

# What is a Sattvic Purana?

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There's been a lot of discussion about what is a sattvic Purana in the last couple of weeks. The exchange has gone back and forth and for me there has been a definite conclusion. Others still seem to be confused or a little off base. I did a search on "sattvic Purana" in Folio. Everyone can draw their own conclusions. I suggest that this thread should end here. Besides it's very hard to follow a thread, especially when the participants change the name of the subject and also bounce it to other conferences. I have compiled a log of the thread since its inception and if anyone is interested in a copy I can upload it to the conference. If you follow the whole thread it's very easy to see where errors have been made. Some of us just aren't reading carefully what the other person is saying. On with the quotes.

"They are not manufactured. Actual fact. Just like history, you know the historical facts are facts, they are not manufactured. So here this very word is used, itihāsam. Itihāsam means history. Itihāsam purānam. But it is very old. All these Puranas... This purana means, purana means "very old." Very old history. Purana, this word means "old." So there are eighteen Puranas in Vedic literature. Because there are three kinds of living entities... Some of them are in goodness, some of them are in passion, and some of them are in ignorance. For all people, there are different kinds of Puranas. Those who are in the modes of passion and ignorance, they cannot generally understand the historical references made in the sattvic Purana. Just like this Bhagavat, Srimad-Bhagavatam is also one of the Puranas, essence of history. Whole history. Similarly, Brahmanda Purana, Visnu Purana, these are Puranas in the modes of goodness. There are different types of people."

Prabhupada's Lectures Srimad-Bhagavatam 1970 700115SB.LA

"When I was in London I saw there was, there is a nice Regent Park. There are many swans. The park is mostly flower, rose flower, nice park. So they are living there. And the crows, where they live? They'll go where you throw away all nasty things. They will go and enjoy there. You see. The crows. Why? Why the crows do not like the swans, and the white swans do not like these crows? These are the different qualities. The whole world is moving in different qualities. Therefore the quality of goodness, that has to be acquired in human

form of life. This temple is meant for the persons who are in the quality of goodness. Those who are after the essence of the world. Paramahamsa. And this, our Krsna consciousness movement is also meant for the paramahamsas. Not for the crow-like men, but swan-like men, those who are white swans, trying to live in a very nice place, clear water, nice tree, nice fruits. So in the Srimad-Bhagavatam in the beginning you'll find in the introduction, paramo nirmatsaranam satam.

Dharmah projjhita-kaitavah atra. Atra means "in this book, in this transcendental literature," dharmah projjhita-kaitavo 'tra... Kaitavah means cheating. Dharmah means religiosity. Religiosity or the cheating type of religiosity is not here. It is for paramo nirmatsaranam, for persons who are not envious."

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"So what Krsna says, the Bhagavata also says the same thing. Bhagavata begins, param satyam dhimahi: "The Supreme, I offer my respect to the Supreme." Om namo bhagavate vasudevaya: "I offer my respectful obeisances to Lord Vasudeva." Vasudeva means Krsna. So samsarinam karunayahe purana-guhyam. Purana. Purana means... sometimes the Mayavadis, they say these Puranas are stories. No. They are not stories. It comes from the Purana. Purana means filling up, supplementary, to complete it. Puranas, they are not out of the Vedic literature. Ramayana, Mahabharata, Purana, they are all belonging to the Vedic literature. Especially Srimad-Bhagavatam is called Maha-Purana. Therefore Maha-Purana... Why Maha-Purana? Purana-guhyam. Very confidential Purana.

There are sattvic Purana, rajasic Purana, tamasic Purana. Three kinds of Puranas. So the aim is to take the leader on the liberation platform, but according to the quality. In the tamasic Purana there are recommendations for goddess Kali and other. And rajasic Purana there is recommendation for yajna or worshiping the demigods in the heavenly planet, Indra, Chandra. But in the sattvic Purana only Visnu, Lord Visnu, is recommended to be worshiped. So this is called purana-guhyam because in this Purana you won't find any recommendation for worshiping any other demigod. Simply satyam param dhimahi. Only the absolute. Satyam param. The ultimate Absolute Truth, Krsna, om namo bhagavate vasudevaya.

Samsarinam karunayaha purana-guhyam. He first of all spoke Srimad-Bhagavatam being compassionate to the people suffering from these material pangs. Tam vyasa-sunum upayami gurum muninam. Gurum muninam. "He's not only my guru, but he is guru, spiritual master, of great sages and saintly persons." Even Vyasadeva also considered his son greater than himself. When Sukadeva Goswami

appeared in the assembly where many saintly persons were present at the time of Maharaja Pariksit, so at the time all the munis stood up to received him. All the munis. Even there was Vyasadeva, he also stood up. Therefore he is gurum muninam. He is spiritual master of all saintly persons. Read purport.

Pradyumna: "In this prayer, Srila Suta Goswami practically summarizes the complete introduction of Srimad-Bhagavatam. Srimad-Bhagavatam is the natural supplementary commentary on the Vedanta-sutras. The Vedanta-sutras or the Brahma-sutras were compiled by Vyasadeva with a view to presenting just the cream of Vedic knowledge."

Prabhupada: Yes. First of all, there was only one Veda, Atharva Veda. Then he divided according to the subject matter into four Vedas: Sama, Yajur, Atharva, Rg. Then he explained the Vedas by the Puranas, and he compiled Mahabharata also for same purpose, how one can understand the Vedic literature.# Stri-sudra-dvija-bandhunam Trayina sruti-gocara. Those who are less intelligent, woman, sudra, and dvija-bandhu... Dvija-bandhu means those who are born in brahmana family but are not just to the quality. They are called dvija-bandhu. For them is this Mahabharata. And at the end he compiled, he summarized the whole thing by writing Vedanta-sutra. Still, he was not happy, and under the direction of his spiritual master Narada he wrote himself the commentary on the Vedanta-sutra, and that is# Srimad-Bhagavatam. Go on.

Pradyumna: "Srimad-Bhagavatam is the natural commentary on this cream. Srila Sukadeva Goswami was a thoroughly realized master of the Vedanta-sutra, and consequently he also personally realized the commentary, Srimad-Bhagavatam. And just to show his boundless mercy upon bewildered materialistic men who want to cross completely over nescience, he recited for the first time this confidential knowledge. There is no point in arguing that a materialistic man can be happy. No materialistic creature, be he the great Brahma or an insignificant ant, can be happy. Everyone tries to make a permanent plan for happiness, but everyone is baffled by the laws of material nature. Therefore the materialistic world is called the darkest region of God's creation. Yet the unhappy materialists can get out of it simply by desiring to get out. Unfortunately they are so foolish that they do not want to escape."

Prabhupada's Lectures Srimad-Bhagavatam 1971 710824SB.LON

"Now, that example is being narrated by a practical historical reference. Here it is said that itihasa codaharanti. It is exemplified from the historical reference. So all the narrations or stories that are mentioned in the Puranas and Vedic literature, they are historical references. They are not manufactured. Actual fact. Just like history, you know, the historical facts

are facts. They are not manufactured. So here this very word is used, itihāsam. Itihāsam means history. Itihāsam purānam, but it is very old. All these Purānas... This purāna means, purāna means very old, very old history. Purāna, this word, very word, means old.

So there are eighteen Purānas in Vedic literature. Because there are three kinds of living entities—some of them are in goodness, some of them are in passion, and some of them are in ignorance—for all people, there are different kinds of Purānas. Those who are in the modes of passion and ignorance, they cannot generally understand the historical references made in the sattvic Purāna. Just like this Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is also one of the Purānas, essence of history, old history. Similarly, Brahmanda Purāna, Viṣṇu Purāna, these are Purānas in the modes of goodness. There are different types of people."

Prabhupada's Lectures Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1972 720820SB.LA

"So actually, Brahma, Viṣṇu, Mahesvara, they are the principal directors of the three guṇas. Therefore Brahma, Viṣṇu, Mahesvara, they are called guṇavatara. Lord Viṣṇu is in charge of sattva-guṇa activities. Therefore brahmanas, the symbol of sattva-guṇa, they are Vaiṣṇavas. Formerly, in each and every home of a brahmana, there was Viṣṇu worship. A brahmana cannot worship any other demigods, except Viṣṇu. Because Viṣṇu is in charge of the sattva-guṇa and brahmana is also in the sattva-guṇa. So Viṣṇu asya devata. For this reason brahmana's another title is Vaiṣṇava. Brahmana-vaiṣṇava. Or brahmana-pandita. So on account of the three guṇas, there are three types of Vedic literature. Not directly śruti, but smṛti, the Purānas, they are divided into three divisions: sattvic Purāna, rājasic Purāna and tamasic Purāna. Siva Purāna, Devī Purāna, they are rājasic. Brahmanda Purāna, Viṣṇu Purāna, Śrīmad-Bhāgavat Purāna, they are sattvic Purānas. The whole scheme is that everyone, every living entity within this material world, they are infected. That we have discussed. The most inferior infection is the rajas-tamah."

Prabhupada's Lectures Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1972 721103SB.VRN

"There are eighteen Purānas. Out of that, this Padma Purāna is one of the most important Purānas. Vyamohaya caracarasya jagatas te purānagamas tam tam eva hi devatam paramikam jalpantu kalpavadhi, siddhante tu punar eka eva bhagavan viṣṇuh samastagama-vyaparesu vivecana-vyatikaram nitesu nisciyate. In different Purānas... These Purānas are made just to complete Vedic knowledge, or supplementary addition to the Vedic literature. Because Vedic literature is very difficult to understand, therefore they have been expanded by the Purānas for different classes of men. So there are three divisions of the Purānas:

sattvic Purana, rajasic Purana and tamasic Purana. Sattvic Purana is meant for the higher class of people who are in transcendental knowledge of Brahman, Paramatma and the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Rajasic Purana are meant for those who are aspiring to have improvement of material condition. And tamasic Purana are meant for those who are in the lowest stage, just like animal life, and to develop them the Purana is helping them to come to the second and first stage.

So in the Puranas there are worship of different demigods. Just like in the tamasic Purana there is description of the worship of goddess Kali. You have seen perhaps the picture of goddess Kali, a black female standing with sword and cutting the heads of so many people like that, that picture, goddess Kali. And animal sacrifice is offered before goddess Kali. So such kind of worship is mentioned in the tamasic Purana. The purpose of such worship and demigods, several times I have explained to you. So Padma Purana is a sattvic Purana, for men who are in the mode of goodness. So here it said that although in the different Puranas there are recommendations for worshipping different kinds of demigods, but at the conclusion it is found that Visnu, the Supreme Lord, He is all in all, all in all."

Prabhupada's Lectures Caitanya-caritamrta 1966 661201CC.NY

"Lord Caitanya's mission as preaching was based on, cent per cent, on the principles of Srimad-Bhagavatam. And Bhagavad-gita is the basic, I mean to say, preliminary study of Srimad-Bhagavatam. Therefore in Caitanya-caritamrta you'll find most of the parallel passages and evidences offered by Lord Caitanya, they are from Srimad-Bhagavatam and Bhagavad-gita and some of the Puranas. Just like Visnu Purana, Padma Purana. They are called sattvic Purana, Puranas in the modes of goodness. There are eighteen Puranas, six for each quality, mode of the nature. Six Puranas for the person who are in the mode of ignorance, six Puranas for the person who are in the mode of passion and six Puranas for persons who are in the mode of goodness, those who are actually qualified brahmanas.

So Srimad-Bhagavatam is called Maha-purana. Maha-purana means the topmost of all the puranas. You have seen the review by the Theosophical Society of India of my books. They have stated this very word, Maha-purana, Bhagavatam, the Maha-purana. So Lord Caitanya gives evidences from the Maha-puranam, Srimad-Bhagavatam, that the Supreme Lord, the Absolute Truth is analyzed in two characteristics. What are they? The personal characteristics and tatastha characteristics. Tatastha means they are sometimes manifested and they are sometimes not manifested. So this material world is the tatastha characteristics. And the spiritual world is the personal characteristics. So our effort is to get out of this tatastha, or, I mean to say, tatastha means

marginal, marginal characteristics to the permanent characteristics. That is called spiritual elevation. We should not remain in the marginal state, but we should go to the permanent state. Thank you very much."

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