

Devi Bhagavatam

The Srimad Devi Bhagavatam, also known as Devi Purana, was composed into 12 chapters, containing 18000 verses by the great Veda Vyasa. Though classified as an upa-purana it is the only purana Vedavyasa called "**Maha Purana**" meaning the great purana. At the end of each chapter of the 18 main puranas or the upa puranas is the verse "This is the end of the fifth section of the Vishnu Purana", or "Thus ends the first chapter of Ganesha Purana Upasanakhanda called "The Description of Somakanta". Where as in the Devi Bhagavatam it is clearly - "Thus ends the eighth chapter of the first Skandha in the **Mahapurâna Srimad Devî Bhâgavatam of 18,000 verses by Maharsi Vedavyâsa**". The choice of words by the great rishis is obvious as Divine Mother is described in all major sastras as the one beyond and above the trinities and all Gods.

The S'rîmad Dev Bhâgawatam (Devi Purana)

Translated by Swami Vijñanananda [1921-22]

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FOREWORD

What is S'rîmad Bhâgavat is to the Vaisnavas, the Devî Bhâgavatam is to the S'âktas. The question of the priority of the two Bhâgavatas has been often discussed more in the spirit of partisans rather than that of sober scholars. We reserve our opinion on the subject till the publication of the complete translation of this work.

This translation has been inscribed to the sacred memory of my friend the late Râi Bâhâdur S'rîs' Chandra Vidyârnavâ who induced me to undertake the translation of this work. He had thoroughly read the two Bhâgavatas and it was his opinion that the priority of composition belonged to the Devî Bhâgavatam. The other Bhâgavat, according to him, is a modern compilation attributed to Bopadeva – the author of Mugdhabodha Vyâkaranam.

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