

about to start to Kailāsa a great tumult arose in the middle of Yama's city on hearing which Dharmarāja (the God of Death) himself came out of his palace.

34. On seeing the four messengers who appeared like replicas of Rudra Himself, Dharmarāja the knower of virtues honoured them in accordance with the custom.

35. Yama came to know of everything through his vision of wisdom. Out of fear he did not question the noble attendants of Śiva.

36. Being duly honoured and adored by Yama, they went to Kailāsa and handed over the brahmin to Śiva, the very ocean of mercy and to the divine mother Pārvatī.

37. Blessed indeed is the story of Śivapurāṇa, the holiest of holy stories, a mere hearing of which qualifies even the greatest sinner for salvation.

38. The great seat of Sadāśiva is the greatest abode and the noblest of positions which Vedic scholars have extolled as stationed above all Lokas (worlds).

39—40. Devarāja the base brahmin, addicted to wine, enamoured of a vile harlot, slayer of his own father, mother and wife and who out of greed for money had killed many brahmins, kṣatriyas, vaiśyas and śūdras and others became a liberated soul instantaneously on reaching that supreme Loka.

### CHAPTER THREE

*(Cañculā's disillusion and detachment)*

*Śaunaka said :—*

1. O Sūta of great intellect, thou art extremely blessed and omniscient. By thy favour I am gratified to satiety again and again.

2. My mind rejoices much on hearing this old anecdote. Please narrate another story equally increasing devotion to Śiva.

3. Nowhere in the world are those who drink nectar honoured with liberation. But in regard to the nectar of the