

IISII PURANAS IISII

BY

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HISTORY OF MAHAPURANAS

- Puranas are our ancient texts comprising of History, Legends, Devotional pursuits with underlying wisdom of supreme reality.
- Puranas are also deemed as an extension of Vedas called 5th veda by some.
- Puranas are compiled by Rishis like Sri Veda Vyas and others for common people to understand their heritage with devotion & to practice Karma Kand materially in a simpler way unlike the Upanishads.

CONT.

- **Traditionally there are 18 Puranas. However we find distinctions and based on that there are presently 20 in number.**
 - **Each divided into 3 groups & each group has 6 texts.**
- **The Puranas give description of the Hindu gods namely Bramha, Vishnu, and Shiva the trinity.**

CLASSIFICATION OF MAHAPURANAS

- **The texts that talk of Vishnu's incarnations are regarded as the Vishnu Puranas and called Sattvika or Bhagwat Purana.**
- **The texts that describe creations are regarded as Bramha Puran and called Rajasika Purana.**
- **The texts that have emphasis on rights and rituals are regarded as the Shiv Purana and called the Tamasika Puran.**

CONT.

➤ As per Padma Purana it can be classified based in 3 gunas.

- Truth (Sattva)
- Passion (Rajas)
- Ignorance (Tamas)

LIST OF MAHAPURANAS

- Agni (15,400 verses)
- Bhagavata (18,000 verses). The most celebrated and popular of the *Puranas*, telling of Vishnu's ten Avatars. Its tenth and longest canto narrates the deeds of Krishna, introducing his childhood exploits, a theme later elaborated by many Bhakti movements.
- Bhavishya (14,500 verses)
- Brahma (24,000 verses)
- Brahmanda (12,000 verses; includes Lalita Sahasranamam, a text some Hindus recite as prayer)
- Brahmavaivarta (18,000 verses)
- Garuda (19,000 verses)

CONT.

- Harivamsa (16,000 verses; more often considered *itihāsa*)
- Kurma (17,000 verses)
- Linga (11,000 verses)
- Markandeya (9,000 verses; includes Devi Mahatmyam, an important text for Shaktas)
- Matsya (14,000 verses)
- Narada (25,000 verses)
- Padma (55,000 verses)
- Shiva (24,000 verses)

CONT.

- Skanda (81,100 verses), the longest Purana, containing parables, legends, and stories, with multiple versions and recensions. Many untraced quotes are attributed to this text.
- Vamana (10,000 verses)
- Varaha (10,000 verses)
- Vayu (24,000 verses)
- Vishnu (23,000 verses)

JAIN & BUDDHIST PURANS

- JAIN PURANAS- Deal with Jain's history, legends and wisdom.
- BUDDHIST PURANAS – Also called Swayambhu Purana followed by the Buddhists in Nepal.

Note: Puranas narrate the history of the universe from creation to destruction, geneology, heroes, sages, demigods, cosmology, philosophy, geography, dedication to particular deity etc.

ORIGIN OF PURANS

- Many Puranas existed in Oral form therefore it is difficult for us to clearly determine the exact period of origin.
- However there are many schools of thought.
 - During the British period a lot of Euro-Centric so called scholars have tried to determine periods, classify & categorize.
 - In my view we should extract the knowledge and enjoy the scholarly creation of these scriptures with devotion (bhakti).

BHAGVATA MAHAPURANA

- Is the most popularly read, discussed and heard Mahapurana which truly speaking every Hindu should.
- Bhagwata Mahapurana and Bhagwadgita both given by Shri Veda Vyas are enough to accomplish the highest level of wisdom accompanied with devotion (Bhakti).