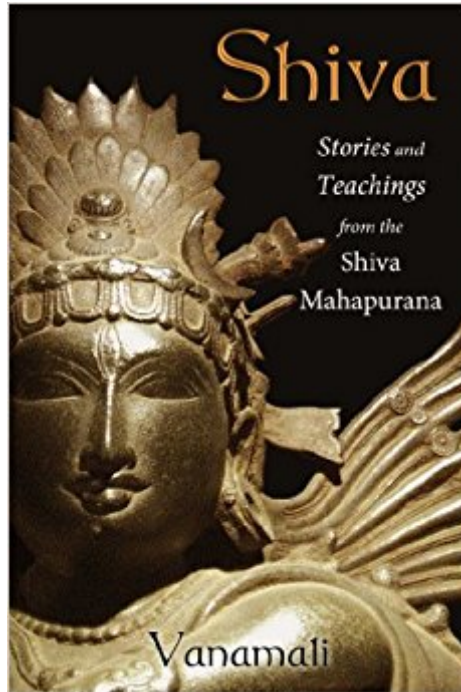


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# Shiva: Stories And Teachings From The Shiva Mahapurana



## Synopsis

The traditional understanding of Shiva told through stories and teachings from the Shiva Mahapurana

- Explains Shiva's contradictory forms, such as destroyer or benefactor, and how his form depends on the needs of the devotee
- Reveals how Shiva's teachings allow one to see through the illusions at the root of all grief and alienation in human life
- Explores Shiva's 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 Shiva's many avatars such as Shambunatha and Bhola, as well as Dakshinamurti who taught the shastras and tantras to the rishis. She explores Shiva's relationships with Durga, Shakti, Sati, and Parvati and with his sons Ganesha and Kartikeya. Examining Shiva's 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 Shiva's two sides, the fierce and the peaceful, Vanamali reveals that Shiva's 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the U.S. Edition of Vanamali's classic book, Sri Shiva Lila. "Merely by listening to the story of Shiva, a person secures that merit which results from the performance of a Rajasuya sacrifice and a hundred Agnistomas." "In the age of Kali, there is no greater virtue conducive to the achievement of liberation, than listening to the Shivapurana." Shiva Mahapurana The Shiva Mahapurana is said to come from the mouth of Lord Shiva Himself. It is an encyclopedia of various branches of knowledge and ancient esoteric wisdom, handed down through the ages by the grace of the sages and rishis of this holy land. It is arranged in seven samhitas and written in the Sanskrit language. The rarest pearls are hidden in the depths of the ocean and the most precious gems are embedded in the rocks. One has to depend on someone to delve deep into the heart of the ocean or chip off the encasing rocks to expose these treasures to our eyes. Modern man has neither the time nor the knowledge of this ancient language to go through the voluminous book, however, wonderful it may be. Vanamali has condensed and picked out the most perfect pearls of this ancient wisdom and given it to us in a form which is easy to read and simple to understand. Sri Shiva Lila "VANAMALI" "He looked at me, The conqueror of Love! He turned His glance on this frail body, He imbued these hands with strength and courage To write about His divine glories! O Thou Ocean of compassion! Lover of the lowly and despised! Shiva! Saviour of the world!

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