

heart is torn to pieces ! I am doomed in every respect. I am a sinner of all sorts.

52. O adverse Fate ! it was you who directed my mind along evil lines. With a hateful stubbornness you made me commit great sins. I was led astray from the path of my duty that would have bestowed all happiness.

53. O Brahmin, my present pain is millions of times more than that of a man stuck to the stake or hurled from a high mountain-top.

54. My sin is so great that it cannot be washed away even if I take ablutions in the Gaṅgā for a hundred years or even if I perform a hundred sacrifices.

55. What shall I do ? Where shall I go ? Whom shall I resort to ? I am falling into the ocean of Hell. Who can save me in this world ?

56. O noble sir, thou art my preceptor. Thou art my mother. Thou art my father. I seek refuge in Thee. I am in a pitiable plight. Lift me; lift me.

*Sūta said :—*

The intelligent Brahmin mercifully lifted up Cañculā who had become disgusted (with worldly affairs) and had fallen at his feet. That Brahmin then spoke (as follows).

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *Cañculā's Salvation*

*The Brahmin said :—*

1—2. O Brahmin lady, fortunately you have realised at the proper time on hearing the story of Śivapurāṇa that is conducive to non-attachment. Do not be afraid. Seek refuge in Śiva. All sins perish instantaneously by Śiva's grace.

3. I shall explain to you that great object attached to the glorification of Śiva whereby your course hereafter will be pleasant always.

4. It is by listening to the excellent story that your mind