

The Nārada Purāṇa

A Summary Study of the Sixth Mahā-Purāṇa

(Compiled by Ekanātha dāsa)

The *Nārada-Purāṇa* or *Nāradiya-Purāṇa*, as it is also called, is one of the six *Purāṇas* that are said to be in the mode of goodness, (Pd.P. *Uttara-khaṇḍa* 236.18-21). It is thus accepted as a Vaiṣṇava *purāṇa* and is found on the sixth rank in the lists of *purāṇas*, given in the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the *Viṣṇu P.* and the *Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa*. In this summary we are not going to discuss problems and controversies associated with *purāṇic* research. The objective of this paper is, to present a concise but highly usable overview of the contents of the *Nārada Purāṇa*. It should be mentioned however, that presently there is only one printed Sanskrit edition of the NP. available. It is the *Veṅkaṭeśvara* Edition, which consists of 18,550 verses. The NP itself, as well as many other *Purāṇas*, declare it to consist of 25,000 verses. For our present analysis the Motilal Banarsidass English translation of the NP was used. The text comes in five volumes and shows 18,573 verses.

The *Nārada-Purāṇa* has two parts. The first part is called *pūrvabhāga* and is divided into four *pādas*. The second part is called *uttarabhāga* and has two sub-sections.

Pūrvabhāga

Prathama		Bṛhadupākhyāna					
First Pāda		Second Pāda		Third Pāda		Fourth Pāda	
Chapters: 1-41	41	Chapters: 42-62	21	Chapters: 63-91	29	Chapters: 92-125	34
Verses:	3,538	Verses:	3,096	Verses:	4,746	Verses:	1,801
Events:	84	Events:	20	Events:	8	Events:	8
Speakers:	56	Speakers:	17	Speakers:	7	Speakers:	7
Dialogues:	28	Dialogues:	9	Dialogues:	2	Dialogues:	3
Other speech:	28	Other speech:	2	Other speech:	4	Other speech:	2
<u>Main dialogues:</u>		<u>Main dialogues:</u>		<u>Main dialogues:</u>		<u>Main dialogues:</u>	
Sanaka & Nārada		Sanandana & Nārada		Sanatcumāra & Nārada		Sanātana & Nārada	
Sūta & Sages		Bhṛgu & Bhāradvāja		Sūta & Sages		Brahmā & Marīci	
Yamaṛāja & Bhagīratha		Keśidhvaj & Khāṇḍikya		Rāmacandra & Sanatk.		Sanatcumāra & Nārada	

Table 1: Pūrvabhāga, structure; the chapter numbering is continuous from 1 to 125.

Uttarabhāga

Rukmāṅgacarita		Tīrthayātrā	
Chapters: 1-37	37	Chapters: 38-82	45
Verses:	2,093	Verses:	3,299
Events:	88	Events:	53
Speakers:	37	Speakers:	39
Dialogues:	27	Dialogues:	14
Other speech:	34	Other speech:	25
<u>Main dialogues:</u>		<u>Main dialogues:</u>	
Vasiṣṭha & Māndhātā		Vasu & Mohinī	
Rukmāṅgada & Mohinī		Indradyumna & Jagannātha	
Kandalī & Kauṇḍinya		Jaimini & Śiva	
Kāṣṭhīlā & Sandhyāvalī		Sūta & Sages	

Table 2: Uttarabhāga, structure; the chapter numbering is continuous from 1 to 82

The *Nārada-Purāṇa* is the record of 83 dialogues and 95 non-reciprocating types of speech, delivered by 124 different personalities in 261 events. In the above tables the main dialogues and

speakers are listed. In the appendix you will find an alphabetical list of all speakers in the Nārada-Purāṇa.

In the four pādas of the pūrvabhāga, four different speakers, namely the Four Kumāras, address Nārada. In the beginning there is an auspicious invocation in two verses, addressig Gurus, Gaṇeśa, Vāsudeva, Nara-Nārāyaṇa and Sarasvatī. It is similar to ŚB.1.2.4 (nārāyaṇam namaskṛtya). There are further obeisances to Veda-Vyāsa, Upendra and Vṛndāvana. The Lord is described as the Supreme Consciousness and Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva are named as His parts, who perform the works of creation, maintenance and destruction.

Next a short introduction to the setting is related. A group of 26,000 sages is asking questions to Śaunaka Ṛṣi at Naimiṣāraṇya. Śaunaka proposes to go to Siddhāśrama and put the questions before Sūta Gosvāmī. The sages want to know about the origin of the cosmic manifestation, about the worship of Viṣṇu and about the welfare of people in general. They also ask about the nature of bhakti.

Sūta Gosvāmī answers all these question by refering to an earlier dialogue between Nārada and the Four Kumāras. In this way the first part of the NP. is developed.

Sanaka becomes the main speaker in the first pāda. He alone speaks 2,088 verses and the remaining verses are related by him in form of twenty-six minor dialogues which he quotes to Nārada. So in the first pāda of the NP., there are three levels of dialogue, Sūta/ Sages, Sanaka/ Nārada and twenty-six shorter dialogues. A statistical analysis of the present purāṇa shows, that 94% of the verses are given in the form of dialogues. We will therefore present the summary by naming the dialogues and listing the topics that are related. The number in (), which follows each topic, indicates the chapter. A precise brake down of the speaker-listener sequence with chapter and verse references, is given in the appendix.

Topics in Sanaka-Nārada Dialogue

Aditi, not burned (11)	Daityas, burned (11)	Girls, not fit to be married (26)
Aditi, saved by meditation(11)	Deity worship (22)	Girls, suitable for marriage (26)
Atonement for diff. sins (30)	Deluge, final (5)	Gulika, the hunter, story of (37)
Bṛhaspati & Indra, dialogue (40)	Devotees, qualities (4)	Hari, meditation on (33)
Bāhu, King, story of (7)	Devotees, activities (4)	Hari-papycamā-vrata (21)
Banners, installation of (19)	Devotees, destination (4)	Hellish tortures for sins (31)
Banners, installation of (20)	Devotion to the Lord (4)	Holy name, in Kali yuga (41)
Bathing, Deities (22)	Dharmarāja (12)	Household life (26)
Bhadraśīla, son of Gālava (23)	Dhvajāropana-vrata (19)	Human birth, explained (32)
Bhagīratha, brought Gaṅgā (15)	Dilipa (8)	Indra & Bṛhaspatu, dialogue (40)
Bhagīratha, penances of (15)	Dvādaśī-tithi, calculation of (17)	Indra & Sudhramā, dialogue (40)
Bhagīratha, brings Gaṅgā (16)	Dvādaśī-vrata, greatness of (17)	Janārdhana, to please Him (34)
Bhagīratha, meets Bhṛgu (16)	Ekādaśī-tithi, explained (29)	Jānati, story of (35)
Bhagīratha (12)	Ekādaśī-vrata, glories of (23)	Jayadhvaja, story of (39)
Bhagīratha (8)	Fasting, for one month (22)	Kali yuga, details about (41)
Bodies, different types of (32)	Gṛhasthas, duties of (27)	Kalmāṣapāda, story of (9)
Brāhmaṇa-gṛhastha, rules (26)	Gṛhya-sūtra (18)	Kalmāṣapāda = Mitrasaha (9)
Chanting, in Kali yuga (41)	Gaṅgā, glories of (6)	Kapila, fire from His eyes (8)
Charitable gifts, benefits of (12)	Gaṅgā, origin of (10)	Kārttika, pūrṇimā in (18)
Cosmic Time Scale (5)	Gaṅgā, glories of (11)	Lakes, digging, benefits of (12)
Creation, cycles of (31)	Gaṅgā water, potency of (9)	Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa-vrata (18)
Creation, outline (3)	Gālava, sage, story of (23)	Mṛkaṇḍu, Lord as son of (5)

Margaśiṛṣa, pūrṇimā in (18)
Mārkaṇḍeya (4)
Mārkaṇḍeya (5)
Marriage, eight kinds of (26)
Māsoṣavāsa-vrata, fasting (22)
Māyā, of Viṣṇu (5)
Meditation, power of (11)
Meditation, on Viṣṇu (11)
Mitrasaha, became a Rākṣasa (8)
Mitrasaha, purified by Gaṅgā (9)
Moon-phase & Dvādaśi-tithi (17)
Nārāyaṇa, worship, supreme (30)
Nārāyaṇa, greatness of (31)
Nārāyaṇa, glories of (32)
Nārāyaṇa, meditation on (33)
Om̐kāra, meditation on (33)
Pañca-rātri-vrata (21)
Paramātma, meditation on (33)
Prāyaścitta, for diff. sins (30)
Phalaśruti (20)
Phalaśruti (16)
Piety, rewards listed (31)
Praṇava, meditation on (33)
Prayer, to Lord Viṣṇu (19)
Rākṣasa, in Sagara's line (7)
Samskāras, listed (25)
Sagara, family line of (7)
Sagara, going to battle (8)
Sagara, activities of his sons (8)
Sagara (7)
Sagara, birth of (8)
Sannyāsīs, duties of (27)
Śānti-sūkta (18)
Śānti-sūktas (19)
Sins, atonement for 5 great (30)
Sins & punishments (31)
Species, attained by soul (32)
Śrāddha, tithi, calculation (29)
Śrāddha, ceremony (28)
Sudās (8)
Sudharmā & Indra, dialogue (40)
Sumāli, story of (36)
Sumati, installed banners (20)
Sumati, King, story of (20)
Supersoul, meditation on (33)
Tīrthas (6)
Time, intervals of (5)
Tithis, listing, calculation (29)
Tortures in Hell, listed (31)
Tulasīdevī, worship of (39)
Uttaṅka, story of (37)
Vāmanadeva, glories of (11)
Vānaprasthas, duties of (27)
Varṇas, in Kali yuga (41)
Varṇas & Āśramas (24)
Vasiṣṭha, cursed Sudaś' son (9)

Vedamāli, story of (35)
Vedas, not studied on days (25)
Vītihoṭra, story of (20)
Viṣṇu, feet origin of Gaṅgā (10)
Viṣṇu, glories of (32)
Viṣṇu, meditation on (33)
Viṣṇu, qualities of the Lord (34)
Viṣṇu, inconceivable qualts. (34)
Viṣṇudutas, discourse with (36)
Wells, digging, benefits of (12)
Yajñamāli, story of (36)
Yamadutas, discourse with (36)
Yamarāja, path of (31)
Yoga, aṣṭāṅga, for devotees (33)
Yoga System, for devotees (33)
Yugas, details about (41)

Sages-Sūta 1-1-29

Bhakti, nature of (1)
Cosmic manifestation, origin (1)
Devotion, results of (1)
Nārada & Kumāras, dialogue (1)
Proper action, what is? (1)
Salvation (1)
Worship of a guest (1)
Worship of Lord Viṣṇu (1)
Phalaśruti (2)
Mārkaṇḍeya, survived, how? (1)
Mṛkaṇḍu, story of (4)

Demigods-Nārāyaṇa 1-4-55

Protect us, prayer, (4)
Lord is described as- (4)
-imperishable
-infinite
-protector
-chief
-Universe-form
-cause of universe
-Lord of gods
-sanctifier of worlds
-witness of universe
-understood by dhyāna
-object of contemplation
-witness of meditation
-Keśi-Killer
-Madhusūdana
-Paramātma
-Earth (form of)
-whose form is sentience
-the Oldest
-pure
-without attributes
-formless
-multi formed one
-friendly to brāhmaṇas

-Kṛṣṇa
-form of Brahmā
-form of the Sun
-enjoyer of yajñas
-sat-cit-ānanda-vigraha
-destroyer of distress
Mṛkaṇḍu, glories of (4)
Pleasures, worldly (4)
Troubles, not causing other (4)
Miseries, threefold (4)

Mṛkaṇḍu-Hari 1-4-83

Prayer by Mṛkaṇḍu: (4)
Lord is described as-
-Paramātma
-greater than the great
-transcendental
-unfathomable
-protector of devotees
-supreme Deity
-ruler of the universe
-having no name & caste
-form, beyond words
-not affected by forms
-eternal
-the oldest person
-knowable by Upaniṣads
-having form of universe
-beyond comparison
-merciful to devotees
-revealing Self to pure
-revealing to desireless
-Lord Viṣṇu
-destroyer of distress
-shelter of the worlds
-Acyuta (4)
-Janārdana (4)
Viṣṇu, benediction (4)

Mārkaṇḍeya-Hari 1-5-36

Prayer by Mārkaṇḍeya (5)
Lord Hari is described as-
-Janārdana
-Sahasraśiṛṣa-puruṣaḥ
-free from ailments
-Vāsudeva
-who needs no support
-support of all
-immeasurable
-un-aging
-eternal
-pure spiritual bliss
-beyond imagination
-imperishable
-Eternal Supreme Being
-universal-eyed

-omnipresent
 -omniscient
 -source of the universe
 -constituting sāṅkhyas
 -ancient puruṣa
 -yogeśvara
 -reservoir of knowledge
 -greater than the great
 -highest splendor
 -greatest abode
 -whose region is highest
 -single & multiformed
 -existence
 -entity
 -sat-cid-ānanda-vigraha
 -endowed with attribute
 -transcendental to attrib
 -beyond Māyā
 -master of Māyā
 -primordial Deity
 -creator
 -maintainer
 -annihilator
 -compassionate
 -ocean of mercy
 -beyond mental specul.
 Viṣṇu, benediction (5)
 Viṣṇu, as devotee(s) (5)
 Bhāgavatas, characteristics of (5)

Aurva-Queen 1-7-51
 Self immolation, stopped (7)
 Bāhu, King, his Queen & Son (7)
 Aurva, sage, saves queen (7)

Sagara-Vasiṣṭha 1-8-41
 Vasiṣṭha, protects enemies (8)
 Killing, bodies already dead (8)
 Sagara, wants to kill all (8)

Demigods-Kapila 1-8-82
 Prayer by Demigods (8)
 Protection, from Sagar's sons (8)
 Lord Kapila described as-
 -in bliss of sāṅkhya
 -Lord Viṣṇu
 -victorious
 -devotee
 -forest fire
 -devoid of passion
 -devoid of attachment
 Kapila, benediction (8)
 Sons of Sagara, will all die (8)

Aṁṣumān-Kapila 1-8-122
 Aṁṣumān, prays to Kapila (8)
 Kapila, gives benediction (8)

Brāhmaṇī-Kalāśapāda 1-9-55
 Brāhmaṇī, curses Kalmāṣap. (9)
 Kalmāṣap., curses Brāhmaṇī (9)

Rākṣasa-Kalmāśapāda 1-9-37
 Brahma-Rākṣasa, story of (9)

Viṣṇu-Aditi 1-11-16
 Viṣṇu, gives boon to Aditi (11)
 Aditi, prayer to Viṣṇu (11)

Kaśyapa-Vāmana 1-11-72
 Kaśyapa, prayer to Vāmana (11)
 Vāmana, gives benediction (11)

Śukra-Bali 1-11-92
 Śukra, warns Bali (11)
 Bali, rejects Śukra (11)

Dharmarāja-Bhagīratha 1-12-36
 Dharmarāja, praises Bhagīr. (12)
 Bhagīratha, questions- (12)
 -number of duties?
 -destination of pious?
 -types of tortures?
 -who is punishable?
 -who is honourable?
 Dharmarāja explains- (12)
 -dharma, list of
 -pious activities
 -digging wells
 -digging lakes

Bhagīratha-Bhṛgu 1-16-11
 Bhagīratha, meets Bhṛgu (16)
 Liberation, how to get (16)
 Mantra, eight syllable (16)
 Mantra, twelve syllable (16)
 Matras, explained (16)
 Truth, nature of (16)
 Mahā-Viṣṇu, worship of (16)
 Śiva, prayer to (16)
 Bhagīratha, prayer to Śiva (16)

Sumati-Vibhāṇḍaka 1-20-17
 Banners, installation of (20)

Viṣṇudutas, Yamadutas (20)
 Devotional service, superior (20)

Gālava-Bhadraśīla 1-23-44
 Ekādaśī, glories of (23)
 Gālava, sage (23)
 Bhadraśīla, son of Gālava (23)
 Yamadutas, Yamarāja (23)
 Viṣṇu, worship of (23)

Vedamāli-Jānati 1-35-40
 Badarikāśrama (35)
 Jānati, Vedamāli's guru (35)
 Vedmāli, story of (35)
 Brahman, as true self (35)
 Devotional service (35)

Yajñamāli-Viṣṇudutas 1-36-31
 Yajñamāli, story of (36)
 Sumāli, tortured in Hell (36)
 Viṣṇudutas, questioned (36)
 Pious activities, benefits of (36)

Uttaṅka-Gulika 1-37-31
 Viṣṇu, worship of (37)
 Gaṅgā, water, potency of (37)
 Gulika, the hunter, story of (37)
 Gulika, died of repentance (37)

Uttaṅka-Viṣṇu 1-38-3
 Prayer to Viṣṇu by Uttāṅka (38)
 Viṣṇu, qualities of (38)
 Phalaśruti, by Lord Viṣṇu (38)
 Viṣṇu, gives blessings (38)

Vītihoṭra-Jayadhvaja 1-39-17
 Devotional service (39)
 Devotee of devotee, worship (39)
 Worldly existence, to cross (39)
 Jayadhvaja, King, story of (39)
 Raivata, story of (39)
 Vītihoṭra, priest (39)
 Cleaning temple, benefits of (39)
 Offering lamp, benefits of (39)

Indra-Bṛhaspati 1-40-4
 Indra, in a previous Kalpa (40)
 Bṛhaspati, instructs Indra (40)

Sudharmā-Indra 1-40-13
 Indra, hears from Sudharmā (40)
 Sudharmā, story of (40)
 Circumambulating a temple (40)

The first *pāda* of the Nārada Purāṇa has thus been described. It is worth mentioning at this point, that a scripture named Bṛhannāradiya Purāṇa, which is mainly considered an *upapurāṇa*, is practically a copy, verbatim, of chapters one to forty-one of the Nārada Purāṇa. In other words the Bṛhannāradiya P. is identical with the first *pāda* of the Nārada Purāṇa. In the Bṛhannāradiya P., Nārada is the main speaker and the book is divided into thirty-eight *adyāyas*. After studying the complete *Nārada Purāṇa*, it becomes evident, that the first *pāda* is the part which is mainly focused on worship of Lord Viṣṇu. It is the only part which contains actual Vaiṣṇava teachings. This is further supported by an analysis of all the prayers given in this *Purāṇa*. It appears to be reasonable, therefore, to suggest that the *Bṛhannāradiya-Purāṇa*, was circulated as a separate work, to suit the needs of the Vaiṣṇava devotees.

In the entire *Nārada-Purāṇa*, there is a total number of twenty-four prayers. Two of these are dedicated to Lord Śiva. It is the prayer by Bhagīratha in part one, chapter sixteen, and the prayer by Jaimini Ṛṣi, in part two, chapter seventy-three. Jaimini's prayer is quite interesting. It is called the *veda-pāda-stotra*. The remarkable feature of this hymn is, that each *śloka* contains one *pāda* from the actual *Vedas*. But back to our initial observation, of the total number of twenty-four prayers, fifteen are found in the first *pāda* of the Nārada Purāṇa. The following table gives an overview of the prayers.

Devotee	Section	Count	Addressed	Comments
Vyāsadeva	1st pāda, 1-1-1	2	Vāsudeva	Invocation
Nārada	1st pāda, 1-2-21	35	All Avatāras	Like ŚB.1.3.1-29
Demigods	1st pāda, 1-4-55	9	Nārāyaṇa	Save us!!
Mṛkaṇḍu	1st pāda, 1-4-83	9	Viṣṇu, Acyuta	Rejects any boon
Mārkāṇḍeya	1st pāda, 1-5-36	9	Janārdana	Name repta. 8 times
Demigods	1st pāda, 1-8-82	3	Viṣṇu	Save us!!
Aṁṣumān	1st pāda, 1-8-122	6	Kapiladeva	Kindly forgive
Aditi	1st pāda, 1-11-19	31	Viṣṇu, Janārdana	puruṣa-sūkta like
Kaśyapa	1st pāda, 1-11-72	10	Vamanadeva	pranāma
Bali	1st pāda, 1-11-109	6	Vāmanadeva	Polite address
Demigods	1st pāda, 1-11-184	3	Vāmanadeva	pranāma
Demigods	1st pāda, 1-16-54	8	Viṣṇu	Save us!!
Bhagīratha	1st pāda, 1-16-78	20	Śiva	Be pleased to help.
Uttaṅka	1st pāda, 1-38-3	38	Ṇārāyaṇa	Wonderful prayer
Sanaka	1st pāda, 1-18-22	17	Hṛṣikeśa, Keśava	Be pleased O Lord
		1. pāda total: 206		
Śukadeva	2nd pāda, 1-62-51	16	Avatāras, Govinda	Obeisances
Sanatkumāra	3rd pāda, 1-82-25	2	Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, Hari	I belong to You.
		2.-3. pāda total: 18		
Śiva	uttara-bhāga 29.39	15	Kṛṣṇa, Nṛsimha, etc.	Names of the Lord
Kāṣṭhīlā	uttara-bhāga 31.24	2	Sun, Acyuta	Dispell my sins!
Demigods	uttara-bhāga 32.24	19	Viṣṇu	Save us!!
Yamarāja	uttara-bhāga 52.73	12	Jagannātha	Form of the Lord
Indradyumna	uttara-bhāga 53.9	59	Jagannātha	Names of the Lord
Demigods	uttara-bhāga 61.2	22	Jagannātha	Names of the Lord
Jaimini	uttara-bhāga 73-15	112	Śiva	Veda-pāda hymn
		uttarab.total: 241		

Table 3: Prayers in the Nārada Purāṇa

Table three shows the distribution of the twenty-four prayers in the *Purāṇa*. Of course, in the third *pāda* of the *Nārada Purāṇa*, which exclusively deals with *tantra* or different methods of worship of different Deities, an abundance of *mantras* is given by Sanatkumāra. Even though these *mantras* often have the form of short prayers, we do not consider them as such in this context.

Twenty-two prayers are directly addressed to Lord Viṣṇu, and this can be taken as a further indication of the predominance of the mode of goodness here. Two prayers are addressed to Lord Śiva. However, Bhagīratha's prayer, even though glorifying Śiva as the Supreme, was spoken in obedience to Lord Viṣṇu's instruction. Lord Viṣṇu had ordered Bhagīratha to offer prayers to Lord Śiva, according to his own capacity. He had also pointed out that Śiva was only a part of Him.

Next we will discuss the structure and contents of the second *pāda* of the *pūrvabhāga*. Complete listings of all speakers and listeners in the *Nārada-Purāṇa*, are given in the appendix. There is an alphabetical list of names, as well as separate charts for each chapter, revealing the structure of the book and facilitating further statistical analysis.

In the second *pāda* of the *Nārada Purāṇa*, we find a marked decrease of variety. There is only a quarter of the number of events, as compared to the first *pāda*. The dialogues are reduced to a third. There are nine dialogues, of which Sanandana's talks with Nārada occupy the major portion. Nārada is asking questions in twenty-three *ślokas* and Sanandana replies in 2,195 *ślokas*. The ratio is therefore nearly that of one to hundred, whereas the first *pāda* features a question to answer ratio of one to forty-one. In the following we will show the different dialogues and list the topics that are related. The special feature of this *pāda* is an outline of the six *vedāṅgas*, *śikṣā*, *kalpa*, *vyākaraṇa*, *nirukta*, *jyotiṣa* and *chandas*. *Śikṣā* is summarized in by Sanandana in 224 verses. He calls it himself, "a brief outline." *Kalpa* is presented in 158 verses, *vyākaraṇa* in 96 verses, *nirukta* in 88 verses, *jyotiṣa* in 187 verses and *chandas* in 21 verses. The topic of *jyotiṣa* is further elaborated in two separate chapters, counting 1,124 *ślokas*, exclusively dealing with astronomy, astrology and related issues. Each planet and its influence is discussed in detail. At the end of the *pāda*, the story of Śukadeva is narrated. However, this must be a different person than the one we know from the *Bhāgavatam*.

Topics in Sanandana-Nārada Dialogue

Ankurārpaṇa (56)	Conjugation, Vedic (53)	Jaḍa Bharata, story of (48)
Ākṛti, metre, 22s (57)	Constellations (55)	Jaḍa Bharata-Rahūgaṇa dia. (48)
Annaprāśana (56)	Creation, of the world (42)	Jātaka (54)
Anūcana, Śukadeva as (50)	Creation, of the elements (42)	Jātakarma (56)
Anūcana, how to become (50)	Śukadeva, status of (50)	Jupiter, influences (56)
Anuṣṭubh, metre, 8s (57)	Śukadeva, birth of (58)	Jupiter (56)
Aṣṭi, metre, 16s (57)	Śukadeva, story of (58)	Jyotiṣa, 5th vedāṅga (54)
Association, good, bad (50)	Śukadeva-Janaka, dialogue (59)	Kalpa, 2nd vedāṅga, (51)
Asterisms (56)	Days, lunar (56)	Kṛti, metre, 20s (57)
Astrology, natural (56)	Days, of the week (56)	Keśidhvaja-Khāṇḍikhyā, dia. (46)
Astrology (54)	Dead, destination of the (42)	Ketu, effects of (56)
Astronomy (54)	Deer, Bharata became (48)	Ketu (56)
Atiśakvarī, metre, 15s (57)	Deities, ruling stars (56)	Khāṇḍikhyā-Keśidhvaja, dia. (46)
Atijagatī, metre, 13s (57)	Deities, installation of (56)	Kṣurikābandhana (56)
Atikṛti, metre, 25s (57)	Dhṛti, metre, 18s (57)	Laghu, syllable (57)
Atmospheric phenomena (56)	Diet, for students (50)	Liberated souls, residence? (62)
Atyaṣṭi, metre, 17s (57)	Duality (60)	Life airs, five (60)
Atyuktā, metre, 2s (57)	Gaṇita (54)	Lords, of muhūrtas (56)
Bṛhatī, metre, 9s (57)	Gāyatrī, metre, 6s (57)	Lunar days (56)
Bṛgu-Bhāradvāja, dialogue (42)	Ghṛtācī, apsāra, (58)	Madhyā, metre, 3s (57)
Bhāradvāja-Bṛgu, dialogue (42)	Grammar, Sanskrit (52)	Marriage (56)
Bharata mahārāja, story of (48)	Grammar, Sanskrit, rules (52)	Mars, movements of (56)
Brahman realization (46)	Guru, syllable (57)	Mars (56)
Śakvarī, metre, 14s (57)	Horoscopy (54)	Mathematics (54)
Caula (56)	Horoscopy (55)	Menstruation, first (56)
Chandas, 6th vedāṅga (57)	Houses, construction of (56)	Mercury, effects of planet (56)
Chandas (57)	Influences, of transits (55)	Mercury (56)
Śikṣa, pronunciation (50)	Jagatī, metre, 12s (57)	Meters (50)
Śikṣa, first vedāṅga (50)	Janaka, King (59)	Miseries, threefold (46)
Comets, effects of (56)	Janaka-Śukadeva, dialogue (59)	Mokṣa-dharma (45)
Conception (56)	Janaka-Paṅcaśikha, dialogue (45)	Moon, shapes of (56)

Moon, strength of (56)
 Moon (56)
 Muhūrtas, Lords of (56)
 Musical Notes (50)
 Nakṣatras (56)
 Nāmakarana (56)
 Nescience, liberation from (45)
 Nidāgha-Rbhū, dialogue (49)
 Nirukta, 4th vedāṅga (53)
 Omens (56)
 One syllable, metre (57)
 Oneness (60)
 Orbits, duration of (56)
 Pañcaśikha-Janaka, dialogue (45)
 Pañkti, metre, 10s (57)
 Paramātmā (46)
 Permutation of syllables (57)
 Planetary aspects (55)
 Planets, to pacify (51)
 Planets, present transits (56)
 Prakṛti, metre, 21s (57)
 Pratiṣṭhā, metre, 4s (57)
 Pravṛtti, path of (59)
 Procedures (51)
 Pronunciation (50)
 Pumsavana (56)
 Rāhu, influences (56)
 Rāhu (56)
 Rahūgaṇa, King, story of (48)
 Rainfall, prediction (56)
 Regions, on earth (56)
 Ruling Deities of stars (56)
 Samhitā (54)
 Samhitā-skandha (56)
 Saṁkṛti, metre, 24s (57)
 Saṁskāras, procedure (51)
 Sacrifices, procedure (51)
 Saṁkranti (56)
 Sanatk.-Śukadeva, dialogue (60)
 Sanatk.-Śukadeva, dialogue (61)
 Sandhi (50)
 Sanskrit, grammar (52)
 Saturn, path of (56)
 Saturn (56)
 Signs, rising of (56)
 Soul, nature of (42)
 Sowing (56)
 Study, method of (50)
 Sun, planet (56)
 Sun spots, significance (56)
 Sun spots, shapes of (56)

Sun spots, effects of (56)
 Supraṭiṣṭhā, metre, 5s (57)
 Syllables, defined (57)
 Times, auspicious (56)
 Times, inauspicious (56)
 Tithis (56)
 Transits (55)
 Travel, time for (56)
 Triṣṭubh, metre, 11s (57)
 Uktā, metre, 1s (57)
 Uṣṇik, metre, 7s (57)
 Upagraha (56)
 Upanayana (56)
 Utkṛti, metre, 26s (57)
 Veda, mouth of (grammar) (52)
 Vedāṅgas, known by Śuka (50)
 Vedāṅgas, six, listed (50)
 Vedas, recitation of (60)
 Vedas (50)
 Venus, movements of (56)
 Venus (56)
 Verbal formation, Vedic (53)
 Vidhṛti, metre, 19s (57)
 Vikṛti, metre, 23s (57)
 Vivāhapaśna (56)
 Vyākaraṇa, 3rd vedāṅga (52)
 Vyāsadeva (60)
 Years, on diff. planets (56)
 Years, names of (56)
 Yoga system (46)

Bhāradvāja-Bhṛgu 1-42-7

Evolution, of universe (42)
 Creation, process of (42)
 Viṣṇu, source of everything (42)
 Viṣṇu, w/o beginning or end (42)
 Transmigration, of soul (42)
 Brahmā, relation to Nārāyaṇ (42)
 Attributes, of Lord (42)
 Realization of the Lord (42)
 Vedas, glorify the Lord (42)
 Sky, magnitude of (42)
 Wind (42)
 Earth, surface of (42)
 Brahmā, called first born? (42)
 Brahmā, how did he create (42)
 Elements, produced, how (42)
 Varṇas & Āśramas (43)
 Duties, Varṇas & Āśramas (43)
 Soul, nature of (43)
 Supersoul, nature of (43)

Reinkarnation, mechanism (43)
 Sleep, who is the seer, in (43)
 Brāhmaṇa, how to become a (43)
 Dharma, characteristics of (43)
 Meditation (44)
 Yoga (44)
 Senses (44)
 Intelligence (44)
 Modes of nature (44)
 Guṇas, three (44)

Janaka-Pañcaśikha 1-45-50

Mokṣa-dharma (45)
 Motivation, to act religiously (45)

Khāndikya-Keśidhvaja 1-46-49

Brahman realization (46)
 Yoga-sūtra (47)
 Mind, control of (47)
 Truth, beyond words (47)

Jada Bharata-Rahūgaṇa 1-48-55

Insults, how to tolerate (48)
 Tolerance (48)
 Monism (49)
 Illusion, how to destroy it (49)
 Soul, position of (49)

Rbhū-Nidāgha 1-49-51

Mind, creates dualities (49)
 Dualities, in the mind (49)
 Differentiation, error of (49)
 Viṣṇu, one with the universe (49)

Śukadeva-Janaka 1-59-8

Pravṛtti-mārga (59)
 Nivṛtti-mārga (59)
 Mokṣa (59)

Śukadeva-Sanatkumāra 1-60-41

Winds & Vedas, connection (60)
 Air, five types of (60)
 Salvation (60)
 Dualities & Oneness (60)
 Phases of life (61)
 Miseries of life (61)
 Dualities, give up (61)

Śukadeva-Nārāyaṇa 1-62-50

Prayer by Śukadeva (62)
 Vyāsadeva, dear to the Lord (62)

The third *pāda* of the *Nārada-Purāṇa* shows even less variety in terms of dialogues and speakers, than the foregoing section. In the third *pāda* we find Sanatkumāra as the main speaker. He delivers 4,360 verses to Nārada. Nārada presented only fourteen *ślokas* of questions, thus the ratio here is 1/ 311. This section is dedicated to *tantra*. The topics discussed here, are not always really *sattvik*. In fact, there is a number of rather black *tantric* procedures, like how to destroy your enemy by some magic, or how gain control over a woman one wants to enjoy. The major portion of this section deals with the worship of different demigods, but different forms of the Lord are also mentioned, including Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. The *gāyatrī-mantra* for each personality is given, items that should be offered and the method of worship, are explained in all detail. Since there are practically no dialogues in this section, a short chapter by chapter summary will be given in the table below. For those who might be interested to get a little closer view on the sometimes really odd *tantric* prescriptions, we have included a detailed chapter summary in the appendix.

Topics in Sanatkumāra-Nārada Dialogue

<p><u>Chapter 63, 124 verses</u> Viṣṇu worship Mantras Rituals Deities, for Vaiṣṇavas Conditionings, bodies Śiva, as Lord of jīvas</p>	<p>prayers, daily deity worship morning procedures ācamana vaiṣṇava sandhya nyāsa chanting, names of deities</p>	<p>Śrīkara gāyatrī mantras japa Jagannātha weapons, of Deities worship of weapons mantras for weapons mudras for weapons</p>
<p><u>Chapter 64, 70 verses</u> dikṣā, initiation into chanting mantras, chanting of mantras- -masculine mantras -feminine mantras -neuter mantras -āgneya mantras -saumya mantras -defective mantras -ineffective mantras -correcting mantras chanting, sitting posture for ācārya, qualifications of disciple, qualifications of</p>	<p><u>Chapter 67, 140 verses</u> pūjā pūjā for demigods pūjā for Viṣṇu mental pūjā pūjā by japa flowers, offerable flowers, unofferable</p> <p><u>Chapter 68, 94 verses</u> Gaṇeśa, worship of Gaṇeśa mantras Gaṇeśa-mūla-gāyatrī food for offering mudrās</p>	<p><u>Chapter 71, 228 verses</u> Nṛsimhadeva, worship of nṛsimha-gāyatrī mantras mudras offerings Nṛsimhadeva, forms of Nṛsimhadeva, meditation on</p> <p><u>Chapter 72, 54 verses</u> Vāmanadeva, worship of Hayagrīva, worship of mantras procedures</p>
<p><u>Chapter 65, 97 verses</u> mantras- -purification of -repeating in proper way -rousing kuṇḍaliṇī by -repeating 26,100 times kuṇḍaliṇī- -rousing by japa -raising, cakra to cakra disciple, examination of maṇḍala, with 16 fields square cakra, maṇḍala japa, how to chant</p>	<p><u>Chapter 69, 139 verses</u> Sun, worship of Moon, worship of Planets, worship of mantras for planets gāyatrī for Mars</p> <p><u>Chapter 70, 202 verses</u> Viṣṇu, worship of mantras for Viṣṇu worship Incarnations of Viṣṇu mantras for Incarnations Varāhadeva Nārāyaṇa Puruṣottama</p>	<p><u>Chapter 73, 177 verses</u> Rāmacandra, worship of Sudarśan-mantra Rāmacandra mantra Lakṣmaṇa mantra Bharata mantra Śatrughna mantra Sitā mantra</p> <p><u>Chapter 74, 202 verses</u> Hanumān, worship of Hanumān mantras Hanumān gāyatrī mantra for prisoner release</p>
<p><u>Chapter 66, 150 verses</u></p>		

Chapter 75, 106 verses

Lamp, offering to Hanumān
mantras

Chapter 76, 116 verses

Kārttavīryārjuna, worship of
Sudarśana Cakra, incarnation
mantras

mūla mantras

mula-bīja-mantras

gāyatrī mantra

pūjā

pūjā-yantra, mystical diagram

Lamp, offering of

Lamp, interpretation of burning

Chapter 77, 137 verses

Kārttavīrya-kavaca

Hanumān-kavaca

Mind, fixing on form of deity

Kārttavīrya, 108 names of

Kavaca, benefits of chanting

Chapter 78, 52 verses

Hanumān-kavaca

Rāma gave the Hanumān-kavaca

Kavaca, a secret

Rāma, Hanumān as His child

Chapter 79, 358 verses

Hanumān, story of

Rāma, told story of Hanumān

Viṣṇu

Śiva

Hanumān, previous birth of

Hanumān, prayer to Lord Śiva

Sages, prayer to Lord Śiva

Chapter 80, 297 verses

mantras and maṇḍalas

Kṛṣṇa, meditation on

Kṛṣṇa, meditation on pastimes

yantras

gopāla-yantra

Kṛṣṇa-gāyatrī

Kāma-gāyatrī

Rāsa dance, meditation on

Siddhis, eight, attained

Viṣṇu, abode, attained

Chapter 81, 152 verses

Kṛṣṇa, worship of

Mantras, for Kṛṣṇa worship

Meditation on Kṛṣṇa's form

Poison, counteracted

Chapter 82, 215 verses

Nārada, in a previous birth

Sārasvata-kalpa

Nārada, as son of Kaśyapa

Kalpa, the 25th

Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, secret of

Siddha and sādhya

Mantras

Meditation, as being a gopī

Offenses in worship

Ten offenses

Hari & Hara, no difference

Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. 1k names of

Chapter 83, 186 verses

Śakti, worship of

Śakti, mantras of

Śiva

Rādhā, as origin of everything

Rādhā, residing etern. in Goloka

Mahālakṣmī

Dūrgā

Mūla-prakṛti

Mantras

Method of worship

Kavaca mantra

Sāvitṛī-Pañjara, kavaca

Sāvitṛī, 108 names of

Chapter 84, 110 verses

Bhuvaneśvarī, worship of

Mahālakṣmī, worship of

Mahāsarasvatī, worship of

Śakti worship

Worship, results of, listed

Chapter 85, 144 verses

Mahākālī, worship of

Tārā, worship of

pūjā

yantra

mantra

nyāsa

Chapter 86, 115 verses

Bālā, worship of

Annappūrṇā, worship of

Śiva, as the original guru

mantra, yantra, pūjā, nyāsa

Bagalāmukhī, mantra of

Enemies, stun their movements

Invisible, how to become

Charging, yantra with mantra

Chapter 87, 170 verses

Durgā, as mother of the universe

Worship of Durgā's incarnations

yantra, mantra, nyāsa and tantra

Chapter 88, 258 verses

Nitya-deities, sixteen

Rādhā, expansions of

Meditation, instructions on

mantra, japa, yantra and nyāsa

Chapter 89, 179 verses

Lalitā, as Supreme Goddess

Guru, worship of, first

Prayer to the guru

Śiva, as the original form of guru

Prayer to the Goddess or Śakti

Lalitā-kavaca

Kavaca, benefits of

Chapter 90, 238 verses

Japa, fixed amounts of repetition

Mantras, benefits of japa

Homās, flowers to be offered in

Women, how to enjoy, by tantra

Chapter 91, 236 verses

Śiva, mantras of

Śiva, worship of

yantra, mantras, nyāsa and tantra

Prayer to Lord Śiva

Mantras, preferred ones

The fourth *pāda* of the *Nārada-Purāṇa* deals with two main issues. In the first eighteen chapters, that is chapter 92 through 109, Sanātana quotes a dialogue between Lord Brahmā and Marīci. In this dialogue Lord Brahmā gives a summary of the eighteen *Mahā-Purāṇas*. Each *Purāṇa* is treated in a separate chapter. A literature of 400,000 verses is thus presented in no more than 566 *ślokas*. In the table below, you find a chart which shows the main characteristics of the eighteen *Mahā-Purāṇas*. The following page gives a concise overview of the entire fourth *pāda*. The second issue dealt with in the fourth *pāda*, is a description of *vratas* and ceremonies or festivals, that should be observed on particular days of the lunar calendar.

In the appendix you will also find an alphabetical index of all names, places, procedures, dynasties and general topics, which were mentioned in the *purāṇa* summary of the fourth *pāda*. There are more than two thousand entries, each followed by the initials of the respective *purāṇa*, as well as the section where it occurs. We have also prepared two charts, one for the *Viṣṇu-Purāṇa* and one for the *Kūrma-Purāṇa*, both compiled exclusively from data shown in the *Nārada-Purāṇa's* fourth *pāda*. These charts show the essential structure and give an outline of the contents of the two books. They can be compared with the summaries of the *Viṣṇu* and *Kūrma Purāṇas*, that have been presented by Aja Prabhu.

The Eighteen Mahā-Purāṇas

Purāṇa	Count	Parts	First Dialogue		Second Dialogue		Goal	Kalpa
Brahma	10,000	2	Vyāsadeva				Brahmā	
Padma	55,000	5	Pulastya	Bhīṣma	Sūta	Śaunaka	Viṣṇu	
Viṣṇu	23,000	7	Parāśara	Maitreya	Sūta	Śaunaka	Viṣṇu	Vārāha
Vāyu	24,000	2	Vāyu				Rudra	Śveta
Bhāgavata	18,000	12	Sūta	Śaunaka	Śukadeva	Parīkṣit	Kṛṣṇa	
Nāradiya	25,000	5	Kumāras	Nārada	Vasiṣṭha	Māndhātā	Viṣṇu	Bṛhat
Mārkaṇḍeya	9,000		Mārkaṇḍeya	Jaimini	Birds	Jaimini	Śiva	
Agni	15,000		Agni	Vasiṣṭha			Heaven	Īśāna
Bhaviṣya	14,000	5	Sūta	Śaunaka			Brahmā	Aghora
Brahma Vai.	18,000	4	Sūta	Śaunaka	Sāvārṇa	Nārada	Brahmā	Rathantara
Liṅga	11,000	2	Sanatkumāra	Nandiṣa			Śiva	Agni
Vārāha	24,000	2	Varāha	Bhūmī			Viṣṇu	Mānasa
Skanda	81,000	7					Śiva	Tatpuruṣa
Vāmana	10,000	2	Pulastya	Nārada			Viṣṇu	Kūrma
Kūrma	17,000	4	Kūrma	Sages	Lakṣmī	Indradyumna		Lakṣmī
Matsya	14,000		Matsya	Manu			Viṣṇu	7 Kalpas
Garuḍa	19,000	2	Viṣṇu	Garuḍa			Heaven	Tārṅṣya
Brahmāṇḍa	12,000	4					Brahman	Ādi

Table 4: The eighteen Mahā-Purāṇas

The *uttara-bhāga*, or second part of the *Nārada-Purāṇa*, is in no way connected to the story or setting shown in the first part. Vasiṣṭha and King Māndhātā present the main dialogue. The first section of the *uttara-bhāga* is called *Rukmāṅgada-carita* and deals with the activities of king Rukmāṅgada. The story is told by Vasiṣṭha to Māndhātā in thirty-seven chapters. The essence of this narrative is a glorification of the *Ekādaśī-vrata*. The character of king Rukmāṅgada can be best compared with the famous king Hariścandra. Rukmāṅgada, who was the ruler of the world, had all the people in his kingdom strictly follow the *Ekādaśī-vrata*. Those who would not follow, would be punished. The story is very complex and full of dramatic elements. There are five levels of dialogue. For a detailed account of the different persons see the respective chart in the appendix.

Essentially, what happens in the story is, Yamarāja goes out of business, because everybody in the kingdom, (the whole world), follows *ekādaśī*. The people go all back to Godhead. So Yamarāja goes to Lord Brahmā and complains. He is practically crying. Lord Brahmā then creates Mohinī, the enchantress, who is instructed to somehow or other, make king Rukmāṅgada deviate from his vowed observance of *ekādaśī* fasting. As the story goes, she almost succeeds, but Rukmāṅgada, who had become very attached to that most beautiful woman, is always supported by his very chaste and intelligent wife Sandhyāvalī and by his wonderful son Dharmāṅgada.

At the end these three go back to Lord Viṣṇu's world, and Mohinī is burned to ashes, simply being sprinkled with a few drops of water by Vasu, Rukmāṅgada's *brāhmaṇa* priest, who just then happened to return from his twelve year *praṇayama* practice under water. It is hardly possible to properly present this narration in just a few words. We have therefore provided a chapter by chapter summary in the appendix. The story also offers the background to the meaning of a day commonly known as "Mohinī-Ekādaśī," in our Vaiṣṇava calendar.

The last section of the *uttara-bhāga* is called *tīrtha-yātrā*. It connects to the previous part, where in the end it had been explained, how the demigods pacified the extremely angry and dangerous *brāhmaṇa* Vasu. Vasu had then agreed to restore Mohinī's physical body, and after that she is being instructed by him about the glories of the holy places. For each holy place a short narration is given, showing how it came that the place was turned into a pilgrimage site. Procedures, observances and types of worship, that should be performed at each holy place, are also named. The first six chapters deal exclusively with the greatness of the Gaṅgā. The holy places mentioned there are all situated along the Gaṅgā. Most of them are Śivaite centres. Some places are discussed in more than one chapter. In those cases a pilgrim's journey to the place is described in all detail. It is described, where he should go first, which temple he should visit and which prayer he should recite. It is also explained what kind of vows he should accept, to get the greatest benefit from his tour. The greatness of the Gaṅgā is described in six chapters. Thereafter Gayā is described in four chapters. Then follows a description of Kāśī in four chapters. Puruṣottama, Jagannātha Puri, is described in all detail, in ten chapters. The story of Mahārāja Indradyumna and how he came to install Lord Jagannātha, is nicely described. Jagannātha Puri is thus described in much more detail than all other places. The final chapters deal with Mathurā and Vṛndāvana. The *brāhmaṇa* Vasu attains the mercy of Kṛṣṇa, who grants him a benediction, after Vasu had performed penances in Vṛndāvana for five thousand years. Vasu asked Lord Kṛṣṇa, to allow him to stay in Vṛndāvana forever. He is said to still be there, even today. Then Nārada visits Vasu in Vṛndāvana and Vasu asks him about the future activities of the Lord. Nārada then explains how he went to Lord Śiva, who related to him the future activities of the Lord, as he had heard them from mother Surabhi. What follows is an account of

Kṛṣṇas pastimes in Vṛndāvana, summarized in twenty verses. After this, in chapter eighty-two, the *phalaśruti* is given, with a list of benefits one gets from hearing or reciting the *Nārada-Purāṇa*. In the following we will give an alphabetical list of major *tīrthas* mentioned by Vasu in his dialogue with Mohinī.

Tīrthas in Uttarahāga Tīrtha-yātrā Section

Aditītīrtha (40)	Jagannātha Puri (52)	Nilaparvata (40)
Avanti (78)	Jahnuhrada (40)	Pavitra (40)
Badarikāśrama (67)	Kāśī (40)	Prabhāsa (70)
Bilvaka (40)	Kāśī (48)	Pradyumna Tīrtha (40)
Campaka (40)	Kalaśa (40)	Prayāga (40)
Śiloccaya (40)	Kāmākṣā (69)	Prayāga (63)
Dakṣprayāga (40)	Kāmodā (68)	Puṣkara (71)
Gaṇḍaka (40)	Kanakhala (40)	Puruṣottama (52)
Gaṇḍakī river (40)	Kubjā (40)	Rāmatīrtha (40)
Gaṅgā (38)	Kuśāvarta (40)	Sarāyu river (40)
Gaṅgā (39)	Kurukṣetra (40)	Setu (76)
Gaṅgā (40)	Kurukṣetra (64)	Snātaka (40)
Gaṅgādvāra (40)	Lakṣmaṇācala (75)	Somadvīpa (40)
Gayā (44)	Maṇikarṇika (40)	Somatīrtha (40)
Gokarṇa (74)	Mānasa lake (40)	Tryambakeśvara (73)
Haridvāra (66)	Mathura (79)	Vaikuṇṭha (40)
Indrāṇī Tīrtha (40)	Narmadā river (77)	Vṛndāvana (80)
Vārāṇasī (40)		
Veṅṅirājya (40)		
Vindhya (40)		