

S Y N O P S I S

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Volume I

Chapter I - INTRODUCTION

Section 1 - Concept of Purāṇa -

Importance of Purāṇic Studies - Purāṇa - meaning, definition and characteristics - Need for critical edition - The Br. P. as a Purāṇa, its place, etc. - Date of the Br. P. - Home of the Br. P. - Saura-Purāṇa, an upapurāṇa of the Br. P.

Section 2 - Formal Study -

Information about the Br. P. gathered from (i) Printed editions (ii) Catalogues of manuscripts and (iii) Nibandha-works. - Description of the Br. P. from the point of view of (a) form (b) Interlocutors and (c) Story - links - Conclusions.

Chapter II - SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

A chapter-wise summary of the contents of the Br. P. is given in this chapter.

Chapter III - SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Introduction - Concepts of Varna, Jāti and Caste - Theory of the origin of Four Social Orders - Rights, Privileges and status of the four social orders, viz. Brāhmins, Kṣatriyas, Vaiśyas and Śūdras - sub-castes and occupations - Social mobility - The system of Āsramas - System of education.

Chapter IV - MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND POSITION OF WOMEN

Marriage - Introduction, terms to denote the idea of marriage - Purpose of marriage - Qualifications of the bride and bridegroom - Age of marriage - Types of marriage: (i) Monogamy, (ii) Polygamy, (iii) Polyandry - Eight forms of marriage - Limitations of marriage - relationships - Marriage ceremony - Concept of Niyoga - Incestuous unions - Kinds of Sons.

Family:- Introduction - Position of son - Status of the father - Brothers - Son-in-Law.

Position of Women:- Introduction - Woman as daughter - Woman as wife - Power of Pativrata - Woman as mother - Position of a daughter-in-law - Position of a widow - The Custom of Satī - Women and religion - Women and Śūdras - Women not to be killed - Women and fighting - Seclusion of

women - Views about women's nature - Attitude towards women captives - Woman's share in patrimony.

Chapter V - SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE

Introduction - Food and drinks- Dress and decoration - Music and dancing - Measurements - Metals - Art and architecture - Popular customs, superstitions and beliefs - Honouring the guests.

Chapter VI - MYTHOLOGY

Introduction - Description of various Gods, viz. Visnu and his incarnations - Kṛṣṇa - Śeṣa and Balarāma - Śiva - Kārtikeya - Gaṇeśa - Brahmā - Sūrya - Indra - Arjuna - Maruts - Yama - Agni - Kāmadeva - Soma - Viśvakarman - Tvastā - Aśvins - Saṇaiścara - Varuna - Vāyu - Hanūmān - Nandī - Kubera - Sāgara.

Goddesses - Introduction - Pārvatī - Lakṣmī - Saraswatī - Yogamāyā - Subhadra - Aditi - Gāyatrī - Virajā - mātā - Kṣudhā - Auśadhis - Mātṛs - Godāvarī.

Demons and Sages.

Chapter VII - RELIGION

Introduction - Concept of worship of various Gods, Viz. (i) worship of Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma and Subhadra (ii) Nṛsimha

worship (iii) Puruṣottama worship, (iv) Nārāyaṇa worship (v) Mahādeva worship (vi) Sun worship (vii) Vata-Pūjā - Sacrifice - Śraddha and ancestor - worship - Concept of Penance - Pilgrimages - Vratas - Samskāras - Religious beliefs and their rewards - Dāna - Karmans and their retribution - Heaven and Hell.

Chapter VIII - PHILOSOPHY

Introduction - God-Māyā - Cosmogony and Cosmology - Cosmic + Egg-theory and Sāṃkhya theory - Mythologico - Philosophical theory - Types of dissolution - Samsāra - Jñāna - Types of emancipation + Eschatology - Concept of Time - Concept of Dharma - Doctrine of Truth - Philosophy of Life.

Volume II

Chapter IX - GEOGRAPHY

Introduction - Identification of some Geographical names.

Chapter X - ETHNIC DATA

Introduction - Identification of some ethnic names.

Chapter XI - POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Introduction - Theory of divine origin of king -

Nature of kingship - Forms of Government - System of administration - Monarchy - Coronation - Ceremony - Ministry - War and weapons - Ethics of war - Army - Chariots - Things obtained from the conquered regions - Fort - Flags - List of weapons.

Chapter XII - DYNASTIC DATA

Introduction - Dynastic data as given in the Br.P.

- Appendix 1 - Difficult and obsolete words.
- Appendix 2 - Some Linguistic and literary aspects.
- Appendix 3 - Metres used in the Br. P.
- Appendix 4 - Metrical analysis.
- Appendix 5 - A List of some Alamkāras.
- Appendix 6 - A List of Subhāṣitas.
- Appendix 7 - Flora and Fauna.
- Appendix 8 - Geographical and Ethnic Data in the Br.P.
- Appendix 9 - Chart of Ethnic Data provided by various Purānas.
- Appendix 10 -- Genealogical tables as obtained from the Br.P.
- Appendix 11 - Alphabetical list of hells.
- Appendix 12 - A List of verses quoted from the Br. P. in different works.