

these eighteen Purāṇas, to the extent of 4 lacs of ślokas, to my father and my father explained me and now I have described the same to you.

इह लोकहितार्थाय संक्षिप्तं परमर्षिणा।

इदमद्यापि देवेषु शतकोटिप्रविस्तरम्॥५९॥

The venerable sage has abridged the Purāṇas for the sake of the good of this world; otherwise, the entire Purāṇa existing in the Devaloka, contains a hundred crore ślokas.

उपभेदान्प्रवक्ष्यामि लोके ये संप्रतिष्ठितसः।

पाद्मे पुराणे यत्रोक्तं नरसिंहोपवर्णनम्॥

तच्चाष्टदशसाहस्रं नारसिंहमिहोच्यते॥६०॥

Upapurāṇas- (1) *Narasimha*- I shall now tell you about the difference between the Purāṇas that exist in the universe and the secondary Purāṇas. There is a mention of Narasimha in the Padma Purāṇa, and the 18,000 ślokas (dealing with the history of Narasimha) forms the Nārsimha Purāṇa (which is one of the secondary Purāṇas).

नन्दाया यत्र माहात्म्यं कार्तिकेयेन वर्णयते।

नन्दीपुराणं तल्लोकैराख्यातमिति कीर्त्यते॥६१॥

(2) *Nandī upapurāṇa*- Where Kārtika has described the glory of the great goddess Nandā (the portion dealing with that), is known as the Nandī Purāṇa.

यत्र साम्बं पुरस्कृत्य भविष्यति कथानकम्।

प्रोच्यते तत्पुनर्लोके साम्बमेतन्मुनिव्रताः॥६२॥

(3) *Sāmba upapurāṇa*- That Purāṇa in which Lord Śiva, taking His most noble consort, Gaurī, as his audience, has related about the future, as found in the Bhaviṣya Purāṇa and also is styled by the sages as Sāmba Purāṇa.

पुरातनस्य कल्पस्य पुराणानि विदुर्बुधाः।

धन्यं यशस्यमायुष्यं पुराणानामनुक्रमम्।

एवमादित्यसंज्ञा च तत्रैव परिगद्यते॥६३॥

(4) *Āditya upapurāṇa*- The learned who

know, say that the recitation of the list of the Purāṇas dealing with the ancient Kalpa, is conducive to glory, fame and long life. This is the order of the Purāṇas, as described above. Similarly, the Āditya Upapurāṇa is also mentioned therein.

अष्टादशभ्यस्तु पृथक्पुराणं यत्प्रदिश्यते।

विजानीध्वं द्विजश्रेष्ठास्तदेतेभ्यो विनिर्गतम्॥६४॥

O Ṛṣis! The secondary Purāṇas have been deduced from the original eighteen Purāṇas.<sup>1</sup>

पञ्चाङ्गानि पुराणेषु आख्यानकमिति स्मृतम्।

सर्गश्च प्रतिसर्गश्च वंशो मन्वन्तराणि च।

वंश्यानुचरितं चैव पुराणं पञ्चलक्षणम्॥६५॥

The following are the five characteristics of the Purāṇas : They describe (1) the creation of the universe, (2) its genealogy and dissolution, (3) the dynasties, (4) the Manvantaras, (5) the dynastic chronicles.

ब्रह्मविष्णवर्करुद्राणां माहात्म्यं भुवनस्य च।

ससंहारप्रदानां च पुराणे पञ्चवर्णके॥६६॥

The Purāṇas, with these five characteristics, sing the glory of Brahmā, Viṣṇu, the Sun and Rudra, as well as they describe also the creation and dissolution of the Earth.

धर्मश्चार्थश्च कामश्च मोक्षश्चैव वात्र कीर्त्यते।

सर्वेष्वपि पुराणेषु तद्विरुद्धं च यत्फलम्॥६७॥

The four Vargas (Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa) have also been described in all the Purāṇas, along with evil consequences following from sin.

सात्त्विकेषु पुराणेषु माहात्म्यमधिकं हरेः।

राजसेषु च माहात्म्यमधिकं ब्रह्मणो विदुः॥६८॥

तद्दग्नेश्च माहात्म्यं तामसेषु शिवस्य च।

संकीर्णेषु सरस्वत्याः पितृणां च निगद्यते॥६९॥

1. Like the eighteen Purāṇas, Upapurāṇas are also in eighteen numbers, But this Purāṇa gives the names of only five Upapurāṇas.

In the Sāttvika Purāṇas, there is largely a mention of Hari's glory. In the Rājas Purāṇas there is the greater mention of Brahmā's glory. In the Tāmasika Purāṇas, there is a mention of Śiva and Agni's glory. In all kinds of Purāṇas, of all the three attributes, the glory of Sarasvatī and the pitṛs have been described.

अष्टादश पुराणानि कृत्वा सत्यवतीसुतः।

भारताख्यानमखिलं चक्रे तदुपबृंहितम्।

लक्षणेकेन यत्प्रोक्तं वेदार्थपरिवृंहितम्॥७०॥

The great sage Vyāsa, after compiling the 18 Purāṇas, indulged in the composition of the story of Mahābhārata, in order to magnify their bulk, which was an addition to the Purāṇas, by another lakh of ślokas. And in which he has condensed the sense of the Vedas.

वाल्मीकिना तु यत्प्रोक्तं रामोपाख्यानमुत्तमम्।

ब्रह्मणाऽभिहितं यच्च शतकोटिप्रविस्तरम्॥७१॥

The glorious story of Rāmāyaṇa, sung by the sage Vālmīki, at the instance of Brahmā, also extends to a hundred crore of ślokas.

आहत्य नारदायैव तेन वाल्मीकये पुनः।

वाल्मीकिना च लोकेषु धर्मकामार्थसाधनम्।

एवं संपादाः पञ्चैते लक्षा मर्त्ये प्रकीर्तिताः॥७२॥

Brahmā narrated the original Rāmāyaṇa to Nārada; the latter revealed it to Vālmīki, who gave it to the world, and which is a means of giving Dharma, Kāma and Artha. And in which way the famous epic exists in the world, and contains 5,25,000 ślokas.

पुरातनस्य कल्पस्य पुराणानि विदुर्बुधाः।

धन्यं यशस्यमायुष्यं पुराणानामनुक्रमम्।

यः पठेच्छृणुयाद्वाऽपि स याति परमां गतिम्॥७३॥

The learned know of the Purāṇas of the ancient Kalpa. The recitation of this list of the Purāṇas is conducive to prosperity, fame and long life. He who reads or listens to it, gets wealth, reputation, long life and emancipation.

इदं पवित्रं यशसो निधान-

मिदं पितृणामतिवल्लभं च।

इदं च देवेष्वमृतायितं च

नित्यं त्विदं पापहरं च पुंसाम्॥७४॥

This list is the most sacred. It is the giver of fame and the destroyer of sins. It is very dear to the pitṛs and is prized by the Devas as a nectar. It is external and destroyer of sin of all men.

इति श्रीमात्स्ये महापुराणे पुराणानुक्रमणिकाभिधानं नाम

त्रिपञ्चाशत्तमोऽध्यायः॥५३॥

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