

## Appendix - 2

Paurāṇic Concept of the Universe :-

Lokās :-

The description of the different worlds in the manner of other Purāṇas is given in order to throw light on the abode of the goddess (43.9-25).

Brahmā informs Rāma that the nether regions, the earth, the heaven and the Brahmaloḥa all are situated in the Brahmāṇḍa at a great distance from each other in the serially higher position (43.9).

The World of Śiva-Higher than Brahmaloḥa :-

The world of Śiva which is free from diseases, which is a lakh of Yojanas in extent has arisen from the beautiful Brahmaloka world which is out of Brahmāṇḍa (43.10). Śiva's devotees after attaining that world enjoy on account of His grace (43.12).

Viṣṇuloka - Higher than Śivaloka :-

Higher than Śivaloka, is the world of Viṣṇu, a lakh of Yojanas in extent in which the wielder of a conch, a disc, a lotus and a mace resides along with Kamelā (43.13).

That world of the Lord of Kamelā is made up of pure light and decorated with innumerable jewels and is also indescribable (43.14).

World of Gaurī - on the Left of the World of Sambhu :-

On the left hand side of the world of Sambhu there is the pleasant world of Gaurī excessively decorated by different sorts of jewels and rubbies (43.17).

There the Vaidikī form of the goddess having ten arms and black colour, riding on the back of a lion remains in a fine temple which has sixteen doors (43.18-19<sup>ab</sup>).

Goloka - Higher than All the Vaikuṇṭha-Lokas :-

Higher than all the Vaikuṇṭhalokas ~~is~~ is the Goloka Which is made up of pure light where sports Lord Kṛṣṇa along with Rādhā (43.22).

In that city abounding in jewels and surrounded by Kalpadrumas (desire yielding trees) and resounding by the sounds of the Vedas of the Brahmarṣis in the temple supported by the pillars of the jewels Lord Hari Himself possessing two arms sports along with goddess Rādhā according to His sweet will (43.23-24).

(i) Bhavānīloka-Higher than Goloka :-

Higher than Goloka there is the place of the great goddess Bhavānī which is fifty crores of yojanas in extent wherein the goddess is well protected (43.25). Since that goddess rescues persons from precarious conditions She is spoken of as Durgā destroying peril (43.42). Even an unlucky person on remembering Her best name attains auspiciousness hence She is Parameśvarī (43.43). She Who is spoken of by the followers of Vedas as the saviour from misfortunes is the goddess Parā Vidyā (43.44) Who is the giver of the group of four and the destroyer of all opponents (43.45<sup>ab</sup>).

(ii) Maṇidvīpa in Bhavāniloka :-

Brahmā informed Rāma about the condition of the place of residence of Devī (43.45<sup>cd</sup>). According to Brahmā there is an island of jewels surrounded on all sides by the ocean of nectar on which Kalpadrumas (desire yielding trees) are scattered over and decorated by fine pieces of gold (43.46).

There the spring season prevails for all times excluding the possibility of any other season. The river bearing pleasant waters flows in a threefold path (43.47).

The birds with sweet sounds which appear like various jewels are the demons possessing holy souls constituted of the part of the gods (43.48). They sing pertaining to the virtues of the goddess and their varieties in sweet voice joyfully in keeping with the musical mode befitting the time forever (43.49).

This is the position of the world of Bhavānī. Those embodied selves who are meritorious and who have attained Sālokya are found there (43.51). They are full of eternal bliss and possess eternal knowledge. Their women resemble the goddess and their men resemble Bhairavas (43.52).

In the midst of the city of the goddess there are many quadrangular places encircled by palaces (43.60<sup>cd</sup>-61<sup>ab</sup>). In the centre of the city there is the inner apartment of the goddess where the two sons of the goddess Gaṇēśhipa and Śaḍānana absorbed in the meditation of the goddess with a desire to see Her are guarding the gate (43.61<sup>cd</sup>-62). Crores of Brahmās, Mahāshastas, Haris and Śivas wait upon the goddess (43.63).

In that pleasant inner apartment in a pavilion made up of various jewels supported by pillars of shining jewels and with portals decorated with pearls, the directions in which appear gay by rows of lamps of jewels on a beautiful throne of jewels Mahādurgā, the mother of the three worlds Whose face is auspicious stays (43.64<sup>cd</sup>-67).

(iii) Kālī And Her Place Of Residence :-

By way of reply to Nārada's inquiry Lord Mahādeva informed him that the residence of the goddess Kālī is well protected and is situated by the side of the highest place of residence of the goddess Durgā (59.4-5).

The description of the place of residence of the Mahāvidyā Kālī as found in Mābhg.P. Adhyaya 59 stanzas 6-30 is very surprising and awe inspiring. It is also a detailed description. That place of residence of Kālī is surrounded on all sides by the great ocean of nectar and is made up of the mass of precious jewels and is shining like fire (59.6).

In the middle of that there is a pleasant city with enclosers and arched gate ways made up of jewels and having four gates in four directions and decorated by lattice window made up of pearls and by variegated banners and flags (59.7). All the red-eyed Bhairavas holding a club with a skull at the top protect in thousands all those gates for ever (59.8).

In the middle of that there is a fine temple made up of different jewels possessing hundreds of pillars made of precious stones and enveloped by gold (59.10).

In the middle of it, there is a great throne made up of jewels supported by a myriad lions on which a corpse is kept on which the Maheśvarī, the Mahāvidyā, Mahākālī always stands (59.11-<sup>ab</sup>12). Kālī Herself is the auspicious Māyāmayī remaining in the lotus of the form of hearts of everyone (59.12<sup>cd</sup>). That great goddess Who is the creator, sustainer and destroyer of crores of Brahmāṇḍas is one alone and is of the form of Brahman (59.13).

The sixty-four Yoginīs viz. Vijayā etc. are Her maid servants who perform various activities attentively always in that city (59.14).

On the right hand side of Her there is Mahākālā Sadāśiva with whom Mahākālī sports always with pleasure (59.15).

The Lord of the gods Purandara after having gone there along with Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Maheśa became free from the horrible sin created by slaying a Brahmin by merely seeing Her (59.17). By the grace of the supreme god only Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Purandara saw Kālī there as the greatest deity at that time (59.18).

The outer court-yard is surrounded from all sides by a rampart made up of jewels, having four gates in the four directions (59.19). All the leaders of gaṇas incessantly protect them. Inside that there are the Upayoginīs viz. Kāmākhyā etc. (59.20).

Crores of Brahmās and innumerable Viṣṇus await the sight of the goddess (59.21) meditating upon Her and arriving from different Brahmāṇḍas (59.22<sup>ab</sup>). This is a covert allusion to the existence of innumerable Brahmāṇḍas and consequently to innumerable

Brahm̄s and Viṣṇuṣ.

On the northern side, there is a beautiful forest of Pārijāta abounding in full blown flowers and crowded with various bees (59.26). There the spring season remains for ever and the winds blow softly. The chief gods Brahm̄ and Viṣṇu sing in the form of different birds with sweet notes the deeds of Kālī (59.27-28<sup>ab</sup>).

In the east, there is a beautiful tank which is decorated by golden lotuses, white water lilies and red lotuses and the bank of which appears beautiful by the cāmpaka and Aśoka flowers moving to and fro by the wind of the wings of the line of buzzing bees (59.28<sup>cd</sup>-29) and which looks beautiful by the staircases made up of variegated jewels on all sides (59.30<sup>ab</sup>).

After describing the city of the first Mahāvidyā Kālī, the Purāṇakāra rightly refers to the separate beautiful cities of other nine lores there (59.31). At least in the Mbhg.P. there is a mention of the existence of separate cities of ten Mahāvidyās.

On their right hand side, Śaḍāśiva remains assuming different forms separately with whom She plays separately (59.32).