

action. The name Pārvatī is very common.

46. The goddesses of various attributes and the three deities of various attributes performed the diverse excellent activities of creation in mutual collaboration.

47. O excellent among sages, I have thus explained the mode of creation to you. The entire cosmic egg was created by me at the bidding of Śiva.

48. Śiva is the Supreme Brahman. The three deities, Viṣṇu, I and Rudra are His manifestations according to the difference in the attributes.<sup>218</sup>

49. The independent Supreme Ātman, who is both Nirguṇa and Saguṇa sports with Śivā in the beautiful Śivaloka.

50. His perfect and complete incarnation is Rudra. He is Śiva himself. The five-faced lord has made His beautiful mansion in Kailāsa. Even if the whole Brahmāṇḍa were destroyed, it knows no destruction.

218. From the Cosmic Egg agitated by the three Guṇas—Sattva, Rajas and Tamas, the three deities came into existence. The Purāṇas call them Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva and assign the functions of creation, existence and dissolution to each respectively. Cp. Devī Bhāg. 1.8. 2-4.

ब्रह्मा विष्णुश्च रुद्रश्च त्रयो देवाः सनातनाः ।

नातः परतरं किञ्चिद् ब्रह्माण्डेऽस्मिन्महामते ॥

ब्रह्मा सृजति लोकान्त्रै विष्णुः पात्यखिलं जगत् ।

रुद्रः संहरते काले त्रय एतेऽत्र कारणम् ॥

The statement about the three qualities सत्त्व, रजस् and तमस् manifested as the three devas is the consensus of the entire Pauranic lore. Cp. Liṅga Purāṇa.

महेश्वरात् त्रयो देवा जज्ञिरे जगदीश्वराः ।

शाश्वताः परमा गुह्याः सर्वात्मानः शरीरिणः ।

एत एव त्रयो देवा एत एव त्रयो गुणाः ।

एत एव त्रयो लोका एत एव त्रयोऽग्नयः ॥

The Vedas trace the origin of the Trinity to the Brahman, the Śaivas to Maheśvara and the Bhāgavatas to Mahāviṣṇu.