

A Critical Study of Saivism in India

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Saivism is a subject which understands that power which remains unmanifested in spirit and form, but expresses itself in the millions of aspects of life's manifestations. The power of manifestation and dissolution is called *Siva Sakti*. The time energy, grand play of communion, manifestation, maturity, disintegration, annihilation turning again to flux and coming to manifestation yet again and complete will and such cyclic movement within which has been preserved life's well-being is called *Siva*. *Saivism* is a complex cult.¹ The problem of its origin need not be made even more inculcated by accepting conjecture as proved facts.

Siva is one of the gods of Trinity- said to be god of destruction. Lord *Siva* sits in a meditative pose against the background of the snow capped Himalayas, the mount *Kailasa*. *Siva* is held to reside in six places (*Sadsthala*) namely five senses and mind. The word *Siva* according to Prof. S.N.Dasgupta is supposed to have been derived from '*vas kantan*' which means 'always fulfills the desire of devotees'.² As Keith's conception of *Siva* is borne out of the *Satarudraya* hymn of the *Vajasaneyè samhita Rudra*.

Works which have influenced the growth and development of *Saivism* are Tamil *Tolkappiam* and Sanskrit *Mahabharat* and *Svestasvatara Upanisad*. Here it is mentioned that "*Saivism* is divided into two principal schools, northern known as Kashmir *Saivism* and southern as *Lingayat* sects by wearing a *Linga* around their necks. The first great leader of the southern school was *Lakulisa* who is believed to have been the last incarnation of *Mahesvara* and the founder of the sect of *Pasupata*. This paper deals with *Siddhanta Saivism* based on *Saivagamas*.

As decades go on, *Saivism* has branched into various schools. The six countenances of *Siva* (faces facing the four directions, upward and downward faces) are said to give rise to the six subsects of *Saivism* which are east face – *Saiva*, South *Kalamukha*, West – *Pasupata*, North – *Mahadeva*, Up – *Bhairava*, Down – *Vama*. *Saivism* in general is four fold, which are *Kapala*, *Kalamukha*, *Pasupata* and *Saiva*. *Saiva* is again divided into three sections, which are *Saiva Siddhanta*, *Virasaiva* and *Kashmir Saiva*.

Saiva Siddhanta

Saiva siddhanta is a Hindu tradition where worshiping of *Siva* has been more focused. The *Saiva siddhanta* has basically three distinct categories, which are *Pati*, *Pasu* and *Pasa*. This history of *Saiva siddhanta* reveres the dualistic *tantras* as revelation which were in existence by the 10th century CE but whose origin may go back to the 7th or 8th Century.

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