

numerous. Nurturing the Bilva tree etc. can be included therein. They shall be thought of by the devotee himself.

36. O beloved, thus my devotion with various adjuncts and ancillaries, is contributory to salvation since it is productive of perfect Knowledge and Detachment. It is the most excellent path.

37. A true devotion is as endearing to me as to you. It is productive of the fruits of all rites for ever. He who has it in his mind is a great favourite of mine.

38. There is no other path as easy and pleasing as devotion in the three worlds, O goddess of devas, in all the four Yugas generally and in the Kaliyuga particularly.

39. Knowledge (Jñāna) and Detachment (Vairāgya) have grown old and have lost their lustre in the Kali Age. They have become decayed and worn-out as the people who can grasp them are rare.

40. In the Kālī age as in all the four Yugas there is immediate and visible benefit in devotion. I am subservient to a devotee in view of the power of devotion.

41. I always assist a man endowed with devotion and remove his obstacles. A person devoid of devotion is worthy of being punished. There is no doubt about it.

42. I am the protector of my devotees. For the protection of a devotee of mine I burnt the God of death, O goddess, in the fire emerging from my eyes.

43. For the sake of a devotee of mine I became very furious with the sun formerly. I over-powered him with my trident.

44. I was not a party to the evil actions of Rāvaṇa (though he was my devotee). For the sake of another devotee I discarded Rāvaṇa with all his followers.

45. O goddess, for the sake of a devotee, I angrily expelled Vyāsa when he had a vicious thought, from Kāśī after punishing him duly through Nandin.

46. Why shall I say more, O Goddess ? I am always subservient to a devotee, always under the control of a person who practises devotion. There is no doubt in this.