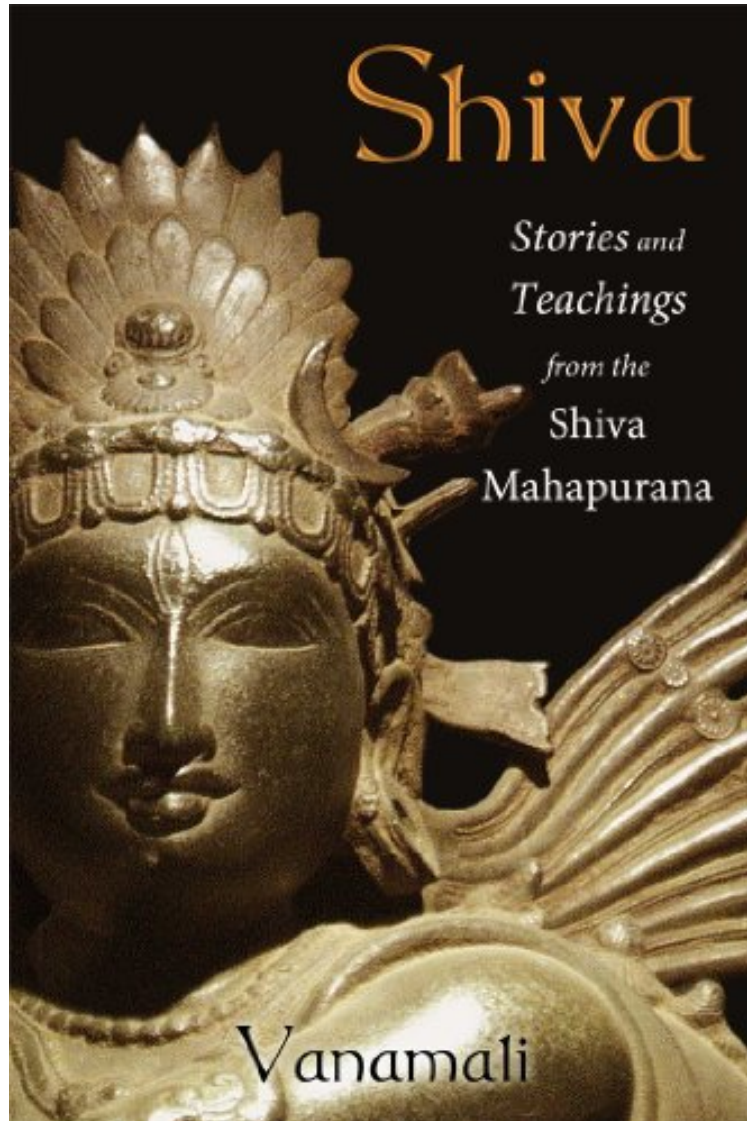


[Download] Shiva: Stories and Teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana

Shiva: Stories and Teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana

Vanamali

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#247781 in Books 2013-10-04 2013-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .95 #File Name: 1620552485272 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Vanamali : Shiva: Stories and Teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shiva: Stories and Teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EnlightenjngBy consumerThe book is a well written trove of information about Shiva, those whose worship him, and a glimpse of what "devotion" is. I'd recommend it to anyone interested in the source and foundation of many of today's books written as a basis for religions.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By BBI've gained a lot of knowledge about Shiva from this book. It's a very

great one although stories told in this book are quite different from what I've read before. I'm sure anyone reading this book will enjoy the stories. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Devotional and Educational! By Steele44 This is a remarkable book for those looking to grow in their depth of connection and understanding of Shiva.

The traditional understanding of Shiva told through stories and teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana Explains Shivas contradictory forms, such as destroyer or benefactor, and how his form depends on the needs of the devotee Reveals how Shivas teachings allow one to see through the illusions at the root of all grief and alienation in human life Explores Shivas relationships with Durga, Shakti, Sati, and Parvati and with his sons Ganesha and Kartikeya Shiva, the most ancient and complex deity of the Hindu pantheon, has been portrayed in many contrasting lights: destroyer and benefactor, ascetic and householder, wild demon slayer and calm yogi atop Mount Kailash. Drawing from the Hindu sacred text the Shiva Mahapurana--said to be written by Shiva himself--Vanamali selects the essential stories of Shiva, both those from his dark wild side and those from his benevolent peaceful side. Vanamali discusses Shivas many avatars such as Shambunatha and Bhola, as well as Dakshinamurti who taught the shastras and tantras to the rishis. She explores Shivas relationships with Durga, Shakti, Sati, and Parvati and with his sons Ganesha and Kartikeya. Examining Shivas acceptance of outsiders, Vanamali explains why ghosts and ghouls are his attendants and why his greatest devotees are demon kings, like Ravana. She includes famous Shiva stories such as the Descent of the River Ganga and Churning the Milky Ocean as well as those that reveal the origin of the festival of lights, Diwali; his creation of the cosmic couple, or hierogamos; and how Shiva and Parvati taught the world the secrets of Kundalini Shakti. The author also draws upon Shaivite teachings to illustrate the differences between Western science and Vedic science and their explanations for the origins of consciousness. Integrating Shivas two sides, the fierce and the peaceful, Vanamali reveals that Shivas form depends on the needs of the devotee. Understanding his teachings allows one to see through the illusions at the root of all grief and alienation in human life, for Shiva is the wielder of maya who does not fall under its spell. While Ganesha is known as the remover of obstacles, Shiva is the remover of tears.

"Vanamalis passionate writing blends a grandmothers loving wisdom with a lifetime of devotion to the Sanatana Dharma. Like an ancient vedic chant, Vanamalis spellbinding prose elevates the reader to sublime Himalayan peaks of Transcendental Consciousness. Matajis erudition and devotion is a portal to a legendary realm of the Gods." (Bruce Burger, founder of Heartwood Institute and author of Esoteric Anatomy: The Body as Consciousness) Shiva is a complex Hindu deity. Both destroyer and creator, he is always energetically involved in the world, bringing his special wisdom to us in whatever form we might recognize. Vanamali has gathered together the sacred tales of Shivas adventures for this book, recounting them with reverence and insight. Customers will begin to see their lives and their potential with greater clarity as they read her carefully crafted words. (Retailing Insight, October 2013) Vanamalis book is seductive, full of the charm of myth retold with sincerity and with a minimum of intellectualization; it should appeal to many school and college collections. (Library Journal, November 2013) About the Author Mataji Devi Vanamali has written 7 books on the gods of the Hindu pantheon, including Shakti, Hanuman, and The Complete Life of Krishna, as well as translating the Bhagavad Gita. She is the founder and president of Vanamali Gita Yoga Ashram Trust, dedicated to sharing the wisdom of Sanatana Dharma and charitable service to children. She lives at the Vanamali ashram in Rishikesh, northern India. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Kripaanidaye Namaha! Chapter 22 The Manifestations of Shiva Be attached to Him, who is without attachment. Hold on to that attachment. Then only will you be able to leave other attachments. --Saint Thirvalluvar Normally one does not associate Shiva with incarnations but it is a fact that he has taken many manifestations at the behest of his devotees. We shall now try to describe a few of them. One of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu was the man-lion, Narasimha. After he had killed the demon Hiranyakashipu, it is said that his fury did not abate and the entire world trembled with fear at the fire of destruction emanating from his mouth. The gods approached Shiva and begged him to intervene. So Shiva took on the fierce form called Sharabha. He looked like a gigantic bird with an enormous, curved beak and huge wings. His fangs jutted out and his neck was black. He had powerful arms and four legs and adamantine claws. His three eyes were wide and blazing like the fires of destruction at the end of the world. Like a vulture seizing a serpent, the creature caught hold of the Narasimha in its claws and killed him. Shiva assumed his own form and said, Just as there is no change in constitution when milk is poured into milk or water into water, so also Vishnu and I are one and it makes no difference whether I kill him or he kills me. In actual fact we are both immortals and neither of us can be killed. It is only our lila. Like actors who don different costumes to amuse the spectators, we play different roles for the sake of our devotees. Another delightful manifestation of Lord Shiva is Kirata, the hunter. The Pandavas and Arjuna in particular, were all devotees of Shiva. Their cousins, the Kauravas, exiled them to the forest. At that time Lord Krishna came to them and advised Arjuna to make the best use of his time in the forest by placating Lord Shiva and asking for his powerful missile, the Pasupata. With this weapon Arjuna would be able to defeat the Kauravas in the battle, which Krishna knew to be inevitable. Thus advised by Krishna, Arjuna went to the mountain called Indrakila, in the Himalayas, near the place called Badrikashrama. While he was meditating with closed eyes and matted locks and subsisting only on leaves and berries, his wicked cousin Duryodana instigated a demon called Muka to go and molest

Arjuna and distract him from his tapasya. Muka took the form of a wild boar and charged into the forest. But Lord Shiva never forsakes his devotees. Taking the form of a hunter or Kirata, he went into the forest and chased the boar. Parvati accompanied him in the form of a huntress or Kirati. Hearing the tremendous sounds made by the boar and the hunter, Arjuna opened his eyes and saw the boar rushing into the clearing where he was sitting. Immediately Arjuna strung his bow and shot the beast as it charged toward him. He was seated before a mud linga of Shiva that he had made for his worship. At the same moment, the Kirata also shot the boar. Both arrows found their mark simultaneously. Arjuna went forward to retrieve his arrow. At the same time Shiva in the form of the Kirata, strode out of the thickets into the clearing. Shiva always enjoyed teasing his devotees and Arjuna was especially beloved by him. In an angry voice Shiva said, Halt! Dont touch the beast. Its mine. Shot by my arrow. Arjuna was quite indignant when he heard this and retorted scornfully, Do you know who I am? I am Arjuna the famous archer. How can you, a mere forest dweller ever hope to equal my prowess in archery? Of course it was my arrow that shot the boar. The heated verbal argument soon led to a fight and they decided to test their prowess with bows. A dreadful battle ensued between the Lord and Arjuna in which Shiva mentally applauded his devotees dexterity. But despite all his skill Arjuna was no match for the divine archer. Arjuna was amazed that a low-born tribal could beat him in archery. He did not know what to do and asked for a short respite. This was granted and Arjuna quickly made a garland of wild flowers and adorned the neck of the linga which he had been worshipping faithfully for many months and begged Lord Shiva to save him. Fortified with renewed hope and courage, he turned round to face his opponent and was astonished to see the garland that he had just placed round the linga, adorning the neck of the fake hunter! It was only then that Arjuna understood that it was all the Lords play and ran forward to prostrate at the divine hunters feet and beg pardon for the great offence he had done in daring to fight with him. Shiva now revealed his true form with Parvati by his side and the ganas frisking around. Arjuna prostrated again and again and begged Shiva to forgive him. Shiva laughingly declared, It was a great experience to fight with you. Im proud of your prowess. You may now ask me for any boon you wish. Arjuna was so ashamed that he did not dare to ask for the weapon for which he had been doing tapasya. All I want is to have devotion to your holy feet all my life, he said. Shiva who could see into his heart insisted that he could ask for anything he wished and it would be granted to him. At last Arjuna asked for Shivas weapon, the Pasupata. Lord Shiva spoke, I shall certainly present you with my own missile, the powerful Pasupata by which you will become invincible. You will be able to defeat your enemies and regain your kingdom. Namashivaya