

Śiva that his phallus should drop to the ground. Immediately it fell down and Śiva disappeared. The phallus rent asunder the earth, reached Pātāla and rent the universe also. The whole universe shook at which Brahmā met Viṣṇu at Pātāla and enquired of him the reason for the universal upheaval. Viṣṇu answered him that the world shook because of the weight of Śiva's phallus, which the maharṣis had caused to be dropped. Then Brahmā, along with Viṣṇu, came to the spot where Śiva's phallus lay. At the sight of the limitless phallus Viṣṇu, in great wonder, descended to Pātāla mounted on Garuḍa. Brahmā, on his plane, toured above. Both Viṣṇu and Brahmā returned to earth, having failed in their attempt to find the end of the phallus. They then praised Śiva, who appeared to them. They requested him to take back his phallus from the earth. Śiva insisted that he would do so only if the Devas agreed to worship his phallus. Viṣṇu agreed to the suggestion. Brahmā took the phallus, golden brassy in colour. Thereafter Mahāviṣṇu created the four castes and various śāstraic texts for each of the castes to worship the phallus. The four texts are known as Śaivam, Pāśupatam, Kāladamanam and Kāpālikam. After making the above arrangements Brahmā and Viṣṇu returned. Śiva took back his phallus. (Vāmana Purāna, Chapter 6).

(ii) Eighty-eight thousand Bālakhilyas were born from the mind of Brahmā. They emaciated their bodies by constant baths, fasting and worship of Śiva. Though they worshipped Śiva thus for one thousand divya years, he did not appear in front of them.

Afterwards, when Pārvatī was travelling by sky one day, the latter saw and took pity on the Bālakhilyas and told Śiva thus: "These maharṣis are suffering like anything. For my sake, you should put an end to their sufferings. Has their evil fate no end? They are reduced to mere skin and bones, and yet they are denied realisation." Smilingly Śiva told Pārvatī as follows "You do not know the real course of righteousness. These people do not understand righteousness; they are not free from lust and anger. They are mere fools." At these words of Śiva, Pārvatī told him thus: If things be as you have said please show me their nature, I feel interested. Then Śiva asked Pārvatī to remain where she was, telling her that he would go to the Bālakhilyas and show her how they behaved. Accordingly Śiva went to them.

Śiva approached the Bālakhilyas in the guise of a handsome youth, wearing the Vanamālā garland on his head, holding the alms bowl in his hands and completely in the nude and requested for alms. The Women-folk of the Advaitins were much attracted by the handsome youth and came to him with a lot of fruits, roots etc. by way of alms. Śiva wished them good and Pārvatī espied her smiling lord from her seat.

After giving him alms the women spoke to him as follows: "Oh ! anchorite, what penance are you practising? You have no clothes on you, but you wear Vanamālā. You are a handsome sannyāsī. If you have no objection, please tell us about you." The sannyāsī (Śiva) answered them by saying that his was a very secret penance and could not be imparted to others. Especially in the presence of so many others it could not be revealed. So, you may please go. But, the women said that they wished very much to hear the secret, and they caught hold of his hands saying 'Come'.

The women were overcome by lust and one of them caught hold of his neck, another of his hands, another of his knees, another of his hair and yet another of his waist. Seeing the excitement of their wives the maharṣis cried, 'Strike him' and struck down his phallus with sticks and stones. As soon as the phallus was thus felled down, Śiva disappeared from the spot and returned to Kailāsa with Pārvatī.

When the phallus fell down the whole universe shook and the maharṣis were alarmed. A very intelligent maharṣi among them said:—"We know not the real facts about the great ascetic. Let us take refuge in Brahmā. He may know the facts." Accordingly the maharṣis went to Brahmā, who found fault with their ignorance and indiscretion and asked them to shed their anger and please Śiva. Accordingly they went to Kailāsa and praised Śiva, who appeared to them and told them as follows:—"You may now return. The phallus will belong to you. I shall be pleased if you would duly install it. Nothing will be impossible to those who worship my phallus with devotion. Even sins consciously committed will be removed by the worship of my phallus. You install the phallus you struck down in the great pond of Sannihita. That will achieve for you all your desires. Even the Devas will worship it under the name 'Sthāṇu'. Being installed at Sthāṇvīśvara it will be known as Sthāṇvīśvara also. Constant meditation upon Sthāṇu will remove all sins. The sight of Sthāṇu will bring about salvation."

After this the maharṣis, along with Brahmā, returned to Dāru forest to carry the phallus to Sannihita. But, they could not move it even by an iota. They returned again to Kailāsa, but could not see Śiva there. When Brahmā sat in meditation for sometime to know where Śiva was, he saw in his mind Śiva, in the guise of an elephant, standing in the stream praised by munis. Immediately Brahmā and others went there, but missed Śiva there. But Pārvatī appeared there and served them amṛta (nectar). When they had consumed the nectar they saw Śiva standing in the stream, and they spoke about their difficulties to him.

Śiva, in the guise of the elephant, accompanied them to the Dāru forest where he, in sport, took the phallus by his proboscis and installed it on the banks of the stream. All those who witnessed the installation attained ultimate realisation. Upon the phallus thus installed Brahmā built another phallus with stone. After a period that phallus became one with the effulgence of the first phallus. Those who saw that also achieved ultimate realisation. Immediately Brahmā built, for the pleasure of the Devas, seven phalluses one upon the other, and sages attained ultimate realisation by smearing their bodies with the dust of the phalluses. The spot where the phallus was installed became famous by the name Sthāṇutīrtha. (Vāmana Purāna, Chapter 45).

(iii) In the beginning Brahmā entrusted Śiva with the duty of creation and to earn the power for creation he lived under water for many generations. Śiva having not returned though Brahmā waited for him long, the latter created the prajāpatis and got done by them all creations. Then it was that Śiva, having acquired all the more power, came out of water. Śiva who got angry that all creations were effected in his