

Chapter 1 : Temples of Lord Shiva - Info, History, Timing, Photos, Map and Videos

Shiva Nataraja is the lord of the dance who sweeps away illusion & Ignorance. Shiva in Mythology As with any major god, Shiva was involved in many adventurous episodes which illustrate his virtuous character and offer instruction on how to live correctly.

Shiva is the destroyer, the most powerful god of the Hindu pantheon and one of the godheads in the Hindu Trinity. Hindus recognize this by putting his shrine in the temple separate from those of other deities. Lord Shiva is the destroyer and also has a positive side in that destruction usual leads to new forms of existence. Lord Shiva is described in art with four hand, four faces and three eyes. The third eye keeps this power to destroy the creation, not only creation including gods and humans. In the Vedas, a collection of ancient sacred texts, Lord Shiva is identified with the storm god Rudra. Click on this slide show for more! How was Lord Shiva born? There is a very interesting story behind the birth of lord Shiva. One day Brahma and Vishnu both were arguing about which of them were more powerful. That time one great blazing pillar appeared whose roots and branches extended beyond view into the earth and sky. Now the Gods, Brahma and Vishnu began to find out the start and the end of that pillar. Brahma turned into goose and flew up to find the top of the pillar, while Vishnu turned into a boar and dug into the earth to look for its roots. After being unsuccessful, both came back and saw Lord Shiva emerging from an opening in the pillar. Click on the further slides to know the unknown powers of Lord Shiva! Click on this slide show for more! Roles and power of Lord Shiva Lord Shiva is a very complex God having many roles and powers. If we will talk of his destroyer role, Shiva often hunts cemeteries, wearing a headdress of snakes and a necklace of skulls. A band of terrifying demons, hungry for blood, accompanies him. Shiva can help human as well as Gods. When Shiva dances, he represents truth, and by dancing he banishes ignorance and helps relieve the suffering of his follows. Click on this slide show for more! According to one myth, Shiva saved the gods and the world from destruction by swallowing the poison of Vasuki, a serpent the gods used to produce the water of life. After a wise man changed the course of the river, it became a raging torrent and threatened to flood the earth. Shiva stood beneath the river and let its waters wind through his hair to calm its flow. Click on this slide show for more! In another story, the gods were threatened by demons and asked Shiva for help. He agreed on the condition that the gods lend him some of their own strength. However, after defeating the demons, Shiva refused to return the borrowed strength. As a result, he became the most powerful being in the universe. Click on this slide show for more! Shiva also has many weapons that make him unbeatable, including a club with a skull on the end, a sword and spear made from thunderbolts, and a bow made from a rainbow.

Chapter 2 : History of Shaivism, Lord Shiva in Vedic Literature and Recorded History

Shiva is known by many names such as Viswanatha (lord of the universe), Mahadeva, Mahandeo, Mahasu, Mahesha, Maheshvara, Shankara, Shambhu, Rudra, Hara, Trilochana, Devendra (chief of the gods), Neelakanta, Subhankara, Trilokinatha (lord of the three realms), and Ghrneshwar (lord of compassion).

A male dancer is termed Koothan. Also known as Natarajan in Tamil, meaning "Naatiyathin" of dance "Raajan" king. Naatiyam or Nadanam is another word for dance in Tamil. Depiction[edit] The dance of Shiva in Tillai, the traditional name for Chidambaram , forms the motif for all the depictions of Shiva as Nataraja. He is also known as "Sabesan" which splits as "Sabayil aadum eesan" in Tamil which means "The Lord who dances on the dais ". This form is present in most Shiva temples, and is the prime deity in the Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram. The symbolism in the art has been variously interpreted by scholars since the Chola empire era: The fire also represents the evils, dangers, heat, warmth, light and joys of daily life. The arch of fire emerges from two makara on each end, which are water creatures of water and part of Hindu mythologies. His legs are bent, which suggests an energetic dance. His long, matted tresses, are shown to be loose and flying out in thin strands during the dance, spread into a fan behind his head, because of the wildness and ecstasy of the dance. On his right side, meshed in with one of the flying strands of his hair near his forehead, is typically the river Ganges personified as a goddess, from the Hindu mythology where the danger of a mighty river is creatively tied to a calm river for the regeneration of life. The upper left hand contains Agni or fire, which signifies forces of creation and destruction. The opposing concepts show the counterpoise nature of life. A cobra uncoils from his lower right forearm, while his palm shows the Abhaya mudra meaning fearlessness in Sanskrit , suggesting not to fear nearby evil, as well as evil and ignorance surrounding the devotee as he or she follows the righteousness of dharma. The lower left hand is bent downwards at the wrist with the palm facing inward away from the viewer and points towards the raised left foot so that it is diametrically opposite to the lower right arm Abaya mudra. The face shows two eyes plus a slightly open third on the forehead, which symbolize the triune in Shaivism. The eyes represent the sun, the moon and the third has been interpreted as the inner eye, or symbol of knowledge jnana , urging the viewer to seek the inner wisdom, self-realization. Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. The dwarf on which Nataraja dances is the demon Apasmara purusha Muyalaka , as it is known in Tamil , and which symbolises action and dance that leads to victory over demonic evil and ignorance. The slightly smiling face of Shiva represents his calmness despite being immersed in the contrasting forces of universe and his energetic dance. Notwithstanding such claims, it is clear that the Chola style statues are remarkably different and unique when compared to the other sculptures listed below in the gallery. This is represented by the circular or elliptical frame surrounding Shiva. Secondly, the purpose of his dance is to release the souls of all men from the snare of illusion. Lastly, the place of the dance, Chidambaram , which is portrayed as the center of the universe, is actually within the heart. Nataraja, states James Lochtefeld, symbolizes "the connection between religion and the arts", and it represents Shiva as the lord of dance, encompassing all "creation, destruction and all things in between". The details in the Nataraja artwork has attracted commentaries and secondary literature such as poems detailing its theological significance. Pancha Sabhai A statue of Shiva engaging in the Nataraja dance gifted by India placed at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland One of earliest known Nataraja artworks has been found in the archaeological site at Chidambaram village in Tamilnadu , which includes an inscription, and is dated to about the 6th century CE. Stone reliefs depicting the classical form of Nataraja are found in numerous cave temples of India, such as the Ellora Caves Maharashtra , the Elephanta Caves , and the Badami Caves Karnataka , by around the 6th-century. The dancing Shiva became a part of Chola era processions and religious festivals, a practice that continued thereafter. Hundreds of years ago, Indian artists created visual images of dancing Shivas in a beautiful series of bronzes. In our time, physicists have used the most advanced technology to portray the patterns of the cosmic dance. The metaphor of the cosmic dance thus unifies ancient mythology, religious art and modern physics.

Chapter 3 : Lord Shiva History among Brahma Vishnu Mahesh

Varanasi history related to Lord Shiva: Varanasi is the holy city of Lord Shiva and has become one of the seven sacred cities of Hindus. The city has been described in many Hindu scriptures such as Rigveda, Skanda Purana, Ramayana, and Mahabharata.

She is the reincarnation of Sati who was the first wife of Lord Shiva. There is quite an interesting story regarding the birth and marriage of Goddess Parvati. Lord Shiva was married to Sati who was the daughter of Daksha. The aesthetic lifestyle of Lord Shiva was disliked by Daksha and he firmly disapproved of the marriage of his daughter to him. This anger manifested itself when he conducted a very big yagna or religious sacrifice where he invited all the Gods but purposefully forgot to call his daughter or her husband. Knowing about this Lord Shiva asked his wife Sati not to go to the yagna but she uninvited only to be insulted and ridiculed there. Unable to stand the insult meted out to her husband she jumped into the fire of the yagna and died. Lord Shiva was livid with rage and destroyed and killed everything in his path including Daksha. Lord Vishnu used his discus to cut the dead body of Sati into several pieces and this helped calm the anger of Lord Shiva. However he was greatly disturbed by the death of his wife and retreated into a cave to meditate. It was during this time that the demons drove out the Gods from the heavens and the only option available to them was to seek the help of Lord Shiva. As he was not available they approached Mother Sakthi who informed them that Sati will be born as Goddess Parvati and the son from the union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati will be able to destroy the demons. As promised to the Gods Sati was reborn as Goddess Parvati. Even as a young girl she was in love with Lord Shiva and wanted to marry him. In an effort to win his love and affection she decided to visit the cave where he was meditating and started cleaning and decorating it. However he remained unmoved by her love and dedication. She also tried bringing fruits for him but he remained steadfast in his meditation. There are stories that indicate that Goddess Parvati was shunned by him due to her dark skin. In a final attempt to win his love and affection, she decided to do penance in the forest. She did the toughest of penance with no food and clothes to shelter her. She continued her penance in rain and sun and her determination finally moved Lord Brahma who promised to grant her a wish. She wished to become extremely beautiful so that Lord Shiva would love her. Lord Brahma granted her wish and she was blessed with immense beauty. She walked inside the cave radiating feminine beauty and grace and Lord Shiva was enchanted with her. He fell in love with her and they got married. Lord Kartikeya was born out of their union and went on to destroy the demons as promised to the Gods. Lord Ganesha was created by Goddess Parvati and asked to safeguard the entrance of her abode. When Lord Shiva returned after fighting a battle with the asuras he was not allowed to enter as Lord Ganesha was not aware about him. In a bid to pacify her he ordered his men to bring the head of the first living being that come across. They got the head of the elephant and thus was created Lord Ganesha. One Response so far.

Chapter 4 : History of Lord Shiva ~ Kailashnath Mahadev

Lord Shiva is infinite, almighty and omnipotent. Everywhere is presence of them. They have the greatest family ever possible. Greatness of their family is surprising, filled with devotion, truth and surrender.

Tuesday, March 24, , 7: Almost all of us have seen people worshipping Shiva in the form of the Shivalinga, a stone like shape usually black in color. And many of us too would have worshipped him in Linga form. But, do you know why we accept Shivalinga as Lord Shiva, the story of Shivalinga. How it came into existence? What is the reason of its shape? As we know, each belief or event has story about it in many forms. In the same way, the story behind shivalinga is not single as well. It differs person to person, puran to puran and in other religious books or verses. But to the main and most to be believed on, there are two stories. The first one is as follows- Once upon a time in the legendary history of our universe, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu came into a dispute debate about the superiority and most powerful one. Lord Vishnu became a boar and headed towards down and Lord Brahma took a shape of a swan and flew up to find the upper point. And thus afterwards Shiva was worshiped the shape of that pillar being a Shivalinga, the symbole of energy, truth and dignity. The other one is as- Thousands of years ago, there were a group of sages who worshiped Lord Shiva a lot. On seeing the Avadhoot, the wives of some sages got befuddled and ran away but some of them got attracted and came toward him. When the sages saw the Avadhooth with their wives, they got furious and cursed that his phallus should fall, and it happened. The lingam fell and started burning the places it turned including all the three lokas- the earth, the underworld and the heaven. In all this panic, the sages along with all the devas of heaven went to Brahma for its solution. Brahma told the sages that every guest even in the form of an Avadhooth must be treated with respect, as they cursed their guest instead of respecting him. Brahma then advised the solution that they must request goddess Parvathi to assume the form of Yoni to hold the Lingam and a pot to be put over it filled with water to pour on it and to be invoked with Vaidik Mantras. Thus the destruction came into control and the shape was called as Shivalinga. It added the message that life comes into existence due to both the males and female being equally responsible.

Chapter 5 : Untold story of Lord Shiva and his birth!- Daily Bhaskar

Everybody knows that Shiva is 'shakti' or power. Shiva is the destroyer, the most powerful god of the Hindu pantheon and one of the godheads in the Hindu Trinity. Known by many names - Mahadeva.

Everywhere is presence of them. They have the greatest family ever possible. Greatness of their family is surprising, filled with devotion, truth and surrender. Simplicity of them is such that they wear snakes, has trishula in hand, are in meditation. But also they have power to create everything in tiny fraction of time. Even time is also created by them. Power of them is unimaginable, even when all Puranas says them as impossible to explain. They stay in Kailasa which is beyond physical dimensions. For welfare of human, they comes in Earth with real form as well as Avatars. In real form Saakar form , which also known as Mahesh, Lord Shiva have family. However first question one ask is who is father of Lord Shiva? It is deep question which requires to know about event like Lingodbhava and at time of starting of universe. But in short Lord Shiva is appear by themselves, they have no parents, no father. Lord Shiva is "Swayambhu", who is born by themselves. Here born word may not exactly describe it. Mahadev is eternal, who is always there but they are not in form of which known as "Saakar form". They are in form which question nothingness. Time when nothing is there, Mahadev is there. When nothing will there, Mahadev will there. Here nothing means nothing, which means space, time, energy or anything is not there. This is difficult to understand. But it is eternal truth. In present time also, everything is not there, world is illusion, the only reality is Lord Shiva. What we see, what one experience is divine play of Lord Shiva. It is wish of Mahadev to create everything. As part of their divine play, they differentiate in form of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. If we see this form, in this form Lord Shiva have two wives, who are essentially same, Aadishakti. In first incarnation, Goddess Shakti born as Sati from Daksha. But because Daksha insult Mahadev, she go away from body. In second Avatar, she born as Parvati in home of Himalay. By penance, she get Lord Shiva as husband. First son of Lord Shiva is Kartikeya who kill Tarakasura and protect everyone from danger. Second son is Ganesha, get blessing of first worship before any gods. In one incident, he win competition by Parikrama of his mother and Father while Kartikeya do Parikrama of all world. Ganesha has two wives. Name of wives are Riddhi and Siddhi, who is reason for siddhic power and wealth. Sons are Subha and Labha. So, family tree of Lord Shiva will be according to Shiva Purana is as follows: Lord Shiva also has daughter who is mentioned in Padma Purana. Name of her is Ashoka Sundari. Who is Lord Shiva? Lord Shiva is Supreme, who have infinite power. Universe is just thinking of them. They have two forms. Nirakar When they are in shapeless form, a form in which they create world, is called "Nirakar". When God Shiva want to become "Saakar", appear as form in which they have three eyes, ash, Ganga on hair and various qualities. They have highest level of perfectness which ever possible. They show their power to all world by divine play. By penance of Daksha, she born in home of him. As time passes, Goddess Sati becomes young. She knows about Lord Shiva, and has a only wish to get them. She start Penance and Vrat with pure devotion. Shiva test him by coming and saying wrong things about themselves. But Sati pass this test, and she get Lord Shiva as husband. Goddess Sati ask Shiva reason behind not inviting them. By this event, Daksha decided to insult Shiva and therefore he organized Yagya. Shiva try to understand her, but she wants to go in any case. Finally, Lord Shiva gives permission. Sati go into Yagya, meet her mother. She find her father and ask reason to not including. But Daksha insult Mahadev by hard words. She becomes angry and thinks, I should not stay in body which born from Daksha. This body has no purpose for me. And soon, she leave her body by breathing method. Fire generates from body. Mahadev knows the disappearance of Sati. They take an avatar of Virabhadra. Virabhadra and thousands of other Ganas go at Yagya place. Ganas destroy almost everything and cut the part of bodies of demigods. Who stands with Daksha when he insult Lord Shiva, are injured by Virabhadra. Virabhadra also punished Daksha by cutting his head. After Lord Shiva come there. They reverse the damages and return body parts of Devtas. Shiva gives life to everyone who killed by Virabhadra and make everything normal. Also they are sad because of disappearance of Goddess Sati. They are so sad that they take body of Sati and go everywhere. Devtas worried by it and request Shri Vishnu to solve problem. Vishnu cut body of Sati by Sudarshana chakra into 51 piece.

These Pieces fall on Earth, and place where they are is called "Shaktipitha". After they become calm and meditate. After listening by Naarada, Parvati know about future husband, and decided to marry with them. She go to place where Lord Shiva meditate and serve them whenever they need. Parvati worship by various methods and try to please Shiva. They continue their penance. At that time, Devtas need a protection against Tarakasura, who has boon by he can only killed by son of Shiva. King of heaven, Indra send Kamadeva at place of meditation of Shiva, to create a material attraction in Shiva. Kamadeva shoot arrow of strong desire. Atmosphere suddenly change, everything become like there is a summer. Lord Shiva interrupt in penance. They open third eye, destroy Kamadev. She become sad to see her husband die. She request Shiva to return her husband back. From her prayer, Shiva pleased. They says, Kamadeva will born in family of Krishna who known as Pradumna. You will meet him again in Dwapar Yuga. After Shiva leave the place. Wish of Parvati to get Lord Shiva is become stronger. She leave her family. She start penance in Forest.

Chapter 6 : History Of Lord Shiva - Welcome To RanaDurga

Lord Shiva and his birth. According to hindu mythology lord shiva is the destroyer in the main three supreme god. There are three supreme gods 1 st one is Lord Shiva, Second one is Brahma and third one Vishnu.

At one time he was worshipped in various parts of the world with different names and methods. He was the lord of the underworld as well as heavens. He was the lord of both men and animals. He was associated with death, fertility cults, worship of bulls and serpents, magical cures, funeral rites, warrior cults, battle field rituals and human sacrifices. There is even an argument that he is the same God of wrath mentioned in the Bible and worshipped by the Muslims in the Kaaba. SHe is revered equally by the ascetics as the highest and Supreme Being Mahesvara and by the masses as the giver of boons, children and virility. His more benign forms emerged with the changes in our consciousness and the progress of our civilization. The Vedic people feared and revered Siva, which is well evident in the early descriptions of him found in the Vedas. They addressed him as Rudra, the howler and weeper and the fierce god of storms and winds. They distrusted and hated those who worshipped him and at the same time sought his protection through invocations against death and disease and his own wrath. Historically the worship of Siva is rooted in prehistoric religious beliefs and precedes the advent of Vedic religion in northwestern India. By the time the Vedic religion gained a foothold in the Indian subcontinent, Lord Siva was already a popular god, worshipped by many people outside the Brahmanical fold. When we read the ancient Hindu scriptures including the Vedas and the Puranas it becomes clear that Siva was not a Vedic deity. He was worshipped in India even before the Vedic civilization, most likely in the mountainous regions of ancient India where there was snowfall and by the communities who lived along the river banks and snake infested plains. Shiva was feared because he caused death by taking heat away from living beings and made them cold. At the same time, he was revered because he saved people from the destructive forces of Nature and brought people back to life by removing poison from their bodies arising from snake bites and curing their diseases with his miraculous chest of medicines. The Vedic people believed in rebirth through male progeny and wealth through cattle. Therefore, they prayed to him for the protection of their children and cattle against disease and death. While we cannot entirely rely upon them for historical facts, we can deduce from the stories and legends contained in them that there was a power struggle of sorts between the worshippers of Shiva and those of the Vedic deities before a compromise emerged and Shiva became an integral part of the Vedic pantheon. Hidden in the stories pertaining to the conflict between Daksha Prajapati and Shiva and the antics of Indra and his attendant deities is the evidence alluding to this conflict and the subsequent compromise. The seals show a male figure with three faces and a pair of horns over his head, seated on a pedestal in a yogic posture with animals on each side. The presence of animals, the horns over the head, the three faces and the yogic posture do remind one of Siva who is considered as Pasupathi or lord of the animals and whose vehicle is bull. The ancient Sumerians, who lived in the southern Mesopotamia during the same period as the Indus people, worshipped a deity who was also called lord of the animals and they had a goddess who was called the lady of the mountains. She reminds us of Parvathi, the consort of Siva, popularly known as the daughter of the mountains. Excavations at Indus sites also revealed polished stone images in the form of male ling and female yoni sexual organs, which indicate that the Indus people practiced some fertility cults in which they worshipped Father God and Mother Goddess. That the Indus people might have practiced some primitive form of Saivism is also evident from the bull or bull like images found in the Indus seals. The Sivan, Chempu and Sembu or the Dravidian Traditions According to historians several features of Saivism, some popular names of Siva including the name Siva itself and worship of Siva came to us from non-Vedic traditions, especially ancient Dravidian traditions. They settled first in northwestern India and then gradually moved inland towards the east and the south. They spoke agglutinative languages, some of which survived in southern India, parts of central Asia 2 and Europe 3. According to some scholars, the Dravidians were originally Lemurians who came from a submerged continent known as Lemuria 4 or Atlantis during prehistoric times and settled down in some parts of the world such as Greece 5 , Mediterranean, India, parts of Europe and probably the Americas 6. The ancient Sumerians 7 and Indus people were probably Dravidians.

Based on some anthropological similarities, some historians believe them to be Semitic in origin while according to some the Dravidian came from nowhere but were indigenous inhabitants of the Indian subcontinent. The Dravidians worshipped Siva, whose name seems to have been derived from the Tamil root word shivan meaning the red one. So is the word Shambhu, an epithet of Siva, from chembu or shembu meaning copper or the red metal. The Dravidians had a written language which they used to record their compositions on Palmyra leaves and create books by binding them together. They housed their deities in temples called ko-ils and invoked them by the traditional Indian method of worship known as pooja or puja, which is the most popular form of worship of gods in Hinduism today, in which water, incense, flowers etc. Apart from Siva, they also worshipped Murugan who is equated with Kumara or Skanda, the elder son of Siva. They worshipped snakes, eagles, several village deities grama devatas and the monkey god who later became famous as Hanuman. Sibuh, the Tribal God Siva in ancient India was also known as Sibuh, the tribal god of Sibis, an ancient Indian tribe, who lived in the area comprising of present day Punjab. Some places in Punjab allude to their ancient connection with Siva such as Sivapura. The Sibis were an ancient warrior tribe. They wore animal skin, carried clubs and wandered from place to place. Probably the Sibis constituted one of the earliest band of aggressive and virulent ascetics, like the modern day Nirankaris of Sikhism, a tradition that was later on revived by Lakulisa and continued by some sects of Saivism, such as the Kapalikas and in recent times by the Virasaivas. Apart from Sibis, we have indications that many tribes of the Vedic period also worshipped Siva, or aspects of Siva, some of which were subsequently identified with the Rudras of the Vedas and integrated into Saiva Mythology. The Vedic texts address Rudra also as Sarva and Bhava, cheat and lord of the thieves, which probably allude to his connection with some neighboring tribes whom they distrusted or feared. The Rudras of the Vedic religion There is no mention of the word Siva in the Vedas referring to a particular god, but only a quality of the gods meaning purity. The Vedic people disliked those who worshipped lingas and called them derogatorily as phallus sisna worshippers. They however worshipped a fierce god, known as Rudra, the father of Maruts, or Rudras or destructive storm-winds, the healer and giver of medicines, the protector of cows from snakes, who was later equated with Siva. In this aspect he was closely associated with Indra and Agni. The Rig-Veda contains three hymns addressed to Rudra, which extol his virtues and also reflect the ambivalent attitude of the Vedic people towards him. According to the early Vedic hymns, Siva was both an inflictor of evil and rescuer from evil and described in contradictory terms possessing many holy and unholy attributes. The Vedic priests beseeched him not to harm them, their heroes, their children or their cattle and also save them from the evil inflicted by others because he alone had the ability to meet evil with evil. They addressed him as lord of sacrifice, the lord of heroes with braided hair, the physician, the giver of medicines, the impetuous Rudra, the perfecter of sacrifice, the wild boar of the sky, the red one, the bounteous one and the ruler of valiant people. They prayed to him for joy, shelter, medicines, health, strength and protection from sickness and anger of gods. Uttering his very name required performance of oblations and purification ceremonies. His unholy qualities were confined to the background, as expressions of an ignorant past, and his principal name became Siva, the holy and auspicious god, the destroyer and cosmic dancer of the Hindu Trinity, who to the pure and holy manifested as the Supreme Being or Mahadeva and to the wicked as Kalabhairava, the fearsome one, or Kali, the dark goddess. As time passed by the auspicious names of Siva grew in number, as is evident from names mentioned in the Sivapurana, suggestive of his increasing popularity and mass appeal, and the sivalingas and siva temples were erected all over the subcontinent as a mark of respect and devotion and to counter the growing influence of ascetic religions like Jainism and Buddhism. When Buddhism declined in southern India, many Buddhist caves and monuments were converted into places of Siva worship. Siva of Foreign Traditions According to James Talboys Wheeler 10, "Siva was a mystic deity of Turanian origin, and described as half-intoxicated with drugs, and associated with ideas of death and reproduction". According to Peter Berresford Ellis 11, the ancient Celtic god Cerunnos, the lord of the animals and a major god in the Celtic pantheon, was Siva. So was Dagda, the good God of the Irish mythology. They appear frequently in the images as seated in the classic lotus position, reminiscent of the images of lord of the animals of the Indus Valley seals. In some images Dadga carries a club, like the ancient Sibis, with which he can both destroy and restore people to life. The Celts also believed

in mother goddess, just as the followers of ancient Saivism. Siva is often compared with Dionysus or Bacchus, the Greek god of wine, ecstasy and vegetation, born to Zeus and the Theban princess Semele. Dionysus incurred the wrath of her rival, Hera, the jealous wife of Zeus, when he traveled to the underworld to rescue his mother. She inflicted madness upon him and made him wander the earth in a state of enchanted madness. During his wanderings he met Rhea who not only cured his madness, but also, for the benefit of his followers, taught him the secrets of happy afterlife. Dionysus continued to roam the earth, accompanied by his enthusiastic followers who clashed cymbals, inflicting madness upon those who opposed him or doubted his divinity. Some European historians erroneously believed that the worship of Siva evolved out of ancient Dionysian cults, where as the opposite is true. About the antecedents of Dionysus, Madame Blavatsky, the founder of Theosophical Society, writes thus Cicero mentions him as a son of Thyone and Nisus. Dionusos means the god Dis from Mount Nys in India. Bacchus, crowned with ivy, or kissos, is Christna, one of whose names was Kissen. Dionysus is preeminently the deity on whom were centered all the hopes for future life; in short, he was the god who was expected to liberate the souls of men from their prisons of flesh. Orpheus, the poet-Argonaut, is also said to have come on earth to purify the religion of its gross, and terrestrial anthropomorphism, he abolished human sacrifice and instituted a mystic theology based on pure spirituality. Cicero calls Orpheus a son of Bacchus. It is strange that both seem to have originally come from India. At least, as Dionysus Zagreus, Bacchus is of undoubted Hindu origin. Some writers deriving a curious analogy between the name of Orpheus and an old Greek term, orphos, dark or tawny-colored, make him Hindu by connecting the term with his dusky Hindu complexion. Brahmanism or Vedism, assimilated the best of both these traditions and transformed itself into a religion of great complexity and diversity. While both Vaishnavism and Buddhism grew partly out of Brahmanical and partly out of Jain traditions, Saivism grew entirely by itself. From Saivism Hinduism derived many concepts such as monism, Samkhya, Yoga and Prakriti, while from Jainism it assimilated concepts such as karma, nonviolence and transmigration of souls. Over a period time Saivism became part of Hinduism, where as Jainism maintained its status as a separate religion. Siva, whom the Vedic people revered and feared, became an important deity of the Hindu pantheon and one of the Trinity gods of Hinduism. Saivism continued to enrich the philosophic, religious and temple traditions of Hinduism for centuries, while its more serious followers grouped themselves into several sects and continued to worship Siva in specific ways, enriching in the process both Hindu mythology and philosophy.

Chapter 7 : Lord Shiva: Find Story, Birth, Five Mantras, How to Worship Lord Shiva

Lord Shiva - 25 mind blowing Facts - Lord shiva stories, history, images and pics 1) Why his vehicle is "Nandi," the Bull? Surabhi, the mother of all the world's cow, gave birth to a huge number of perfectly white cows.

Natarajar is the only form of Shiva worshipped in a human figure format. Elsewhere he is worshipped in Lingam figure. Pancha bootha temples are located in south India. Pashupati seal Seal discovered during excavation of the Indus Valley archaeological site in the Indus Valley has drawn attention as a possible representation of a "yogi" or "proto-Shiva" figure. Of several Indus valley seals that show animals, one seal that has attracted attention shows a large central figure, either horned or wearing a horned headdress and possibly ithyphallic , [59] [60] [61] seated in a posture reminiscent of the Lotus position , surrounded by animals. He characterizes these views as "speculative", but adds that it is nevertheless possible that there are echoes of Shaiva iconographic themes, such as half-moon shapes resembling the horns of a bull. McEvilley , for example, states that it is not possible to "account for this posture outside the yogic account". Possehl in , associated it with the water buffalo, and concluded that while it would be appropriate to recognize the figure as a deity, and its posture as one of ritual discipline, regarding it as a proto-Shiva would "go too far". The Rigveda, for example, has 3 out of 1, hymns dedicated to Rudra, and he finds occasional mention in other hymns of the same text. While fierce ruthless natural phenomenon and storm-related Rudra is feared in the hymns of the Rigveda, the beneficial rains he brings are welcomed as Shiva aspect of him. The two names are used synonymously. Rudra, the god of the roaring storm , is usually portrayed in accordance with the element he represents as a fierce, destructive deity. The name Rudra is still used as a name for Shiva. However, post-Vedic texts such as the Mahabharata and the Puranas state the Nandi bull, the Indian zebu , in particular, as the vehicle of Rudra and of Shiva, thereby unmistakably linking them as same. The horns of Agni , who is sometimes characterized as a bull, are mentioned. The right image has been interpreted as Shiva with trident and bull. Both are associated with mountains, rivers, male fertility, fierceness, fearlessness, warfare, transgression of established mores, the Aum sound, the Supreme Self. The similarities in the dance iconography suggests that there may be a link between ancient Indra and Shiva. The period of BC to AD also marks the beginning of the Shaiva tradition focused on the worship of Shiva as evidenced in other literature of this period. Dualistic Shaiva Agamas which consider soul within each living being and Shiva as two separate realities dualism, dvaita , are the foundational texts for Shaiva Siddhanta. Roots of Hinduism The figure of Shiva as we know him today may be an amalgamation of various older deities into a single figure. Vishnu and Siva [The latter were either taken to represent the multiple facets of the same god or else were supposed to denote different forms and appellations by which the god came to be known and worshipped.

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Known by many names--Mahadeva, Mahayogi, Pashupati, Nataraja, Bhairava, Vishwanath, Bhava, Bhole Nath --Lord Shiva is perhaps the most complex of Hindu deities, and one of the most powerful. Shiva is 'shakti' or power, Shiva is the destroyer--the most powerful god of the Hindu pantheon and one of.

Sawan Somvar Vrat has very special significance for all the people living in India especially for unmarried youths boys and girls. Indian youths especially girls keep fast for all the Monday occurs in the month of Sawan and worship Lord Shiva to get the same life partner as Lord Shiva and Mata Parvati. Varanasi is the holy city of Lord Shiva and has become one of the seven sacred cities of Hindus. According to the Legends, Varanasi is about years old and known as the oldest city in the world. Varanasi is the center of industries and famous for a variety of work such as muslin, silk fabrics, perfumes, ivory works as well as sculpture. Varanasi was the capital of Kingdom of Kashi at the time of Gautama Buddha. The Varanasi city was named as the center of a variety of religious and artistic activities by a celebrated Chinese traveler Xuanzang. It is located along the western bank of the river Ganges. Varanasi is famous as a Shiva Nagari and it has become the biggest pilgrimage destination. It is believed that the God Shiva is the Destroyer or Transformer of living beings among the Trimurti. The Lord Shiva is regarded as the most powerful god in Hinduism. According to the tradition of Hinduism, Lord Shiva is the Supreme God of Hindu as he is the creator, preserver, destroyer, concealer, and revealer of human beings. The followers of Lord Shiva are called Shaivites or Shaivas. In Hinduism, the God Shiva is worshiped in the form of lingam. It is believed that he is living on Mount Kailash as an omniscient yogi with his wife Parvati and sons Ganesha and Kartikeya. He has benevolent as well as fearsome forms and often depicted as immersed in deep meditation, slaying demons in fierce aspects or as the Cosmic Dancer. According to Swami Chinmayananda, the meaning of Lord Shiva is the One who is eternally pure or the One who can not ever be contaminated of the imperfection of Rajas and Tamas. Seal was discovered in the Mohenjodaro which shows that a seated figure is surrounded by animals, possibly Shiva, the Pashupati. Reality of Rudra In the 2nd century it was searched as Rudra is three-headed Shiva. In the number of Hindu traditions both God Shiva and Rudra are viewed as the same personality. According to Axel Michaels: Rudra is the great God of Hindu who has the power to kill all the forces of darkness. According to Nirukta, Agni is also called Rudra. According to the Stella Kramrisch the relationship between two great Hindu deities is very complex. In the Satarudria, it is clearly shown that Golden red hue as of flame and Flaming bright is a fusing of the two deities. It is considered that Agni is a bull having horn which Lord Shiva possesses as his vehicle, Nandi. The horns of Agni, who is sometimes characterized as a bull, are mentioned. But in the medieval sculpture, the form of both Agni and God Shiva is Bhairav having flamed hair as his special feature. It is considered as the God Shiva and Indra have thirst for Soma. Both Hindu deities are associated with mountains, fierceness, fearlessness, rivers, male fertility, warfare, the Aum sound as well as the Supreme Self. The term Shiva is used to call Indra in the Rig Veda. God Rudra is also mentioned in Rig veda as a father of the Maruts. History of Shiva with Parvati is three-eyed deities controlling the Ganges flow through his matted hair means yellowish-white or molten gold. Lord Shiva wear mala of five serpents, a garland of skulls and a skull bracelet as his lovable ornaments, he cover himself in ashes, and have Trisula and Damaru. He has a crescent moon on his head and a Trisul or Trident in the right lower arm. Because of having third eye, he is also known as Trilochana. There is big history behind Shiva having crescent moon, because of this he is known as Chandrasekhara or Chandramouli means having the moon as his crest. Having a crescent moon on his head denotes that he has perfect control on his mind. God Shiva smears ashes or bhasma on his whole body with ashes. Because of his yellowish-white matted hair he also known as the Jataajoota Dhari or Kapardin means wearing his hair wound in a braid of shell-like fashion. It is considered that he drank the Halahala poison arisen from the Samudra Manthan in order to eliminate its destructive capacity and save all the Devgan from Devil. The flow of the Ganges from the matted hair of Lord Shiva represents the nectar of immortality. King Bhagirath had done hard Tap of

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Lord shiva is one of the most popular and powerful god and if you need full history on lord shiva, visit shiv bhajan app and get full detail of lord shiva and also get shiv bhajan, shiv aarti and lord shiva chalisa.

Lord shiva is the destroyer and also have a positive side in that destruction usual leads to new forms of existence. Lord shiva is described in art with four hand, four faces and three eyes. The third eye always keep this power to destroy the creation, not only creation including gods and humans. In the Vedas, a collection of ancient sacred texts, lord shiva is identified with the storm god Rudra. How the birth of Lord Shiva? There is a very interesting story behind the birth of lord shiva. One day brahma and Vishnu both are arguing about which of them are more powerful. That time one great blazing pillar appear which root and branches extended beyond view into the earth and sky. Now both god Brahma and Vishnu start to find out the start and end of that pillar. Brahma turned into goose and flew up to find the top of the pillar, while Vishnu turned into a boar and dug into the earth to look for its roots. After unsuccessful both came back and seen that there is a god Lord Shiva emerged from an opening in the pillar. What is the Roles and Power of Lord Shiva? Lord shiva is a very complex god having many roles and power. If we will talk of his destroyer role lord shiva often hunts cemeteries, wearing a headdress of snakes and a necklace of skulls. A band of terrifying demons, hungering for blood, accompanies him. Shiva can help human as well as god also. Lord Shiva acts a divine judge who shows no mercy to the wicked. Lord Shiva gain the spiritual strength from periods of meditation "deep though" in the Himalayas. When god shiva dance, he represents truth, and by dancing he banishes ignorance and helps relieve the suffering of his follows. According to one myth, Shiva saved the gods and the world from destruction by swallowing the poison of Vasuki, a serpent the gods used to produce the water of life.