

worthy of adoration of good men ; it suppresses the three types of distresses (*i. e.* physical illness, extraneous attacks and divine calamities) ; it accords happiness always ; and it is very pleasing to all Devas led by Brahmā, Hari and Īśa.

51. With the mind extremely delighted I bow unto Śivapurāṇa for ever. May Śiva be pleased and bestow on me a devotion to His feet.

CHAPTER TWO

(The liberation of Devarāja)

Śaunaka said :—

1. O Sūta, thou art the most blessed and the most fortunate knower of the greatest Truth. Thou hast narrated to us, out of great compassion, this divine wonderful tale.

2. This wonderful narrative that destroys hosts of sins, purifies the mind, and propitiates Lord Śiva has been heard by us.

3. Thanks to thy compassion we have decisively realised that there is nothing so fine and nice as this tale.

4. Who are those among sinners in the Kali age who get sanctified by this story ? Please enlighten us. Make the whole world gratified.

Sūta said :—

5. Men who habitually commit sins, wicked persons indulging in vicious activities and persons of lecherous disposition become pure hereby.

6. This is a great Jñānayajña (sacrificial rite of wisdom) ; it yields worldly enjoyment as well as salvation ; it dispels all sins and delights Śiva.

7. Men overwhelmed by the thirst of covetousness, those devoid of truthfulness, those who decry even their parents, haughty vain fellows and persons prone to violent activities become sanctified by this.

8. Those who never practise the duties of their Varṇas