

# TRIMURTI - BRAMHA, VISHNU, MAHESHWAR



## **TRIMURTI - BRAMHA, VISHNU, MAHESHWAR**

God plays many roles for His Cosmic Family. As Creator, God is called BRAHMA; as Preserver, God is called VISHNU; as Dissolver (Destroyer), He is called MAHESHWARA, which is another name for SHIVA. Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva together called Trimurty or Hindu Trinity. The important thing to remember is that they are all the same, and are just performing different jobs. It is just like your Mom. Sometimes your Mother plays Mommy, but sometimes she is a cook, or a wife. But she is still the same person.

Does anyone remember the Guru Mantra we learned when we studied Shirdi Sai Baba? Let's repeat it now:

**“Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnur, Gurur Devo Maheshvaraha**

**Guru Sakshat Param Brahma, Tasmai Shri Gurave Namah”**

This means that Guru is Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara. Now let's study these three Maha (Great) Forms of God. First will come Brahma.

### **Lord Brahma, the Creator**

Many millions of years ago, Brahma created the universe. It is believed that he came out of a lotus that came out of Lord Vishnu's navel. Lord Vishnu was lying in a comfortable pose on the milk ocean, and out came Lord Brahma. Through his mental willpower, Brahma created everything.



Brahma has four heads, so he can look in all directions, and they represent four Vedas.

His wife is called Saraswati, and she is the goddess of wisdom. You already know about her.

His vehicle is the swan.

In his four arms he holds the Vedas, the kamandal (water pot), suruva (sacrificial spoon) & a mala.

## **Lord VISHNU, the Preserver**

Lord Vishnu is called the preserver. This means that he is responsible for maintaining everything in the Universe. His form is Love!

Every atom of the universe is filled with His Presence. 'Vishnu' means "Pervader", the unseen force that pervades and motivates the entire universe. Lord Vishnu is known by numerous names and a thousand names are given in "Vishnu Sahasranama".

To understand the concept, why Lord Vishnu is the preserver of the world, we have to understand that the powers of good and evil are in regular conflict to rule over the world. It is believed that whenever evil prevails over good, in order to win, Vishnu comes down to earth in some mortal form to save righteousness (good). He takes different avatars and acts in a way that he re-establishes proper balance between good and evil. He has ten different avatars (incarnations) that he takes to win over the evil, and those avatars are called Dashavatara.



Has anyone heard of Krishna? Lord Rama? Buddha? These are all avatars of Vishnu, where Vishnu comes to Earth in human form.

Vishnu's wife is Mahalakshmi. She is goddess of Wealth and Prosperity.

Lord Vishnu has four-arms indicating his power and pervasive nature. The skin color is blue, being the color of the infinite sky as well as the infinite ocean on which he resides. Vishnu has the mark of sage Bhrigu's feet and the srivatsa mark, symbolizing his consort Lakshmi, on his chest. A crown decorates his head symbolizing his supreme authority. He rests on Ananta Shesha, the immortal and infinite snake. Lord Vishnu's weapons are Chakra and Gada (Mace), and His vehicle is the bird Garuda, the eagle.

A good mantra to worship Lord Vishnu is

***AUM NAMO BHAGAVATE VASUDEVAYA***

Everyone repeat this mantra several times. This mantra will give you good health and protection from all types of problems.

## **Lord SHIVA, the Destroyer**

Lord Shiva is one of the most popular Gods of the Hindu religion. Lord Shiva is also known by Shambunath, Shiv Sankar, Bhole Shankar, Neelakanta, Mahadeva, Nataraja, etc. Lord Shiva represents the vital goodness in the form of Satyam, Shivam, and Sundaram which means, the Truth, Goodness and the Beauty. He is called the destroyer because he destroys ignorance. When ignorance is destroyed, then Truth, Goodness and Beauty return.

He is considered a lord with mercy and kindness and also he protects his devotees from evil. He is also the most kind hearted god for He bestows grants and blessings easily.

The Goddess Parvati is His wife, and He has two sons, Lord Ganapati and Lord Karthikeya. Remember? Most of us have already studied Ganapati.



Lord Shiva's body is covered with ashes symbolizing the transcendental aspect of the universe. The crescent moon shows us the time cycle through which creation evolves from the beginning to the end. The three eyes of Lord Shiva represent - the Sun is His right eye, the Moon is the left eye and fire, the third eye. The Snake around his neck symbolizes the yogic power, which He uses to dissolve and recreate the universe. The Rudraksha necklace worn by the lord shows that he uses his celestial powers. The Trishul (trident), Shiva's weapon, symbolizes the Lord's three fundamental powers of will (iccha), action (kriya) and knowledge (gyana). Nandi (Bull) is his vehicle, which represents both power and happiness. Tiger's skin makes Lord Shiva's clothing and his seat. Thus, Lord Shiva is the ultimate organizer of birth and death in the world.

The best way to understand Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva is that they are all God. They take on different roles to create, maintain, and eventually destroy the universe. It is like a rose. Has anyone ever seen a rose grow? First you see the rose bud. This is governed by Brahma, the creator. Then the rose blooms, and it so beautiful. This is governed by Vishnu, the preserver. Eventually, so that new roses can grow, the rose bloom gets old and dies. This is governed by Lord Shiva.

The most basic mantra to worship Lord Shiva is – ***AUM NAMAH SHIVAYA***

This is a very powerful mantra and will bring blessings of Lord Shiva to you. Let's all say it together a few times! You can even make it into a song.

## **Story about Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva**

One time Brahma and Vishnu were touring the universe. They came across a huge pillar of light. It extended as far as they could see. It went all the way down into the Earth, and all the way into the sky, farther than they could see. They were curious, what could this be? So Vishnu took the form of a boar (like a big pig) and dug down into the Earth, trying to find the beginning of the pillar of light. Brahma took the form of a swan, and flew into the sky, trying to find the end of the pillar. So Vishnu went down and Brahma went up. They both went as far as they could, but they could not find the beginning or end of the pillar of light. It appeared the pillar was infinite, and had no beginning and end? Does anyone know what infinite means?

They both came back to where they started. Vishnu spoke the truth, and said he could not find the beginning or end of the pillar. But Brahma had some egoism. As creator of the universe, he did not want to admit that he could not find the end of the pillar. As he was going up, he saw a 'kaila' flower dear to Shiva. His ego forced him to ask the flower to bear false witness of Brahma's finding of end of the pillar. So he lied, and said he had found the end. When he did this, the pillar of light turned into Lord Shiva. He cursed Brahma that no one would worship him, as he had lied.

This is why there are not many Brahma temples in India, because Lord Shiva cursed him. Also, Shiva gave a curse to 'kaila' flower that no one offers this flower in Poojas.

Has anyone ever felt like lying, or not telling the truth, in order so as not to be embarrassed? This is called egoism, thinking we are too important. This is what happened to Lord Brahma. Lord Brahma learned his lesson to never lie again.

### **Stotra for this week – Vishnu Stotra**

"Shaantaakaaram Bhujaga Shayanam Padmanaabham Suresham  
Vishwaadhaaram Gagana Sadrusham Megha Varnam Shubhaangam  
Lakshmi Kaantam Kamala Nayanam Yogibhir Dhyaana Gamyam  
Vande Vishnum Bhava Bhaya Haram Sarva Lokaika Naatham"

You Tube Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGCisEuFLVk>

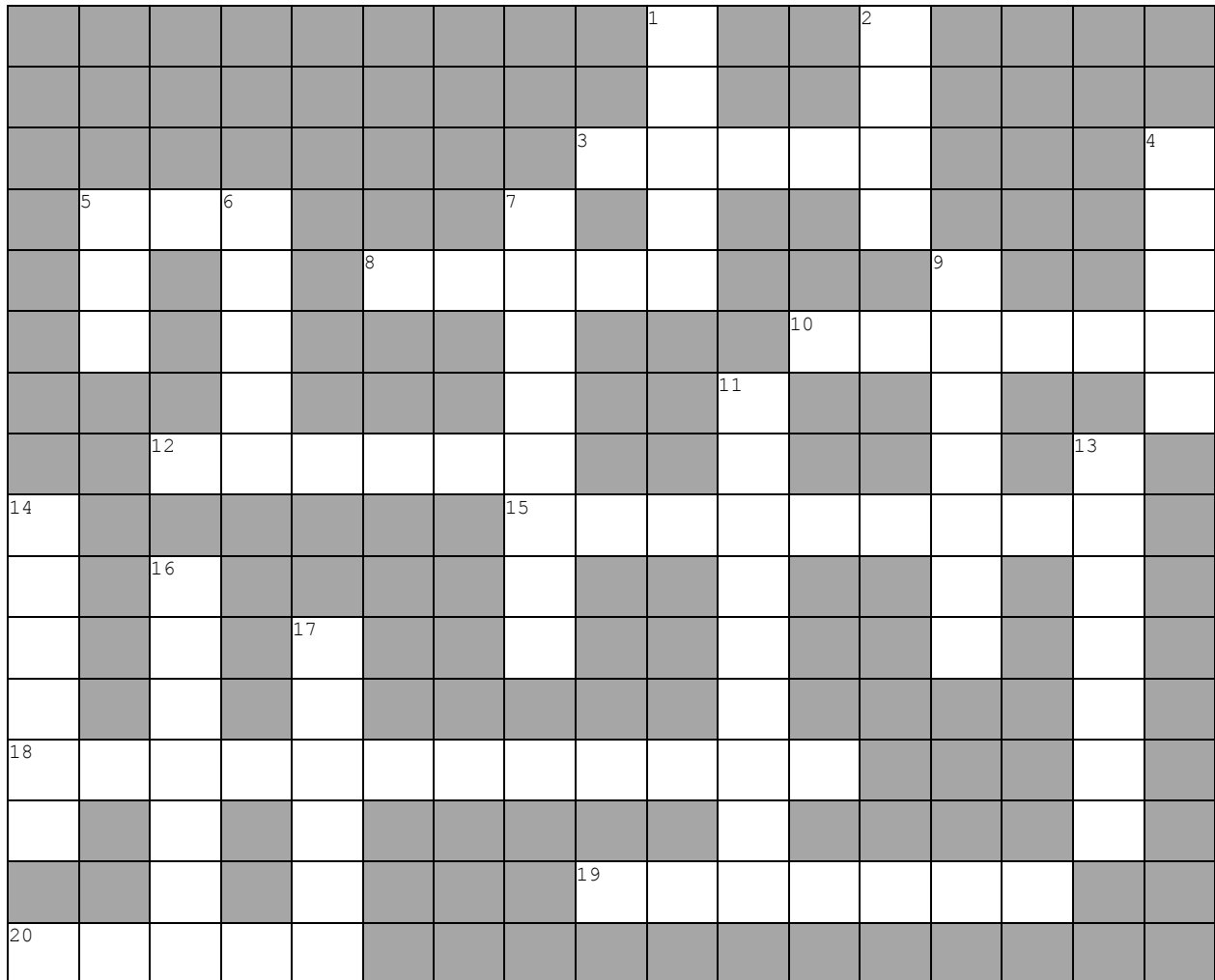
*Meaning: Lord Vishnu is the preserver and protector of the Universe. He is always quiet and rests on the great serpent bed. The lotus of the creative power springs from the navel of Lord Vishnu. He is the Ultimate Power, who supports the entire universe. The divine Lord Vishnu is all-pervading as the sky and dark like the clouds. Vishnu, the lotus-eyed one, is the Lord of Lakshmi. The ascetics (yogis) observe Lord Vishnu through meditation. Lord Vishnu is the destroyer of the fear of Samsar. We surrender to such great lord.*

## Coloring Project: MATSYA AVATAR

This is when Vishnu was Born as a Man and Part Fish!



## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 3** The flower got curse from Shiva
- 5** Number of Vishnu's incarnations
- 8** Number of Shiva's eyes
- 10** Who is the Creator ?
- 12** Who is the Preserver?
- 15** The necklace that Shiva wears
- 18** Vishnu's ten incarnations are called
- 19** Shiva's weapon
- 20** Who is the destroyer?

### DOWN

- 1** Vishnu's bed
- 2** Lord Brahma's vehicle
- 4** Brahma's four heads represent
- 5** Number of Lord Shiva's sons
- 6** Lord Shiva's vehicle
- 7** Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva are called
- 9** One of Shiva and Parvati's sons
- 11** Lord Brahma's wife
- 13** Lord Shiva's wife
- 14** Lord Vishnu's vehicle
- 16** Lord Vishnu's wife
- 17** Lord Vishnu's Weapon