

## CHAPTER 17

## The ten incarnations of Śiva with Śakti

नन्दिकेश्वर उवाच

शृण्वथो गिरिशस्याद्यावतारान् दशसङ्ख्यकान्।

महाकालमुखान् भक्त्योपासनाकाण्डसेवितान्॥ १॥

Nandīśvara said, “Now you listen to the ten incarnations of Śiva including that of Mahākāla, as found in the Upāsanā Kāṇḍa.

तत्राद्यो हि महाकालो भुक्तिमुक्तिप्रदः सताम्।

शक्तिस्तत्र महाकाली भक्तेप्सितफलप्रदा॥ २॥

Mahākāla happens to be one of them, who provides devotion as well as the salvation to the noble people. Mahākālī happens to be his Śakti, who fulfills the desires of the devotees.

तारनामा द्वितीयश्च ताराशक्तिस्तथैव सा।

भुक्तिमुक्तिप्रदौ चोभौ स्वसेवकसुखप्रदौ॥ ३॥

The second incarnation is that of Tāra having Tārā as his Śakti. Both of them bestow

comfort to their devotees.

भुवनेशो हि बालाह्वस्तृतीयः परिकीर्तितः।

भुवनेशी शिवा तत्र बालाह्वा सुखदा सताम्॥ ४॥

The third incarnation is that of Bhuvaneśa and his Śakti is called as Balā. Both of them bestow comforts to the noble people.

श्रीविद्येशः षोडशाह्वः श्रीविद्या षोडशी शिवा।

चतुर्थो हि भक्तसुखदो भुक्तिमुक्तिफलप्रदः॥ ५॥

The fourth incarnation is that of Śrīvidyeśa and his Śrīvidyā is known as ṣoḍaśī. Both of them provide devotion and salvation to their devotees.

पञ्चमो भैरवः ख्यातः सर्वदा भक्तकामदः।

भैरवी गिरिजा तत्र सदुपासककामदा॥ ६॥

Bhairava happens to be the fifth incarnation of Śiva and Bhairavī in his Śakti. They fulfill the desires of their devotees.

छिन्नमस्तकनामाऽसौ शिवः षष्ठः प्रकीर्तितः।

भक्तकामप्रदा चैव गिरिजा छिन्नमस्तका॥ ७॥

The sixth incarnation is that of Chinnamastaka, and his Śakti is known as Chinamustā. Both of them fulfil the desire of his devotees.

धूमवान् सप्तमः शम्भुः सर्वकामफलप्रदः।

धूमावती शिवा तत्र सदुपासककामदा॥ ८॥

The seventh incarnation is that of Dhūmavān. Dhūmāvātī happens to be his Śakti. Both of them fulfil the desire of their devotees.

शिवावतारः सुखदो ह्यष्टमो बगलामुखः।

शक्तिस्तत्र महानन्दा विख्याता बगलामुखी॥ ९॥

The eighth incarnation of Śiva, is that of Bagalāmukha. Bagalāmukhī, happens to be his Śakti.

शिवावतारो मातङ्गे नवमः परिकीर्तितः।

मातङ्गी तत्र शर्वाणी सर्वकामफलप्रदा॥ १०॥

The ninth incarnation is that of Mātāṅga

and Mātāṅgī is the wife of Śiva, who happens to be his Śakti. She fulfills all the desires.

दशमः कमलः शम्भुभुक्तिमुक्तिफलप्रदः।

कमला गिरिजा तत्र स्वभक्तपरिपालिनी॥ ११॥

Kamala happens to be the tenth incarnation of Śiva, which bestows the devotion as well as the salvation. Kamalā or Girijā happens to be his Śakti. She protects her devotees.

एते दशमिताः शैवा अवताराः सुखप्रदाः।

भुक्तिमुक्तिप्रदाश्चैव भक्तानां सर्वदा सताम्॥ १२॥

These ten incarnations of Śiva, provide always the worldly pleasure and salvation to their devotees.

एते दशावतारा हि शङ्करस्य महात्मनः।

नानासुखप्रदा नित्यं सेवतां निर्विकारतः॥ १३॥

The one who adores the ten forms of Śiva with an unblemished and spotless mind, daily, he achieved several types of comforts.

एतद्दशावताराणां माहात्म्यं वर्णितं मुनेः।

सर्वकामप्रदं ज्ञेयं तन्त्रशास्त्रादिगर्भितम्॥ १४॥

In the Tantra literature these ten incarnations of Śiva have been described. By adoring them, all the desires are fulfilled.

एतासामपि शक्तीनामद्भुतो महिमा मुनेः।

सर्वकामप्रदो ज्ञेयस्तन्त्रशास्त्रादिगर्भितः॥ १५॥

O Sage, the astonishing type of glory of these eternal Śaktis, has been highlighted in the Tantra-literature, who fulfil all the desires.

शत्रुमारणकार्यादौ तत्तच्छक्तिः परा मता।

खलदण्डकरी नित्यं ब्रह्मतेजोविवर्द्धिनी॥ १६॥

In the activities like the killing of the enemies, the aforesaid Śaktis are taken to be the best. They punish the wicked people and increase the *Brahmateja*.

इत्युक्तास्ते मया ब्रह्मन्वतारा महेशितुः।

सशक्तिका दशमिता महाकालमुखाः शुभाः॥ १७॥

O Brahman, Mahākāla, and other Śaktis of Śiva, have been described by me with his ten incarnations.

शैवपर्वेषु सर्वेषु योऽधीते भक्तितत्परः।

एतदाख्यानममलं सोऽतिशम्भुप्रियो भवेत्॥ १८ ॥

During all the festivities relating to Śiva, whosoever recites this episode, or listen to it, he becomes immensely dear to Śiva.

ब्राह्मणो ब्रह्मवर्चस्वी क्षत्रियो विजयी भवेत्।

धनाधिपो हि वैश्यः स्याच्छूद्रः सुखमवाप्नुयात्॥ १९ ॥

In case a Brāhmaṇa recites the same, he achieves the *Brahmateja*, a Kṣatriya becomes victorious, the Vaiśya achieves the wealth, while the Śūdra becomes comfortable.

शाङ्करा निजधर्मस्थाः शृण्वन्तश्चरितन्विदम्।

सुखिनः स्युर्विशेषेण शिवभक्ता भवन्तु च॥ २० ॥

The followers of Śiva, while listening to this episode, become more comfortable and get more devoted to Śiva.

इति श्रीशिवमहापुराणे तृतीयायां शतरुद्रसंहितायां  
शिवदशावतारवर्णनं नाम सप्तदशोऽध्यायः॥ १७ ॥

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