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**Buddhism and Śaivism: The *Kāraṇḍavyūhasūtra*, the *Skandapurāṇa* and the *Śivadharmasāstra***

A remarkable passage in the *Kāraṇḍavyūhasūtra* teaches that Avalokiteśvara produced several Brahmanical deities from his body, including, most prominently, Śiva Maheśvara from his forehead. Maheśvara is introduced as a representative of the degenerative Kali age. In this context the *Kāraṇḍavyūhasūtra* quotes a verse about the worship of the *liṅga* which for a long time has been mistakenly attributed to ‘the *Skandapurāṇa*’ but which I could recently identify in the *Śivadharmasāstra*. Following an introduction to the *Śivadharmasāstra* and its relevance for understanding the cultural context of this quotation, the paper will consider some other hitherto unnoticed aspects of relations between Buddhist and early Śaiva literary sources, including the *Skandapurāṇa*, and draw attention to several noteworthy features that set Śaivism's relation to Buddhism apart from that of Vaiṣṇavism.