

Universal Saivism

The Appeasement of All Gods and Powers in the Sāntyādhyāya of the Sivadharmaśāstra

In Universal Saivism Peter Bisschop provides a critical edition and annotated translation of the sixth chapter of the Sivadharmaśāstra 'Treatise on the Religion of Siva', the so-called Sāntyādhyāya 'Chapter on Appeasement'. The Sanskrit text is preceded by an extensive introduction on its composition, transmission and edition. The Sivadharmaśāstra has arguably played a crucial role in the formation, development and institutionalisation of Saivism. Through a detailed study of its extensive santi mantra, Peter Bisschop shows how the text advocates a system in which all worldly and cosmic power is ultimately dependent upon Siva. The mantra itself is a mine of information on the evolving pantheon of early Brahmanical Hinduism. Thanks to generous support of the J. Gonda Fund Foundation, the e-book version of this volume is available in Open Access.

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