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Shaivism

Origin: 1. Shaivism is also as important as Vaishnavism it is related to Lord Shiva.

We have early evidences of lingam being worshipped in Harappa period. The picture of Yogi and his posture as found in Mohanjodaro with two horns on his head and on his left an oxen, rhinoceros and his right, a tiger and an elephant, during dear close by, depicted the present picture of Shiva, known as Pashupati.

2. But in the early Vidic period there is no mention of Shiv or Rudra in the mantras initially, but later on they were recognised. And in Rigveda, ling worship was criticised. But in the latter Aryans, Rudra was recognised as a destructive power.

3. One thing is due that Rudra finally was responsible for the rise of Shiva. In Taitreya Samhita, Rudra was recognised as Pashupati and Giriraj(living in mountains), Shatapath Brahman, Atharvaveda and Shwetashwar Upnishad disclosure of increasing popularity of Rudra is visible.

4. In Mahabharata, there are various examples of the spread of Shaivism, Krishna and Arjuna regarded themselves as the devotee of Lord Shiva.

6. Several historical facts are also available to prove the existence of Shaivism. Patanjali discussed the meditation and yoga of Shiv followers. Also Mathura Pillar Inscription of Chandragupta II also gave ample proof of Shaivism during Gupta period. In the Harshcharita of Banbhatt, there is a description of yogis.

Even in South, there are proofs available of Shaivism. Shaiva followers were regarded as Naynaras, in South. Temples during Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas kind proved that Shiv worship existed from 7th to 11th c.

There types of Shiva Worshippers: 1. Vsiragi(recluse, hermit), 2. Householder, 3. General worshipper.

Principles of Shaivism: Pashupal cult and Shaivism followed certain principles, according to Shankaracharya, they are,

1. **Karya(work):** The types-knowledge, ignorance and human being
2. **Karan (causes):** All the factors responsible for making, destroying and maintaining lives are causes
3. **Yoga:** All the resources which helped to connect with God are recognised as yoga.
4. **Vidhi (methods):** This is a method of performing religious activities.
5. **Dukhant(salvation):** It means moksha.

Shiva Siddhant cult: It propounded four poad and three padarth.

For Poad(principles): 1. Vidhya, 2. Kriya, 3. Yog, 4. Charcha) knowledge, Karma, meditation discourse)

The elements: 1. Pati (Shiva),2. Pashu (living being),3. Pash (illusion, Maya)

Shaivism believed in Dualism-Aatma and Parmatma are two different phenomenon. But through knowledge, and Karma, this aatma can become one with Lord Shiva.

Kapalik cult: In the 7th c in Maharashtra, there is a description of Kapalik cult. In a bronze plate of Nagwardhan(610c-639c), there is a description of a village to Shaiva followers at Igatpuri (close to Nasik) Kapalik believed in 6 mudras: 1. Kanthika,2.Ruchak,3.kundal,4.Shikhmani,5.Bhasm, and 6.yaggopvit.

Kashmiri cult of Shaivism: By the end of 9th c, Kashmiri Shaivism came into existence.

Lingayat Cult: Vasav Puran described about Lingayat cult. In the 12th c Basav was a Brahman who established Lingayat cult. This cult believed that ultimate Brahm is Shiv. They focused on the worship of Lingam and they discarded Vedic mantras, care system and early marriages. They accepted the importance of Guru (teacher, guide). But they denied the principle of rebirth.

This one thing was sure that all Siva cult have emphasis to bhakti, Gyan and Karma to attain salvation. And different methods ultimately leads to moksha in Shaivism.