

ŚIVAPURĀṆA-MĀHĀTMYAM*

CHAPTER ONE

(Greatness of Śivapurāṇa)

Śaunaka¹ said :—

1. O Sūta of great intellect, O my lord, the knower of all Philosophical principles, please narrate to me the essence of the Purāṇas in detail.

2. How do good conduct, good devotion and power of discrimination flourish ? How are base feelings dispelled by good men ?

3. In this terrible Kali age all living beings have almost become demoniac in character. What is the effective mode of remedying the same ?

4. Now tell me about the greatest means to achieve the most perfect weal, the holiest of the holy modes.

5. What is that, the practice of which particularly purifies the soul ? What is that which enables a man of unsullied mind to attain Śiva ?

Sūta² said :—

6. O foremost among sages, you are blessed indeed as

* The Chapters (1-7) on the glory of Śivapurāṇa are taken from *Skandapurāṇa*.

1. Śaunaka was the chief of the sages at the great sacrifice in Naimiṣa forest to whom the Mahābhārata and the Purāṇas were recited by the Sūta in the reign of Adhisimakṛṣṇa, the great-grandson of Janamejaya and the sixth in generation from Arjuna in the Paurava line. —*Vā* 1.12; 99, 255-8; *Padma* I. 1. 19.

2. The Sūtas (*Vā* I. 32-3; *Padma* I. I. 27-28) preserved the genealogies of Gods, sages, and glorious monarchs as well as the traditions of great men. The Sūta here is not a caste that is described by Manu (X.11.17) as the offspring of a Kṣatriya father and Brahman mother. He is a venerable Brāhmaṇa who has preserved ballads, songs, genealogies of Gods, sages and glorious Kings.—Pargiter : *Ancient Indian Historical Tradition* Ch. II.; also Pusalkar : *Studies in Epics and Purāṇas of India*, Intro. P. 29. He is described as the disciple of Vyāsa.—ŚP. I.4.7.