom broom made of pieces of cloths. They used to walk step by step very slowly because they were afraid of injuring living beings.

31. O sage, with great joy they bowed to the lord and stood in front of him.

32. They were grasped by the hand by Viṣṇu and formally entrusted to the preceptor. Their names too were announced by him particularly and lovingly.

33. "Just as you, these too also belong to me. The initial prefix to their names shall be the word "Pūjya" because they are worthy of respect.