

ŚIVAPURĀṆA

VIDYĒŚVARASAMHITĀ

CHAPTER ONE

(*The Doubt of the Sages*)

(*Benedictory Prayer*)

I meditate on Śiva, the lord of Ambikā (Pārvati), auspicious from the beginning to the end, having no parallel, the noble lord, the unaging and the undying, the lord of Ātmans, the five-faced²⁵ and the dispeller of the five powerful sins.

*Vyāsa*²⁶ said :—

1—2. Sages of edified souls, engaged in truthful rites, powerful and blessed, performed a great sacrifice at the confluence of Gaṅgā and Kālindī (Yamunā) in the most sacred

25. Pañcānanam : In Hindu Mythology God Śiva has five faces. Pāśupata teachers had developed a special doctrine of Pañca-Brahma in which they ascribed five faces to Śiva symbolising the five elements (*Līṅga*. 2. 14. 1. 33., *ŚP* I. 10. 1-9). It is stated that Śiva has the form of twentyfive tattvas symbolised by his five faces as follows :

<i>N. of faces</i>	<i>Mūrtis</i>	<i>Jñānendriyas</i>	<i>Karmendriyas</i>	<i>Tanmātras</i>	<i>Bhūtas</i>
1. Isāna	Kṣetrajña puruṣa	Śravaṇa	Vāk	Śabda	Ākāśa
2. Tat-Puruṣa	Prakṛti	Tvacā	Pāṇi	Śparśa	Vāyu
3. Aghora or Buddhi	Cakṣu	Pāda	Rūpa	Agni	Agni
4. Vāmadeva	Ahaṅkāra	Jihvā	Pāyu	Rasa	Jala
5. Sadyo-jāta	Manastattva	Ghrāṇa	Upastha	Gandha	Ṭṛthivi

Thus the whole scheme of creation is explained by the doctrine of Pañca-Brahma. The great statue of Śiva in the Elephanta caves represents the Pañca-Brahma form which is also known as Maheśamūrti in which the frontal view depicts three heads only, the fourth one on the back is concealed from view and the fifth one on the top dropped out as the symbol of invisible Ākāśa or Avyakta Prakṛti : See V. S. Agrawal : *Matsya Purāṇa : A Study* PP. 51-52.

26. Vyāsa : The title is applied to Vedavyāsa, the arranger of the Vedas, the compiler of the Mahābhārata, the founder of the Vedānta philosophy and the arranger of the Purāṇas. Dowson doubts the identity of these different arrangers. Vyāsa is also called Kṛṣṇa-Dvaipāyana. From his complexion he received the name Kṛṣṇa and from his birth place he was called Dvaipāyana.