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## BHAVISHYA PURANA : A BRIEF STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

Purana means old narrative. It is considered as the Fifth Veda. Puranas are the essence of veda. There are 18 Puranas. Bhavishya Purana is one among the 18 puranas. Sumantu- Santanika conversation is the subject matter of Bhavishya purana. One who hear the story of Bhavishya Purana he will attain moral goodness. Bhavishya Purana deals with the creation of Universe, Chronology, Varnasrama dharmas, Pacha Maha Yajnas, Papas, Mehapapas, Poojavidhi etc...

**Keywords :** Panchamaha Yajnas, Visha chikitsa, Nagapanchami ritwik, shashti, Suklapaksha chaturathi, Vaisakha tritiya, karthika, pouranmi.

## INTRODUCTION

The word Purana means old narrative ie. "Puranam akhyanam" and this word Purana is connected with the word Itihasa. There have been various meaning of Purana. According to Vayupurana the term Purana means tradition on that which exists from ancient times. In vedic Literature Purana is called fifth veda. The Puranas are the essence of vedas. One who does not thoroughly know the Puranas, should not really be regarded as having attained proficiency. Puranic Literature has been regarded as the soul of vedas.

There are 18 Puranas. Puranas narrate not only ancient stories but modern stories also. It was at one time believed by the scholars that not one of the eighteen Puranas is earlier than the 11<sup>th</sup> century. A.D. Bhavishya Purana is one the among the eighteen Puranas. Sumantu-Sumantu Satanika conversation is the subject matter of Bhavishyapurana.

## Division and Content of Bhavishya Purana

Bhavishya purana deals with a variety of topics among them the worship of Sun, historical data and fasts and gifts occupy many pages. Bhavishya purana was probably so called because it contained in prophetic vein,

the names and other details of kings that flourished after the Bharata heroes and after a few generations of descendants of them and their contemporaries and probably purported to have been composed some sage or by Vyasa.

Bhavishya purana deals with the creation of Universe, Chronology, Varnsrama dharmas, Customs of marriage, stri dharmas, Pancamaha yajnas, various vrta, the glory of Aditya, construction of temples and images, danadharmas. Papa, Mahapapa, Upapapas, Pujavidhi, Prayascittas, result of swapna, Stri. lakshana, Purusa lakshana, description of surya candra vamsa, history of Vikramaditya, visha chikitsa, Naga pancami vrta etc.

Bhavishya purana has four parvas.

1. Brahma parva
2. Madhyama parva
3. Prati saraga parva
4. Uttara parva

Bhavishya purana consists of 544 chapters. Uttara parvam and some of the chapters of the Brahma parva was devoted to fasts and gifts and it would be fair to say that a third of the Bhavishya purana has been taken up by these topics. Here we feel that fasts and gifts were over