28. A single man, the man who drinks nectar, becomes immortal and unageing. But the nectar of the divine story of Śiva, if drunk, makes the whole family immortal and unageing.

29. The sanctifying story of Śivapurāṇa must always be resorted to, definitely so.

30. Merely by listening to Śivapurāṇa (if such good results) what am I to say about the result when Śiva abides in the heart ?

31. This work consists of twenty-four thousand verses divided into seven saṁhitās (compendiums). The three kinds of Devotion [(1) by meditation, (2) recital of prayer and (3) acts of worship and service] are fully explained in it. It must be listened to with great respect.

32. The first compendium is called Vidyeśvara saṁhitā, the second is Rudrasaṁhitā, the third is Śata-Rudrā and the fourth is Koṭi-Rudrā

33. The fifth compendium is called Umāsaṁhitā, the sixth is Kailāsasaṁhitā and the seventh is Vāyavīyā. Thus, there are seven saṁhitās in this Purāṇa.

34. This divine Purāṇa of seven saṁhitās and called after Śiva stands on an equal footing with Brahman (i. e. Vedic Texts) and accords an achievement that is superior to everything else.

35. He who reads the entire Śivapurāṇa without omitting any of the seven saṁhitās can be called a Jīvanmukta (a living liberated soul).

36. O sage, the ignorant man is tossed about in the ocean of worldly existence till the excellent Śivapurāṇa reaches his ears.

37. Of what avail is listening to many sacred texts and other confounding Purāṇas ? The Śivapurāṇa alone loudly proclaims (its readiness) to grant salvation.

38. The house where the discourse on this Śivapurāṇa is held becomes a holy centre. It destroys the sins of the inmates of the house.

39. Thousands of horse-sacrifces[10] and hundreds of

10. In Vedic times the Aśvamedha sacrifice was performed by kings desirous of ofspring but subsequently it was performed by them for the achievement of universal supremacy. A horse was turned loose to wander at will for a year, attended by a guardian; when the horse entered a foreign