


INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY

**DASHAVATARA
OF LORD VISHNU**

TIMELINE

	-3000 BCE	-2500 BCE	-2000 BCE	-1500 BCE	-1000 BCE	-500 BCE	0 CE	500 CE	1000 CE	1500 CE	2000 CE
	5000 ya	4500 ya	4000 ya	3500 ya	3000 ya	2500 ya	2000 ya	1500 ya	1000 ya	500 ya	now
India	Indus Valley Civilization			 Gangetic Valley Vedic Civilization			Jainism/ Buddhism / Mouryas	Satavahans/ Sakas/ Hunas	Guptas/ Adi Sankara	Muslim Invasion	Mughals/ Marathas/ British/ Independent India
Mesopotamia	Mesopotamian						Parthian	Romans	Islamic		
Egypt	Egyptian					Greek	Byzantine		Islamic		
Europe		Greek					Greeks / Romans	Romans	Byzantine / Romans / Dark Ages		Renaissance / Colonization / Industrial Revolution / World Wars
Persia		Ancient Persian				Persian			Islamic		
China			Ancient China			Imperial China					Ming, Qing, Communists
Americas		Mayan				Aztecs & Incas					Europeans

BRONZE AGE

IRON AGE

ABOUT LORD VISHNU

- Vishnu is represented with a human body, often with blue coloured skin and with four arms.
- He carries:
 - The conch: the sound this produces 'Om', represents the primeval sound of creation
 - The chakra, or discus: symbolises the mind
 - The lotus flower: an example of glorious existence and liberation
 - The mace: represents mental and physical strength
- Vishnu is usually represented in two positions.
 - Standing upright on a lotus flower
 - Reclining on the coils of a serpent, with Lakshmi massaging his feet. They are surrounded by the Milky Ocean.
- Vishnu rides on the King of Birds, Garuda, who is an eagle.



MATSYA (FISH)



Lord Vishnu
rescues all
Rishis dying
from a
massive
flood.

Similar story
as Noah's Ark

KURMA (TURTLE)

Lord Vishnu supports the rock using which *Devtas* & Demons churn the ocean to get *Amrit* (Nectar of life).



That was necessary for *Devtas* to beat Demons and restore order on Earth.

VARAHA (BOAR)

When the demon Hiranyaksha tormented the earth (personified as the goddess Bhudevi) and its inhabitants, she sinks into the celestial waters. Vishnu took the form of the Varaha, descended into the depths of the oceans to rescue her. Varaha slew the demon and retrieved the Earth from the ocean, lifting her on his tusks, and restored Bhudevi to her place in the universe.



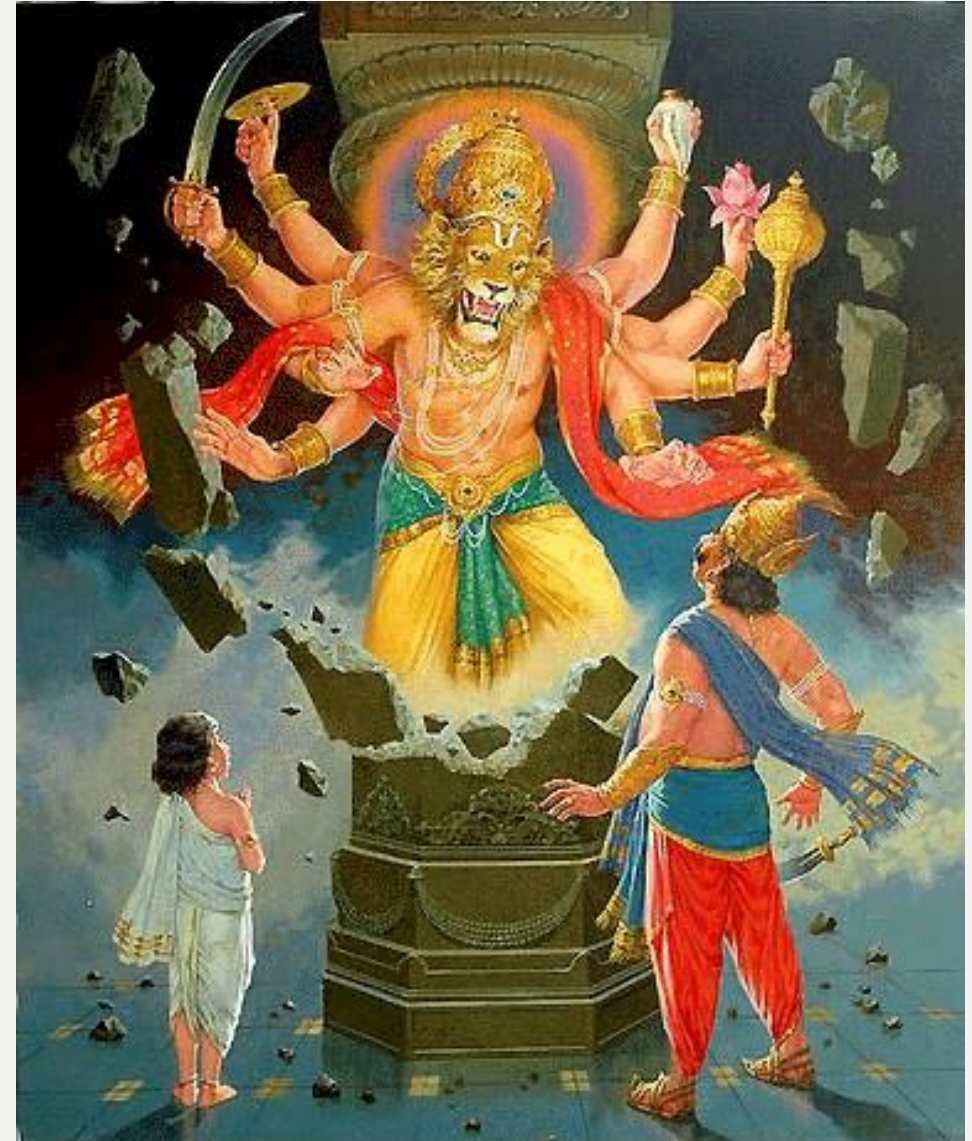
NARASIMHA (HALF LION, HALF MAN)

Hiranyakashipu, a demon gets some powers that won't let him die

- either in day or night,
- in the house or outside,
- by a human or animal.

By these powers he creates chaos on the Earth.

Let us see how Vishnu defeats Hiranyakashipu?



VAMANA (DWARF)

Another Asura King Mahabali defeats Devtas, upon which they go to Vishnu. Mahabali is very generous in giving gifts, and using his weakness, Lord Vishnu comes as a dwarf brahmin and asks for 3 steps worth of land.

Then what happens?



PARASHURAMA

A vain king Kartavirya Arjun misbehaves with Parashurama's father and steals his cows.

Young Parashurama kills the King for his misbehavior. In retaliation, sons of the king kill Parashurama's father.

That angers Parashurama and he goes everywhere and kills all the Kshatriyas (warrior class) 21 times.



RAMA

- Maryada Purushottam Rama – a king with correct conduct



KRISHNA

Krishna was a central character in the story of Mahabharata, which is considered by most as a historically true series of events which played out in northern India probably in 9th century BCE or about 5000 years ago.

Krishna slays a cruel king Kansa, and then helps Pandavas win Mahabharata War.

He is known for childhood mischievous behavior and providing Hinduism's basic philosophy in form of the book Bhagavad Gita.

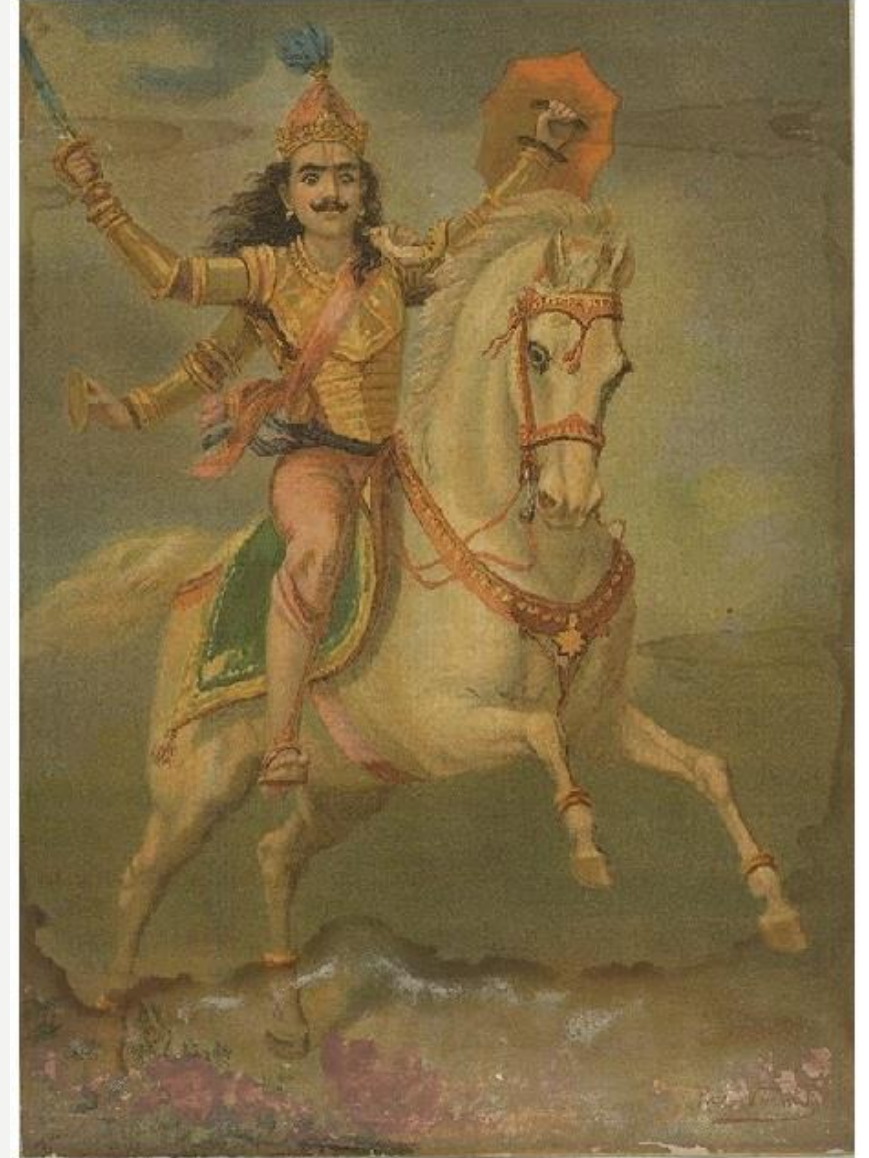


BUDDHA

- Buddha is a known historical person who appeared in the 5th century BCE. In some traditions, Balarama replaces Buddha as an incarnation of Vishnu.

KALKI – A FUTURE AVATARA

- Kalki is the tenth avatar of Vishnu to end the **Kali Yuga**, one of the four periods in endless cycle of existence in Vaishnavism cosmology.
- He is described in the **Puranas** as the avatar who restores quality of human life by ending the darkest and destructive period to remove adharma and ushering in the Satya Yuga, while riding a white horse with a fiery sword.



IS THIS SCIENTIFIC OR LOGICAL?

See video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dqbfB7MO60>

FURTHER STUDIES

<http://themodernvedic.com/mythology/10-incarnations-lord-vishnu-dashavatara/>