

41. He shall feed eleven brahmins with honey and milk puddings. He must give them Dakṣiṇā also to complete the rite.

42-44. If he is competent, O sage, he must make an image of a lion with three Palas of gold and either engrave the name of this Purāṇa on it or affix a label with the name written on it. He must worship his preceptor of great restraint with the gifts of cloth, ornaments, scents etc., and hand them over to him for propitiating Śiva.

45. O Śaunaka, by the power of this gift and of the Purāṇa he shall secure the blessings of Śiva and be freed from the bondage of worldly existence.

46. If these rites are performed, the Śivapurāṇa shall yield entire fruit, enjoyment of worldly pleasures and salvation.

47. Thus I have narrated to you the greatness of Śivapurāṇa that bestows every cherished desire. What else do you wish to hear ?

48. The Śivapurāṇa holds the mark of distinction among all Purāṇas. It is highly pleasing to Śiva. It wards off the ailment of worldly existence.

49. Those who are always engaged in the meditation of Śiva, those whose tongue adores the attributes of Śiva, and those whose ears listen to the story of Śiva, cross the ocean of worldly existence.

50. I seek refuge in Śiva the great, of infinite thickset bliss, Śiva whose form is unaffected by all the three *Guṇas*, Śiva who manifests Himself within and without this world, within and without the mind, Śiva whose form is variously evolved by mental ideas and verbal expressions.