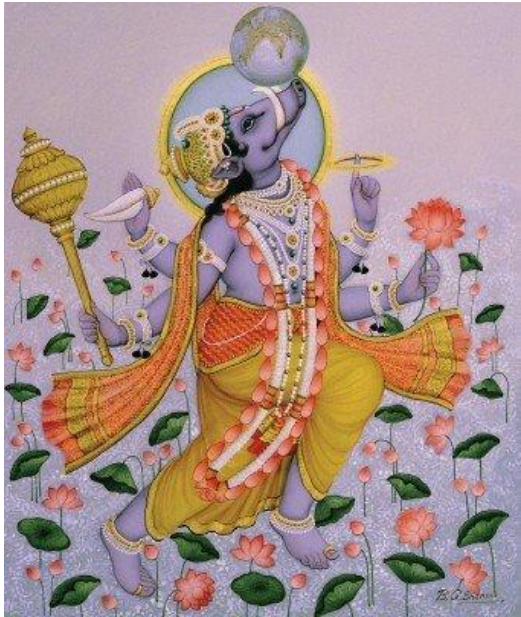


# DASHAVATAR - VARAHA AVATAR



Does anyone know who it is created the universe? It was Lord Brahma. But then the question arises “Who created Lord Brahma?” It is believed that Lord Brahma emerged from Lord Vishnu, connected to him by a cord from Vishnu’s navel. Lord Brahma sits on a lotus leaf, with four heads, looking in each direction.

Lord Brahma has four sons. Like Lord Brahma, they are also immortal. They are all called manasa born, meaning mind born. They came directly from his mind. They were named Sanaka, Sananda, Sanatana and Sanat-Kumara.

Lord Vishnu used to rest on the back of big snake in the middle of the milk ocean, like the Milky Way Galaxy where we live. He would lay there and rest, his mind in deep yoga, union with God, while his wife Lakshmi rubbed his feet.

Brahma’s four sons were great devotees of Lord Vishnu. All they liked to do is talk about Lord Vishnu and meditate on Him. They didn’t want anything to do with family life or what we would call fun activities.

One time it occurred to them to visit Lord Vishnu in his home in Vaikuntha. This is called “darshana” – it means going and seeing a saint. It is always a great privilege to see a saint. It makes our thoughts good.

The four divine sons of Brahma arrived at the entrance to Vaikuntha. But the guards at the door, (called Dwarapalaka’s) named Jaya and Vijaya wouldn’t let them in. They were told that Vishnu was resting and should not be disturbed. Normally, this would not bother the saints – they would just wait. But on this occasion, they went wild with anger. Why? We don’t know. Perhaps it was all part of Lord Vishnu’s plan.

The saints cursed Jaya and Vijaya to be born as demons. This is a terrible curse, because demons are unhappy souls. It would mean Jaya and Vijaya would have to leave Vishnu’s heaven, Vaikuntha.

How is it that the saints could curse someone like this? In the old days, saints would never tell a lie in their whole life. Plus, they got great spiritual energy from doing so much repetition of mantras. Anything they said would come true. When they said “You will become a demon” it had to

happen, because they never said anything untrue. Even they could not stop it once it was said!

Jaya and Vijaya fell on the feet of the sages and requested them to modify the curse. The sages said they were powerless to change the curse that was pronounced and only Lord Vishnu could do that. Lord Vishnu had now woken up and was standing at the doorway. Jaya and Vijaya prayed to Lord Vishnu to modify the curse. Lord Vishnu gave them two options. They could be born in hundred births like normal human beings and come back to Vaikuntha after that. Or they could be born as enemies to the Lord, and meet their death at His hands in three births and return to Vaikuntha more quickly. Jaya and Vijaya took the option of being born as enemies of the Lord so that they could return quickly.

The three births of Jaya and Vijaya were

1. Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashyapu - Varaha and Narasimha Avataras
2. Ravana and Kumbhakarna - Rama Avatara
3. Sishupala and DantaVaktra - Krishna Avatara

## **Varaha (Two Tusked Wild Boar) Avatar**

Varaha Avatar is the third avatar of Lord Vishnu, where He came in the form of a Boar. Lord Brahma created the first human being called Kashyap, who is a great sage. He had four wives, Diti, Aditi, Vinita, and Kudroo. Diti gave birth to the demons, and from Aditi were born the Devatas, or gods. Out of the demons born of Diti, two had terrific powers. These two brothers were named Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashyapu. Both of them performed so many religious practices and austerities so that in the course of time they gained limitless powers. Once Hiranyaksha did a lot of austerities so that Lord Brahma would give him a boon. He asked and received a boon that no god, demon, beast or human could ever kill him.

Hiranyaksha fueled with his limitless power attacked Heaven, the kingdom of devatas. At his very sight the gods were struck so much with fear that they hid themselves. Hiranyaksha challenged Varuna, the Lord of the

Ocean, to a fight. But Varuna answered, O great hero, I live like a hermit. I do not wish to fight. Besides, who can fight with you? Only God can do it. Then Hiranyaksha went in search of Hari (Lord Vishnu). He searched the whole universe for Lord Vishnu, but couldn't find him. In the frustration, Hiranyaksha snatched the earth, and carried it to the bottom of the ocean, what is described as the cosmic ocean. The gods were alarmed and rushed to Lord Vishnu for rescue. Vishnu remembered that Brahma had forgotten to grant Hiranyaksha immortality against Varaha, the two tusked wild boar. Vishnu changed himself into a Varaha and dived into the ocean. Seeing Hiranyaksha under the cosmic ocean, He challenged him to a fight. The battle between Varaha and Hiranyaksha is believed to have lasted for a thousand years, which Vishnu finally won. Varaha carried the Earth out of the ocean between his tusks and restored it to its place in the universe. Lord Vishnu married goddess Prithvi (Bhudevi, or Mother Earth) in this avatar.

Thus in his third incarnation, Lord Vishnu as Varaha saved the earth from demon Hiranyaksha, thus saving the mankind.

Questions:

Who created Lord Brahma?

How many sons Brahma created in the beginning?

How were his son's born?

Were they family men?

What are their names?

Who were the attendants to Vishnu?

Where Lord Vishnu Resides?

Who is the first human Brahma created?

Who is Hiranyaksha's brother?

What is the third incarnation of Vishnu?

Whom Vishnu married in his third incarnation?

**Asthalakshmi Stotram - Dhairya Lakshmi:** This form of mother Lakshmi grants the boon of infinite courage and strength. Those, who are in tune with infinite inner power, are always bound to have victory. Those who worship mother Dhairya Lakshmi they live and lead a life with tremendous patience and inner stability.

Jaya Vara Varnani, Vaishnavi,  
 Bhargavi, Manthra Swaroopini, Manthra Maye,  
 Suragana Poojitha Seegra Phala Pradha ,  
 Jnana Vikasini, Sasthranuthe,  
 Bhava Bhaya Harini, Papa Vimochini,  
 Sadu Janarchitha Pada Yuthe,  
 Jaya Jaya He Madhusoodhana Kamini  
 Dairyalakshmi Sada Palaya Maam.

**Meaning:**

*Victory and victory to Dairyalakshmi; Oh, darling of the killer of Madhu,  
 Who is described by victorious and blessed, Who is the shakthi which came out of Vishnu,  
 Who is the daughter of sage Bhargava, Whose form is that of sacred chants,  
 Who is pervaded by sacred chants, Who is worshipped by all devas,  
 Who gives results fast, Who improves knowledge,  
 Who is worshipped by shastras, Who destroys fear ,  
 Who gives redemption from sins, And whose feet is worshipped by holy people,  
 Who lives on the lotus flower, Please protect me always*

**CROSSWORD**

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Vishnu's married her in Varaha incarnation
- 3 Vishnu's wife in Vaikuntha
- 7 Hiranyakashyapu's brother
- 10 One of the four sages?
- 11 How many sages Brhma created first?
- 13 How many births Vishnu's dwarapalakas had later?

**DOWN**

- 2 Vishnu resides in
- 4 One of Vishnu's dwarapalakas
- 5 First human Brahma created?
- 6 Who created Brahma?
- 9 Vishnu's third avatar
- 12 Where did Hiranyaksha hide the earth?

Coloring Exercise

