Basic Tenets of Saiva Siddhantham

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Basic Tenets of Saiva Siddhantam

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- Saiva Siddantha principles
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  - Pancha Bootham
  - Karma
  - Satkarya Vadham
  - Maya
  - Mukthi
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Introduction

- Indus Valley civilization is the known historical origin
- Connected to Sivan (Thirumoolar)
- Religion which worships Sivan as the ultimate god.
- Practiced all over Indian subcontinent and world
- Spread its roots and established its growth in Tamil Nadu.
- The most ancient religion of Indian subcontinent.
Evidence of Siva worship in the South America, Middle East and South-Eastern Countries
- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Egypt

In India Saivam is practised as follows:
- Nepal: Lagulisa pasupatham
- Kashmir: Prathiya Pingchai
- Gujarat and Maharashtra: Sivadivita saivam
- Karnataka: Veerasaivam
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What is Saivam?

- The word Saivam indicates: Religious practices Worship, Tradition, Rules governing everyday life, Beliefs, connected with SIVAM
- In India “Vedas” form the base: Vedic religion incorporates Vedas; Saivism is a Vedic religion
- But, Saivam is primarily based on Agamas
- Religions which deny Vedas: Avaidic religions
  - Ulagayatham
  - Jainism
  - Buddhism
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Lord Shiva

Shivalingam (Vietnam)
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What is Siddhantham?

- ‘Siddha’ means knowledge
- ‘Antham’ means end
- Conclusions arrived at exercising knowledge (research) is Siddhantham
- Saiva Siddhantham is a collection of conclusions reached after a thorough research
Saiva Siddhantham accepts Veda, but based on:
- Tholkappium
- Saiva Agamas 28
- Sanga Literature
- Thirukkural
- Thirumuraigal 12

Original works of Saiva Siddhantham are available in 14 sattirangal:
- Sivagnana Bhodham by Meykandaar
- Arulnandhi Sivam
- Maraignana Sambhandhar
- Umapathy Sivam
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Saiva Siddhantham Principles - The trinity - Pathi

- **Pathi is God** (Para Sivam + Para Sakthi or simply Sivam)

  1. Chittu Porul (Pure knowledge)

  2. Performance of five deeds (Panchakrithyam)
     - Blessing
     - Concealing
     - Creating
     - Sustaining
     - Destroying

  3. Three types of Divine Bodies
     - Form (Uruvam)
     - Formless (Aruvam) and
     - Both Merged (Aruvuruvam)
4. Confluence of Karma and Life
   • All deeds of souls will be rewarded / punished

5. Salvation (Mukthi)
   • When the soul realise ‘Pathi’, it attains salvation

6. Has Eight characteristics
   • Self existence
   • Essential purity
   • Intuitive wisdom
   • Infinite intelligence
   • Essential freedom from all bonds
   • Infinite grace
   • Infinite enjoyment
   • Omnipotence
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Saiva Siddhantham Principles - Pasu (Soul)

- Souls are a distinct real entity
- Souls are also eternal like Pathi but quite different
- Souls are normally ‘tied’ by ‘Pasam’ (the bondage)
- Souls can be liberated only with Pathi’s help
- Souls will never be destroyed - even while the entire Universe is destroyed.
- Souls are always (until after salvation) involved in birth - death - birth cycle
- All living things including plants and animals have souls
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#### Saiva Siddhantham Principles - Pasam (Bondage)

- **Tri ‘Malams’** - Anava, Kanma and Maya
- **Anava** - an inherent darkness attached to each soul
- **Kanma** - the deeds and their results
- **Maya** - a pure form of energy from which ‘Pathi’ creates this Universe (that includes our bodies)

- When Soul has only ‘Anava’, it is said to be in a ‘unitary’ (Kvala Avathai) state.
- When soul has all three ‘Malas’ it is in ordinary state (Sakala Avathai)
- When soul get rid of all three ‘Malas’, it attains a pure state (Suddha Avathai)
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Saiva Siddhantham Principles - Maya (Energy)

• This is non sentient energy.

• With this God creates the world.

• Maya transforms as the bodies of the living beings

• Hence, the whole world is referred to as ‘Mayakaryam’

• Maya helps life like a lamp.
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Saiva Siddhantham Principles - Maya (Energy)

- Life gets exposed to knowledge through body and the worldly association
- Therefore, it is called “Om Thalai” by Sambandar.
- “Maya Yanthira Thanu” - Sivagnana Bhodham.
- Saiva Siddhantham speaks highly of Maya.
- God creates words with Suddha Maya
- With Asuddha Maya, Siva creates the time and other rules
- Prakriti Maya is used to create the material world (Universe)
• Pathi, Pasu and Pasam are three real eternal entities
• Pasu and Pasam are not created by God, but controlled by Him (It?)
• Pasu (Soul) is always under bondage
• Pathi performs five (not three) duties to provide salvation
• Pathi (Siva) is pure knowledge and infinite love.
  – No need to be afraid of Him
  – Make Him as your best friend
  – You will always be in a happy and joyful state