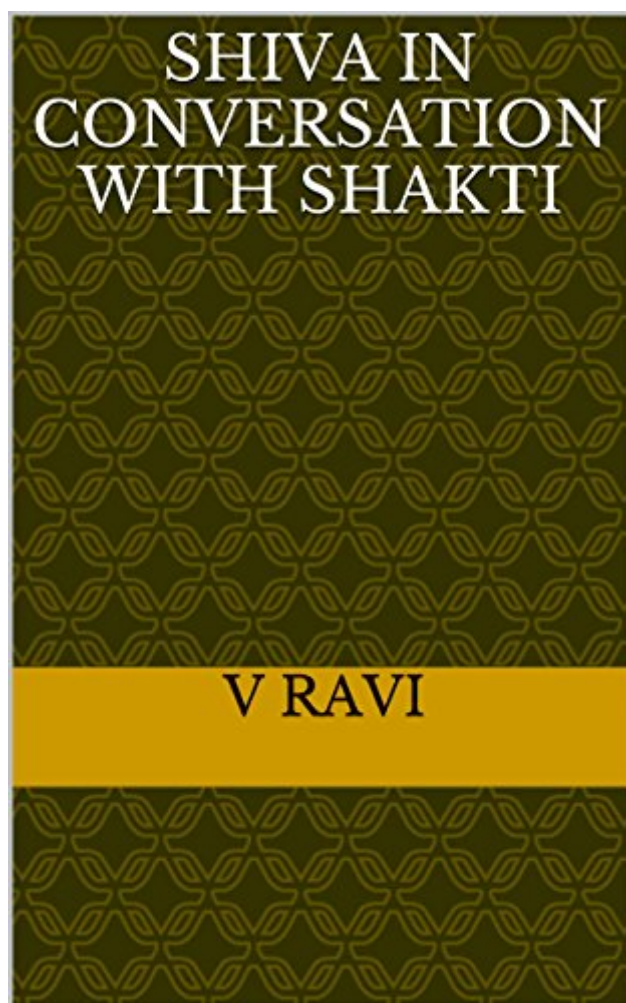


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SHIVA IN CONVERSATION WITH SHAKTI



Synopsis

Kali Yuga is often described as age of darkness, because kali refers to the last and worst of the four Yugas or ages. Kali has got many interpretations depending upon the context. Some of the commonly understood meanings of Kali are strife, discord, quarrel, contention, etc. There is a reference to this in detail in *Ā rĀmad BhĀgavata* (IV.viii.3). In general, it is believed that God realization is difficult in kali yuga, due to the predominance of adharma (unrighteousness, injustice, wickedness) over dharma (virtue, morality). It is also interesting to note that kali also refers to symbolical expression for the numeric 1 (probably referring to numero uno). If we seriously investigate why adharma prevails over dharma in the recent times, we will find huge imbalance in the three guá ṭa-s - sattvic, rajas and tamas. Sattva guá ṭa means the quality of purity and knowledge. The presence of other two guá ṭa-s is not very prominent in sattva guá ṭa as this guá ṭa is endowed with the highest purity. Rajo guá ṭa is the activity of passion. Tamo guá ṭa is inertia or ignorance. These two guá ṭa-s have higher trace of other guá ṭa-s. Guá ṭa-s are the inherent qualities of Praká ṭi. Ego and intellect originate from guá ṭa-s that are present in all the evolutes of Praká ṭi at once, but distributed in unequal proportions in each individual. The predominant guá ṭa that prevails in an individual is reflected through his thoughts and actions. Ká ṭá Ṭá ṭa explains guá ṭa-s in *Bhagavad GĀta* (IV.6 - 9) â œSattva, rajas and tamas - these three qualities born of Praká ṭi (Nature) tie down the imperishable soul to the body. Of these, sattva being immaculate is illuminating and flawless; it binds through identification with joy and wisdom. The quality of rajas is in the nature of passion, as born of avariciousness and attachment. It binds the soul through attachment to actions and their fruits. Tamas, the deluder of all those who look upon the body as their own self, are born of ignorance. It binds the soul through error, sloth and sleep. Sattva drives one to joy, and rajas to action, while tamas clouding the wisdom incites one to err as well as sleep and sloth.â • Ká ṭá Ṭá ṭa again says (*Bhagavad GĀta* XIV.20), â œHaving transcended the aforesaid guá ṭa-s, which have caused the body, and freed from birth, death, old age and all kinds of sorrow, this soul attains the supreme bliss.â • This book will make an attempt to explain how to transcend these guá ṭa-s to experience bliss, which is the infantile stage of our spiritual pursuit. The entire series will be in the form imaginary conversation between Shiva and Shakti. It would be ideal to read this series after reading the following two series. This book covers birth, death, transmigration of a soul after death, its requirements after exit, Self-realization, transmigration and finally, Liberation. The entire book will be logical, pragmatic and realistic in its approach and may not be based on certain practices that are being followed today. Shiva and His Consort Shakti descend from Mount KailĀsa to the material world and while going around the

material world, Shakti seeks various clarifications from Shiva. Hence this series is titled as SHIVA IN CONVERSATION WITH SHAKTI.

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