

In the Pañcalakṣaṇa character of the Mahāpurāṇa, genealogies and deeds of glorious kings play an important part. The Sūtas were the custodians of genealogical records which they learnt by rote and which they recited at sessional sacrifices in exchange for the gifts they obtained from their patrons. But in the course of oral transmission from one generation to another some interpolations entered in these records. There were traditional variations too, for different versions existed in different families of the Sūtas. When the records were incorporated in the Purāṇas, the interpolations and the traditional variations also settled therein. This explains the difference that exists in the genealogical records of the Purāṇas.

Pargiter²⁹ has prepared a list of royal genealogies on the consensus of versions occurring in the Purāṇas. On comparing this list with that of Śivapurāṇa we find a marked difference. By way of illustration : (i) Pargiter's list of Ayodhyā dynasty places Kākutstha as the direct descendant of Vikukṣi-Śaśāda while in Śivapurāṇa Kākutstha is the immediate descendant of Ayodha who is not mentioned in Pargiter's list. (ii) Arinābha of Śivapurāṇa is substituted by Anenas in Pargiter. (iii) After Purukutsa Pargiter mentions Trasadasyu, Sambhūta, Anaraṇya, Trasadaśva, Haryaśva, Vasumanas and Tridhanvan. These names are omitted in Śivapurāṇa which mentions Trayyāruṇi as the immediate descendant of Purukutsa. Śivapurāṇa mentions Anaraṇya, Muṇdidruha and Niṣadha after Sarvakarman or Śarvaśarman while these are omitted in Pargiter. Instead Pargiter mentions a series of eleven kings who are not found in Śivapurāṇa at all.

With these variations, Śivapurāṇa proceeds with the statement of genealogies and deeds of glorious monarchs. But the statements are meagre, for Śivapurāṇa is not interested in furnishing details.³⁰ Still in regard to the solar dynasty of

29. AIHT. PP. 144-149.

30. Vāyaviya I. 17. 61-65.

राज्ञामपि च यो वंशो द्विधा सोऽपि प्रवर्तते ।

सूयवंशः सोमवंश इति पुण्यतमः क्षितौ ॥