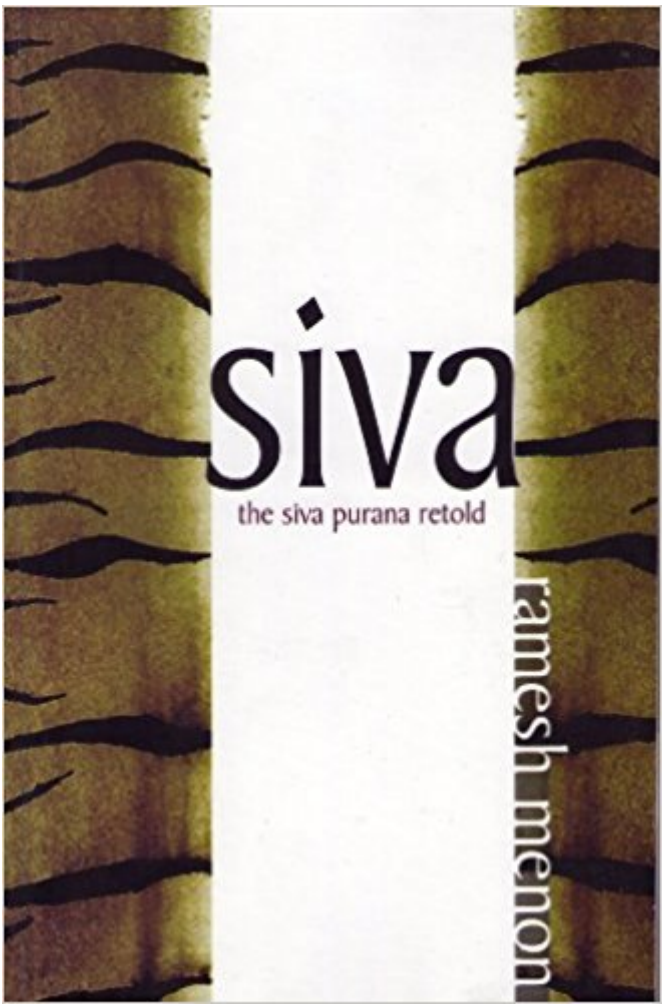
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Siva: The Siva Purana Retold



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Synopsis

’One day of Brahma has 14 Indras;his life has 54,000 Indras,One day of Vishnu is the life time of Brahma.The life time of Vishnu is one day of Siva There are eighteeen Mahapuranas,great Puranas,and the Siva Purana is one of them.The book,Siva is a vivid retelling of the Siva Purana for today’s reader.The book contains all the major legends of Siva,bringing them alive again for a new generation. The characters and events one encounters here are awesome,many are cosmic.Siva himself is the Auspicious One.He is Mahadeva,the greatest God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ramesh Menon,the author is well known to ians by his popular titles Mahabharata and Krishna.

This is one of the purest siva puran books you may found, a bit purest to the evolution and formation of gods , earth and all. But I am kind of lost some times as the narration breaks in middle, for example a chapter he talks about death of Sati and the next chapter he starts a story with siva and parvathi in it. And I often confused a lot following his transition between Rudra, and Siva, and Sivas. Bit exaggeration of romance more than needed. I will try to update my review once I have completed the book.

Great myths of Lord Siva, reads like a epic fantasy novel - the battle scenes rival anything Conan took part in, lots of decapitations and rivers of blood. Great stuff. Oh, and it is a very spiritual book - reading this book assures every material comfort in this long and satisfying life and moksha after. How awesome is that? Aum Nama Shivai

A well-written English translation. Great for people with some knowledge on how Siva is connected with the Hindu philosophy.

Excellent book! Loved reading it. I can't read Sanskrit and was very excited to find a English translation. Wished it was more comprehensive but no complaints.

This book encompasses the myth of Shiva-Sati, Shiva-Parvati, origin stories of Ganesha and Kartikeya, stories about all twelve Jyotirlingas, and demons which Shiva kills, which can't be killed by other Gods. Stories here make one believe why is Shiva the biggest of Gods, not the Vishnu, Sustainer of God trinity, (one might get a different feeling if one reads some other Puranas), as there are some stories where Vishnu has accepted the defeat and either went to Shiva or sent Indra, King of Heaven, perpetually troubled by Asuras, to Shiva for help. I learned that many characters like Rudra, Virabhadra and Kirtimukha (he who eats himself, Google it!) emerge from Shiva, and are actually essence Shiva. I previously thought Shiva reincarnated themselves into them but not Shiva sent them out while he was busy doing meditation or sex. His stories with Sati and Parvati (both reincarnation of Mother Goddess Kali) shows the human side of God we know not much off. Story of Sati, as it is told here, seemed like a warning story for parents of a female child. It is essentially a story of girl who wasn't loved by her parents at all and ended up self-immolating herself. Of course, she would be born again: what would Shiva without her? But one must have a strong reason for the Goddess to be reborn and her marriage with Shiva. So thanks to Brahma, creator of God trinity, who gave a boon to Tarakasura that he will die only at the hands of Shiva's son. So, that's why Kartikeya/Murugan, was born, who has mysterious birth (read can't explain scientifically! Same goes for Shiva's other son, Ganesha) and unique childhood. Third son Shiva which is not well known in northern India is Ayyappan or Ayyappa Swamy, who originated from lusty union of Shiva with Mohini (Vishnu), in presence of Parvati. (One might read the reasons like some asura will only be killed by the union of two males, which seems like a later addition to me. I could be wrong!) The two villains who turned out to be almost invincible until, of course, Shiva Showed up to the fight (yes they weren't even killed by Shiva's positive essences: Rudra, Virabhadra etc.) are Jalandhara and Andhaka (both originated from Shiva's essence. Surprise!). Their birth and their childhood once again demonstrate the inability of Shiva to really take parenting seriously (Remember Kartikeya was abandoned too! Nope, I haven't heard that they raise him either.) as he abandoned Jalandhara or given Andhaka for foster parenting to asuras. They were tough villains

and had to be killed using Oedipus complex, when these asuras have taken a liking to their own mother, Parvati, unknowingly, of course. Shiva used this glitch in the boon to kill two of his sons. Though I thoroughly enjoyed the stories narrated in this book but Shiva, being the biggest God, granted these stories an inevitability that by the end everything will be alright (no surprise), of happiness. In addition, the author had often ended the stories, with religious warnings and morals. Overall, author has curated interesting stories from Shiva Purana which paints the picture of ultra cool, aloof, meditative, and destructive Shiva. He had also narrated stories about his family and his villains. I only wish that the author had told them with complete abandon, without the baggage of religiousness, as he did in his book, Krishna.

This is one of the better versions of Siva Purana's around.Initially I did not like to read this as the stories were contrary to what I had heard, but I researched and found what I heard was not accurate and Mr. Menon has done a good job in putting forth the stories in as much correct reproduction as possible.As the saying goes - known is a drop , unknown is a ocean - we can try to know drops in the ocean that is called Siva.

Ramesh Menon has done an excellent job in compiling this book. This book is written in simple language and is in the format of a story and snippets from the original purana. For people like me who are not familiar with sanskrit phrases this is a good start. There are no sanskrit phrases in this book and what we get is an english interpretation of the same. Since I am not an expert in vedic literature, I cannot say how true the interpretation is but it certainly does make for a good and interesting read.

The author has remarkable talent for capturing a complex and vast text into succinct form while retaining a sense of prose. However, this brevity requires hard labor on part of the reader to keep up with the multitude of characters and situations that are captured within a few lines time and again. This book is more for people who want to make a claim they have read this text than for people who may be serious about absorbing the essence of it. In addition, for readers who may not be familiar with Hindi or Sanskrit, the text would be extra difficult to absorb since the book is rampant with words from these two languages, which are neither italicized nor always explained.

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