

absence plucked his phallus and threw it into the earth. He said that, since matters of creation had been managed by Brahmā, he needed the phallus no further. The phallus thus thrown by Śiva stuck to the earth and remained pointed upwards. Next, Śiva performed a dance of annihilation among the Devas. Ultimately, on the request of the Devas Śiva deposited his fire of wrath in water. It is that fire which dries up water in seas, rivers etc. When Śiva had shed his anger and become quiet the Devas worshipped the phallus, which had stuck to the earth, and thenceforth worship of Śiva's phallus became popular. (M.B. Saptika Parva, Chapter 17).

17) *Śivalīlās (Sports of Śiva)*. The Purāṇas refer to the following sixtyfour līlās (sports) of Śiva. (1) Devendra redeemed from sin. (2) Airāvata redeemed from sin. (3) Building of Madhurāpura in Kadamba forest. (4) Śrī Pārvatī born as Taṭātakā. (5) Pāṇḍyadeva wedded Taṭātakā. (6) Dance before sage Patañjali (7) Kuṇḍodara granted power to consume much rice (8) Quenched Kuṇḍodara's hunger and thirst with rice etc. and waters of river Vaigā (9) Brought the seven seas near to please his wife (10) Brought Malayadhvaja down to earth from Devaloka (11) Created the son called Ugra (12) Ugra given three weapons like śūla (13) Removed the sea from his side (14) Broke the crown of Indra (15) Ugrapāṇḍya given gold from Mahāmeru (16) Taught the maharṣis the meaning of Vedas (17) Sold gems to the King to make a crown (18) Made the clouds drink water from the ocean (19) Stopped excessive rain-fall (20) Exhibited the prowess of realisation (21) Made 'stone-elephant' eat sugar-cane (22) Killed the elephant which a Buddha sannyāsīn had sent after being subjected to black magic (23) Blessed a brahmin girl (24) Did various kinds of dances (25) Brought to light and proved the death of brahmin woman (26) Annihilated the evil or sin of having slept with the mother and killed the father (27) Killed Siddha to save the wife of preceptor, who taught archery (28) Made the snakes sent by Buddha sannyāsīns poisonless (29) Killed cows sent by the same sannyāsīns (30) Exhibited innumerable soldiers to save the commander-in-chief of the Pāṇḍya army (31) Gave the Pāṇḍya King a money-bag, which would never become empty (32) Disguised himself as a Vaiśya and sold bangles (33) Granted aṣṭasiddhis to Yakṣīs. (34) Opened the door of the temple for the Cola King (35) Supplied water to the Pāṇḍyan army (36) Converted base metals into gold etc. (37) Defeated the Cola King (38) Gave a Śūdra a vessel filled with gingelly seeds (39) A Vaiśya boy given victory in a suit (40) Redeemed the Pāṇḍya King from the sin of brahmahatyā (41) Carried firewood to save the devotee named Bhadra (42) Wrote a letter to the Cera King on behalf of Bhadra (43) Bhadra presented with a plank (44) Bhadra's wife granted victory in nāgavidyā (45) Assumed the form of pork and saved the small offsprings (46) Small pork made minister (47) A Khañjarīṭa bird was taught the mṛtyuñjaya mantra so that it could escape from the attack of crows (48) A Śarāri bird granted salvation (49) Boundaries of Madhurāpura shown by serpent (50) Defeated the Cola King (51) Dravidian scholars given the Saṁgham plank (52) Wrote a verse for a brahmin at the instance of the Pāṇḍya King (53) Saved Nakkīra (54) Nakkīra taught sūtras (aphorisms) (55) Made a comparative

study of theses (56) Visited northern Hālāsya (57) Wedded fisher-girl (58) Jñānadikṣā (initiation into knowledge) given to the minister called Vātapureśa (59) Sold magic horses to the Pāṇḍyan King (60) River made bigger (61) Carried mud for pancakes (62) Cured the fever and hunch-back of Kubja Pāṇḍya (63) Made Jñānasambandhar kill the naked ones on the śūla (64) Brought tree, tank, Śivaliṅga etc. to Madhura as witnesses. (Hālāsya-māhātmya, Chapter 5).

18) *Bull of Śiva*. Cows were born on earth from Surabhi. The foam of milk which flowed like sea from cows rose into waves and fell in Śivabhūmi (Śiva land). Śiva did not like it. He opened his third eye and looked at the cows. The flames from the eye caused different colours to the cows. The cows took refuge with Candra. But, the fire of Śiva's eye followed the cows there also. At last the Prajāpatis pacified Śiva and presented him a bull for vehicle. From that day onwards Śiva came to be known as Vṛṣabhavāhana and Vṛṣabhāṅka also. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 77).

19) *Other information*.

(i) The son Śuka was born to Vyāsa because of the blessing of Śiva. (Devī Bhāgavata, 1st Skandha).

(ii) During the period of emperor Pṛthu when the Devas made the earth a cow and milked resources, Śiva served as calf. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 69, Verse 24).

(iii) Śiva occupies a seat in Kubera's court. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 10, Verse 21).

(iv) Śiva once presented an armour to Indra. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 94, Verse 61).

(v) When the battle with the Tripuras reached its climax in intensity Śiva mounted the Bull and looked at the capital of the asuras. As a result of the fiery look the breasts of cows were cut and their hoofs rent into two. The hoofs of cattle came to be cleft from that day onwards. (Kārṇa Parva, Chapter 34, Verse 105).

(vi) Living beings are kept healthy by the kindness of Śiva. (Saptika Parva, Chapter 18, Verse 20).

(vii) It was Śiva, who organised the penal code in the world. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 59, Verse 80).

(viii) Once in the war between the Devas and the Asuras Śiva gave refuge to Śukrācārya. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 389, Verse 36).

(ix) Śiva performed the thread-wearing ceremony of Śuka, the son of Vyāsa. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 248, Verse 19).

(x) On the occasion when Śiva burnt Tripuras and their city to ashes they saw him as a boy with five horns. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 160, Verse 32).

(xi) There is a story in Śānti Parva of Mahābhārata about Śiva's bringing back to life the dead child of a brahmin. The story was told by Bhīṣma to Yudhiṣṭhira. The brahmin took his dead child to the burning ghat when a fox asked him to wait at least till dusk to see if the child would regain life. At the same time a vulture, which came there pointed out to the brahmin that the dead never came back to life and asked him to leave the dead body there and return home. As advised by the fox and the vulture the brahmin took to the burning ghat and took back from there the dead body of his child. Pārvatī took pity on the brahmin and as requested by her Śiva brought the child back to life. The logic and reasoning advanced by the fox and the