

extraordinary and unbroken devotion for the names of Śiva. I believe in this.

36. Even if he has committed many sins, a person who has reverence for the Japa of Śiva's names, becomes certainly free from all sins.

37. Just as the trees in a forest are burnt and reduced to ashes by the forest fire, so also are the sins destroyed by Śiva's names.

38. O Śaunaka, he who regularly sanctifies his body by the holy ashes and who performs the Japa of Śiva's names crosses even the terrible ocean of worldly existence.

39. A person who undertakes the Japa of Śiva's names is not sullied by sins even after misappropriating a brahmin's wealth and killing many brahmins.

40. After going through all the Vedas it has been decided by our ancestors that the noblest means of crossing the ocean of worldly existence is the performance of the Japa of Śiva's names.

41. O excellent sages, why should I say much ? By means of a single verse I shall mention the greatness and efficacy of the names of Śiva or the destruction of all sins.

42. The power of the names of Śiva in destroying sins is more than the ability of men to commit them.

43. O sage, formerly the king Indradyumna who was a great sinner, attained the excellent goal of the good through the influence of Śiva's names.

44. O sage, similarly a brahmin woman too of very sinful activities attained the excellent goal of the good through the influence of Śiva's names.

45. O excellent brahmins, thus I have told you about the surpassing excellence of the names. Now please listen to the greatness of holy ashes, the most sacred of all.