

Sanatkumāra said :—

11. O sage, you must meditate upon the True object. The great lord Śiva can be realised and seen. But wherefore do you perform the penance here unattended ?

12-14. When Sanatkumāra addressed him thus, the sage Vyāsa clarified his purpose. “By the favour of divine elders like you I have almost established the four ways of virtue, wealth, love and salvation with due adherence to the Vedic path, in the world. I have become a preceptor unto all. Still it is surprising that the knowledge of the means of liberation has not dawned on me. I am performing penance for the sake of salvation. But I do not know how it can be achieved.

15. O excellent brahmins, when thus requested by the sage Vyāsa, the competent divine sage Sanatkumāra told him of the sure way of realising salvation.

16. It has already been mentioned that there are three means in conformity with Vedic ideal viz. Śravaṇa, Kīrtana and the highly efficacious Manana of Śiva.

17. Formerly, I too, confounded by other means performed a great penance on the mountain Mandara.³⁶

18-19. At the bidding of Śiva, the divine attendant Nandikeśvara arrived there. That sympathetic lord of Gaṇas, witness of all, lovingly told me about the excellent means of salvation. Viz.—Śravaṇa, Kīrtana and Manana all in conformity with Vedic ideals.

20. Hence, O holy sage, as advised by Śiva these are the three means of salvation. Please practise them.” He repeatedly advised Vyāsa thus.

21. After saying this to Vyāsa, the son of Brahmā mounted the aerial chariot accompanied by his followers and returned to his splendid and auspicious region.

36. Mandara : a mountain in Hindu Mythology for being used as a churning staff by the gods and demons on the occasion of Samudra-Manthana appears to be an important hill comprising beautiful caves. There is still a hill of this name in Banka Sub-division of Bhagalpur district (Bihar). It is noted for the abundance of various metals as well as variety of flora and fauna. It is stated to be a sacred mountain associated with Śiva.—Sk. V. II. 4. 23, 26. There is another mountain of the same name in the Malaya range which being an abode of Gods and Rṣis has an Āśrama of Agastya.