

P R E F A C E

The Purāṇas are like the real 'Bible' for the common people, as stated in Statement No.1 presented herewith. They are now accepted as one of the important sources of Indian history, religion and culture. For having an authentic picture of the growth and development of Indian Culture, one has to study critically and exhaustively very extensive source-literature. Thanks to the efforts of the pioneering scholars like R.C.Hazra, A.D.Pusalkar and V.S.Agrawala, the study of Purāṇas has now attracted attention of many historians, ethnographers and sociologists.

The LP is one of the eighteen Mahapurāṇas. The whole field of Śaivism with its several internal questions and problems forms an important and interesting field of research. N. Gangadharan has studied some problems of the LP in his "Liṅga-Purāṇa - A study" (1980). As some of the problems were not studied by him I have made an humble attempt to offer a study of the LP as stated in Statement no.1 presented herewith. It is hoped that this study will tend to remove a long-felt need of the cultural study of the LP which will be very useful for the study of ancient Indian history and culture with the help of Purāṇas.

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- R.C.Shah