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Revealing Śiva's superiority by retelling Viṣṇu's deeds: Viṣṇu's manifestation myths in the Skandapurāṇa

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Citation

Dokter-Mersch, S. (2021, April 15). *Revealing Śiva's superiority by retelling Viṣṇu's deeds: Viṣṇu's manifestation myths in the Skandapurāṇa*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3160305>

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Issue Date: 2021-04-15

Propositions

1. Key narrative elements of Viṣṇu's manifestation myths are preserved in the *Skandapurāṇa* for the sake of acceptance and credibility of the retellings.
2. Śaivization took place in the *Skandapurāṇa* retellings of Viṣṇu's manifestation myths in order to integrate and accommodate Viṣṇu and his narratives to the Śaiva ideology of the text.
3. Characteristic for Viṣṇu's manifestation myths in the *Skandapurāṇa* is the rich, engaging and appealing style of writing. Dramatic visualization of narrative elements increased the chance at acceptance of the radically new, Śaiva versions of the narratives.
4. It was the aim of the *Skandapurāṇa* composers to compose a comprehensive, appealing and compelling Purāṇa, retelling key Purāṇic material, immersed with Śaiva ideology.
5. Since Viṣṇu's manifestation myths formed an intrinsic part of the Purāṇic genre and could serve as a vehicle to convey the Śaiva ideology, they have been incorporated into the *Skandapurāṇa*.
6. When alterations, innovations, narrative techniques and stylistic features are structurally employed and follow a repeated pattern, it might be possible to speak of "deliberate decisions", even in the case of anonymous literature.
7. Since the end of a narrative is the most defining part, it is the place to take control of the narrative.
8. The field of Indology can greatly benefit from methods and theories identified and formulated by other research fields, such as narratology.
9. The long history of Sanskrit studies at Leiden University should be cherished and continued at all times.
10. Even one's dream job comes with challenges; from finding one's way towards a healthy work-life balance to working at home during a pandemic.