

Vāraṇasailendra—Śiva in Kāñci.

Br. IV. 5. 7.

Vāraṇāvatam—the city of Hastināpura; Satyabhāmā goes there to complain to Kṛṣṇa often about the death of her father by Śatadhanvā;¹ here Kṛṣṇa went to perform the last obsequies to the Pāṇḍavas who were reported to have been burnt down.²

¹ Vā. 96. 61. ² Br. III. 71. 63; Vi. IV. 13. 70.*Vārā*—a Śakti.

Br. IV. 32. 17.

Vārāṇasī—Kāśī: sacred to Hari;¹ fit for Śrāddha offering, and sacred to Lalitā;² the capital of Divodāsa devastated by the Rākṣasa Kṣemaka, resulting in the change of capital to Gomatī. The abode of Śiva and Umā after their marriage, and hence the name Avimuktam Kṣetram;³ the goddess enshrined here is Viśālākṣī: a place of pilgrimage;⁴ capital of Rudraśreṇya of the Yadu race: city where Mārkaṇḍeya lived.⁵ Lord became Kṣetrapāla: the Yakṣa Harikeśa performed penance here;⁶ the place of Yogis and Siddhas: death here is release from rebirth;⁷ a siddha kṣetra where Śiva and His consort live all the three yugas and make Avimuktam gr̥ham in Kaliyuga;⁸ *avatār* of Lāṅgali at, in the 22nd dvāpara;⁹ cursed by Nikumbha to become deserted for 1,000 years;¹⁰ burnt down by Kṛṣṇa.¹¹

¹ Bhā. VII. 14. 31; X. 66. 40. ² Br. III. 13. 101; IV. 44. 93.
³ Ib. III. 67. 26-62. ⁴ M. 13. 26; 22.7. ⁵ Ib. 43. 11; 103. 13. ⁶ Ib. 180. 1-5, 15 and 54. ⁷ Ib. 180. 72-79. ⁸ Vā. 77. 93; 92. 27, 58-59; 99. 315.
⁹ Ib. 23. 198. ¹⁰ 92. 23-28. ¹¹ Vi. V. 34. 3, 39-41.

Vārāṇasī Māhātmyam—Śiva addresses Pārvatī on, in taking her out and showing the grandeur and majesty of the forest and garden round about Kāśī; the place of Vidyā-