

# Significance of Hindu Deities (Symbolism)



Published by



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Orlando, FL 32825

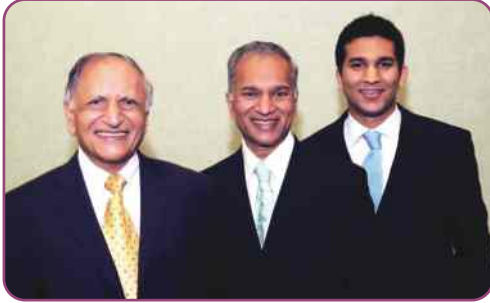
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**The publisher welcomes comments and views from readers to better the book further.**



# RADHA KRISHNA

KRISHNA – in blue (sky) means infinite, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, all pervading the self in all creatures, not bound, attached to body, mind or intellect or matter.

Peacock feather – peacock represents a dance with joy, beauty in nature, enjoying the nature.

Flute (body) – Inert or matter; produces song of the Soul, enchanting music; becomes alive when Lord/Krishana plays it through the holes in it.

RADHA – represents state of yearning, intense, unconditional love, thirst for Krishna/God. One who constantly remembers Krishna, Self/God, while externally fully involved in worldly activities, with mind attuned to the Lord.

Love affair of Radha & Krishna – symbolic of Bhakta (devotee) with eternal love, burning desire for Krishna (self). Play of Prakriti (mortal (nature)) and Lord (immortal (spirit)).

Cow – represents service or giving as a mother. Milk, complete food, especially for children and several items such as sweets, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, milk, urine (used for medicines), cow dung (manure). Krishna is the cow herd, taking cows to the forest, symbolizing Indriyas, senses, totally under control while dealing with the world.

KRISHANA – Sat, Chit and Anand. Incarnation of Joy, Bliss, Perfection, Ecstasy





## **Hindu University of America**

Advances in science and technology have benefited mankind immensely. World has become a global village but has not evolved global consciousness. A thrust solely on the material progress has left a vacuum within, with detrimental consequences to personal life, family life and the society-at-large. Enormous tensions between the nations, races and religions continue to spin out wars, terrorism and destruction of human life. Hindu thought and traditions have emphasized a balanced approach between external life and internal life, with science and spirituality complementing each other. Spiritual icons such as Swami Vivekananda, Yogananda, Aurobindo, Swami Tilak and others traveled to the West for sharing Hindu wisdom to provide answers to the problems of the modern world. Many western philosophers and scholars look to India for finding solutions to problems facing the world. While the most second generation descendants of Indian Americans are high achievers in academic and professional lives, they yearn for a systemic exposure and learning of their great heritage. Thus, there is a need to educate the second and the future generations about their religious, social and cultural traditions as foundations for a life teeming with humility, pride and fulfillment.

Inspired by an article by Swami Tilak published in Hindu Vishwa in 1984, a small group of concerned Indian Americans took a bold step to create a University which would serve as a source of education, research, and service for dissemination of the Hindu philosophy, culture and traditions. Hindu University of America was incorporated in Orlando in 1989 by the State of Florida. The University is a unique dimension of Hindu thought and traditions and is open to all people of all races, religions, beliefs and national origin. The word "Hindu" used in the name of the University includes all the Dharmic traditions and beliefs originating in India, and Hindu University strives to promote all of these.

Since the inception, hundreds of students have taken HU courses and the number is growing each year. Two extension centers and dozens of adjunct faculty members serve a student body enrolled in Masters and Doctoral degree programs. The University maintains a 12.2-acre campus in Orlando, FL. acquired in 2001 with a modest 5000-squarefeet facility in four buildings. The University is at a stage where it sees an enormous potential for growth and development. The university is guided by a dedicated team of members of Board of Directors, who are successful professionals, businessman, scientists and academicians. University has affiliations with many other institutions that have similar objectives.

The university awards masters and doctoral degrees in: Hinduism, Hindu Philosophies, Yoga Philosophy and Meditation, Yoga Education, Sanskrit, Vedic Astrology, Ayurvedic Science and Divine Music and Paurohitya. It regularly conducts conferences on a variety of subjects.

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# GOD SYMBOLISM

All names are symbols. Symbols point to or refer to other things, people, events, ideas etc. A written or spoken name in any language (including sign languages) refers to a thing which all people who know that language recognize; so symbols are culture and language specific. Interpretation of a symbol depends on the background of the person who says it and one who hears it. (Example: Swastika to a Hindu is a holy symbol but to a person with Jewish background it represents Nazism. A cow represents Shri Krishna to a devotee of Krishna, but to others it reminds them of a hamburger!). Also, symbols depend on the context in which they are placed. (Example: A cross on a building point to a church, but a cross on ground means it is burial place, and a cross on an answer-sheet of a student means a wrong answer!)

Hindus and their scriptures emphasize again and again, that the real you is the same in essence as the Supreme Being (Tat Tvam Asi), hence, all practices of rituals, pooja, worship, prayers and meditation, yoga, mantra, Vedanta, social work, etc. are developed with a view of helping human beings to go beyond the belief and actually realize that oneness with the Supreme Being (or God by whatever other name one chooses).

God symbolism means interpretation and understanding of religious symbols used in worship of deities (Devatas) and applying that understanding in one's own life. Hindus worship one supreme reality (God) but in many forms, or no form, with various attributes of these forms. These deities represent various aspects of God's powers and qualities etc. A better understanding of these forms, decorations on them, things held by them in their hands, things around them, their vehicles etc. will allow us to connect better with these deities, and help us advance in our goals. Ultimately, when thoroughly understood, we realize that these are the powers and qualities hidden in our own self, of our own real self (Atman). By proper control, training and practice of Prana, mind, body and intelligence we discover our own self.

These forms in pictures or temples can be interpreted in many ways depending on one's shraddha, one's religious tradition and mental makeup. Persons following different paths (of knowledge, devotion, action, mind control etc.) will have different meanings attributed to the symbols which is perfectly acceptable as long as it helps one to progress. Typically, there is an ordinary or traditional interpretation and also a deeper mystical/spiritual interpretation. Which is the correct interpretation? That which helps you progress spiritually and makes you a better human being is the correct interpretation for you.

People do not worship idols, icons, picture or statues. They use these to focus their minds upon higher, nobler qualities and cultivate them, or to cultivate mental powers to overcome negative qualities and habits. Just as a flag arouses thoughts of patriotism, so does an image arouses qualities represented by that image. The idea of 330 million gods is only a metaphor for innumerable ways one can imagine/superimpose only a few of infinite qualities represented in each form of God. These gods are not independent and rival powers but are aspects of the one Supreme Being. This short pamphlet gives a brief explanation of some of the popular deities worshipped by Hindus. We hope it will be useful to you when you pray or meditate on these deities.



# GANESHA



Small Eyes—  
Concentration  
& Foresight

Large Ears—  
Listen more

Axe — to  
protect & cut  
off all bonds of  
attachments

Small Mouth —  
Talk less

Trunk — High  
efficiency &  
adaptability

Blessings —  
Blesses &  
protects on  
spiritual path  
to supreme

Large  
Stomach —  
Peacefully  
digest all good  
& bad in life

Prasada — The  
whole world is  
at your feet &  
for your asking

Big Head —  
Think Big

Rope To pull you  
nearer to the truth

One Tusk —  
retain good  
throw away bad

Rewards of  
Sadhana

Mouse — Desire,  
Mind — Unless under  
control can cause  
havoc; you ride the  
desire & keep it  
under control & don't  
allow it to take you  
for a ride

# GANESHA

**Other names:** Vinayak (knowledgeable), Vighneshwara (remover of obstacles), Gajanana (elephant faced) or Ganapati (a leader). He has leadership qualities and, with His grace, it is believed that no undertaking can fail due to subjective or objective obstacles.

Ganesh has an elephant's head which symbolizes sharp intelligence and big thinking. An elephant's life is full of radiance, which comes from dignity and self-esteem. Also, the elephant shares his food by scattering some around, indicating the sense of generosity.

Large ears and a small mouth indicate that one should talk less and listen more, retaining only the positive and constructive things. The large ears also represent continuous and intelligent listening to the teacher while the small eyes indicate sharp vision, concentration and foresight.

Ganesh's trunk is the symbol of high strength, efficiency and adaptability. It can move the biggest obstacles and yet be infinitely gentle in handling delicate objects. Even the tusks on Ganesha are used as symbols for deeper meaning. The partial tusk signifies intelligence and the full tusk represents faith. Both intelligence and faith are needed to progress in life. However, the intelligence often falls short in providing answers to life's burning questions. When it falls short, faith in God and ourselves can lead us in life successfully.

Ganesh's four hands have four objects:

- Ankush (Elephant driver's iron rod or axe) it indicates to us to cut off all bonds of attachment and restrain desires and passions
- Paash (cod or rope) symbol of restraint and punishment it represents pulling you nearer to the truth
- Modak a food which is dry and hard from the outside and sweet from the inside as well as nourishing. This signifies that hard work brings joy, satisfaction and nourishment to our souls.
- Aashirwaad (blessings) illustrates that Ganesha blesses and protects us on our spiritual path to the Supreme.

A man of perfection must have a “big belly” to stomach peacefully, as it were, all the experiences of life. Ganesh is able to digest all good and bad things without losing control. The small legs indicate that one should not move hastily or rush into anything. Each step must be slow, deliberate and well thought out.

The mouse sitting by the beautiful, fragrant ready-made food is looking up at Ganesh, shivering with anticipation, but not daring to touch anything without His command. Although a mouse is a small animal with tiny teeth, it can bring disastrous losses by gnawing and nibbling. Similarly, there is a “mouse” within each personality, which can eat away even a mountain of merit in it and this mouse is the power of desire. Ganesh is one who has so perfectly mastered this urge to acquire, possess and enjoy this self-annihilating power of desire, that the mouse is completely held in obedience to the will of the Master.



# DURGA



# DURGA

**Other names:** Kaali, Bhavani, Amba, Jagadamba, Sinha-vahini, Shera-vaali, Parvati, and hundreds more.

**Other forms:** Sometimes seated on a lion, sometimes shown as Kali

**Significance:** Durga literally means formidable or inaccessible. As Kali She represents the fierce and terrifying aspect of the divine which is terrifying to only those who are evil doers or anti-divine. As Parvati or Amba She is a loving mother to those who are pious and to devotees. Durga is that spiritual energy in ourselves, when invoked, swiftly and thoroughly uproots negative tendencies/sanskaras in us. This energy works with a decisive force.

Durga is shown sitting on a lion or tiger with eight (sometimes ten or eighteen) hands, with weapons. The Trident, Sword, bow and arrow, Mace (*gadaa*), discus (*chakra*) all are weapons of different kinds and used in different situations. They represent various power and capabilities, hidden within us, to overcome negativity and allow positive to blossom.

The Lion/Tiger symbolizes uncontrolled animalistic tendencies in us (such as anger, arrogance, vanity, greed, prejudice, jealousy, desire to harm others etc.), When allowed to go unchecked, such tendencies will bring harm and even total ruin to one's own self. These tendencies need to be first controlled, with firm and determined efforts (force), and then turned into positive qualities. Durga's various weapons represent determined and forceful strategies and actions to control one's harmful tendencies, which are then replaced by joyous and beneficial tendencies. Mind, as a tamed lion/tiger, is a wonderful thing.

**Conch (shankha):** It is trumpeted to announce to the devotees not to be afraid of the terrible aspects of Durga and also to cast fear in the hearts of the evil doers. In our lives, this assurance comes in the form a Guru, a good book, or just a deep down self-conviction.

The blessing hand is an assurance of victory in the battle against evil tendencies. In other words, one's self confidence/faith in the victory of good over evil is symbolically represented by this gesture.

A lotus in one hand represents purity and fullness. Though outwardly She looks terrifying, there is no animosity in Her. She is dispassionately doing Her work of "cleaning" Her children as a mother would do. So, if we do our work as dispassionately, the lotus symbolically assures us that we also will fully develop our potential.

Durga is one form of Shakti (power) of the Supreme Lord in His Shiva aspect. She is not separate from Shiva. Similarly our powers are part of us and come from within. There are other powers of the Lord, such as Lakshmi, Saraswati, Maheshwari, and many more. Since Atman (our true self) in essence is the same as the Lord, these powers are also of Atman. By proper control and training of ourselves, by various well developed systematic methods such as Yoga, and by guidance we can invoke these powers and become better beings.



# HANUMAN



Courage, knowledge, service, control over mind & senses, speech, intelligence

Whole being is saturated with Rama

Strength, confidence, simplicity

High chin, face, tail and hair show a body of a monkey – body is no bar to divine qualities

# HANUMAN

**Other names of Hanuman:** Mahavir, Maruti, Pawan-suta, Anjaneya, Ram-doot, Rama-das, Kesari-nandan, and many more.

**Other forms of Forms:** Sometimes Hanuman is shown flying with one hand holding up a mountain; sometimes He is shown in Rama-Darbar sitting quietly at the feet of Rama; sometimes He is shown opening His chest with His own hands and showing Rama and Sita sitting in His heart.

**Significance:** Hanuman is one of the most popular Hindu deities. He is an embodiment of service (*seva*), devotion (*bhakti*) and surrender (*samarpan*, egolessness). He is an incarnation of Shiva. He is also considered the son of Wind-God (*Maruta*), son of Anjani-Devi. He has a high chin (hence the name Hanuman) and a long tail like that of a monkey. In physical characteristics he looks sub-human, but his qualities are divine/super human, which all of us aspire to have. He is endowed with tremendous physical and spiritual strength, courage and valor (hence the name Mahavir), fearlessness, devotion to Rama and Sita, (hence the name Rama-das, Rama-doot etc.), high intelligence, truthful speech, ocean of knowledge and other good qualities. He is in complete control of all his senses.

Hanuman is worshipped by all, especially those who are engaged in games and sports and those who are engaged in hard yogic practices.

Hanuman carrying a mountain in His hand shows His tremendous devotion to carry out the task given by His master, Lord Rama. Opening His chest to show there is nothing other than Rama and Sita in His heart shows that He is totally surrendered to His lord (egoless). His very humble pose in Rama-darbar shows that He is a servant of Rama; this represents a calm, controlled and concentrated mind surrendered to truth, which is otherwise restless like a monkey. Like hanuman, we should strive to serve our lord (our true self, *Atman*), by bringing our mind, *buddhi* under the control of our own soul.

As son of wind-god (*Marut*) He symbolizes the power of breath (*Pranayama*), since breath and mind are directly connected. His success in locating and contacting Sita (pure *buddhi*) in the forest, means it is the calm and controlled mind that can discover our own inner hidden (or imprisoned) potential.

**Essence of Hanuman Chalisa**, the famous forty verses which are recited by millions of Hindus everyday, give a very good description (summary) of the qualities and deeds of Hanuman in the Ramayana and it's chanting will remind us to achieve great qualities of:

- Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual strengths.
- Vast knowledge (Gyan Guna Sagar), super intellect (Vidya)
- Humility, service to Ram (soul).
- Fearless, selflessness, egoless with an attitude nothing is impossible.



# LAKSHMI



Status of supremacy

Fully blossomed spirituality

Abundance forever

Blessing

Material wealth is rewarded

Spiritual perfection is the foundation

Spiritual light & knowledge

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# LAKSHMI

**Other Names:** Kamala

**Other forms:** Lakshmi is usually depicted as sitting or standing on a red lotus flower, with bright red clothes, surrounded by plenty of material wealth (gold, coins etc.), elephants, and oil lamps (diya). Sometimes, when shown with reclining Vishnu, She is shown near His feet (Shesha-Shayee Vishnu).

**Significance:** Lakshmi is the *Shakti* (power) of Vishnu, the preserving aspect of the Supreme Lord. It is through Her that the universe is kept in harmony. She is the provider of all material things to sustain the universe and hence, popularly She is worshipped as the mother Goddess of wealth and prosperity. She is also the mother Goddess of beauty, harmony and balance.

Lakshmi's origin is connected with churning of cosmic ocean by two groups, divine force on one side and anti-divine forces on the other side. It simply means our successes and material prosperity come as a result of constant efforts, sometimes very hard efforts.

She is seated on a red lotus, which represents the spiritual foundation from which all material creation manifests. It means all potential can be turned into actualities by our own inner power. When She is shown at the feet of Vishnu, it means Her powers are really His, and are to be used for His purpose. Our own real self (*Atman*) is no different than the Supreme Lord so, *Atman* has the same powers as the Lord. As Vishnu uses His *Shakti* for the preservation of the universe we should also use our *Shakti* (wealth etc.) to help the world. By excessive hoarding of the wealth and not using it for the benefit of world, we are not contributing to the work of Vishnu. Elephants pouring water signifies inexhaustible divine wealth and when our wealth and other abilities are used for others/divine purpose, they continue to grow.

Of the three Goddesses worshiped during Nava-Ratri festival, middle three days are specifically for Lakshmi pooja. It is only after Durga (Kaali) has removed obstacles (negativity), that Lakshmi can establish prosperity, harmony and balance in ourselves, and only then can our minds turn towards still higher things such as acquiring wisdom (*Saraswati*).



padma aasana sthite devi, para brahma svaroopini,  
parameshi jaganmaatah, mahaa laxmi namah stute.

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# SHIVA



Eternal wisdom for welfare

Beyond three gunas, beyond Three times

Complete control over mind "cool"

Vision beyond space, time

Blessings to devotees Do not fear

Mystic power, control over evil

Rhythm of dynamic universe

No house, no possessions

Master over lower nature

# SHIVA

**Other names of Shiva:** Mahadeva, Shankar, Shambhu, Mahesh, Neelkantha, Bholanath, KailasPati, UmaPati, Rudra, Ishaan, Ishwara, and hundreds more.

**Other forms of Shiva:** Shiva-Linga, Nataraj, Ardha-Nareeshwara, Dakshinamurti

**Significance:** Shiva is one of the three main aspects of the Supreme/Divine, the other two being Brahma and Vishnu. Shiva means auspiciousness. Shiva represents the principle of dissolution. Everything in the universe that has a name or a form is perishable. Shiva is the original cause /process working that makes dissolution possible. Due to this, He at times is incorrectly referred to as the God of destruction. Dissolution is a necessary process for creation.

Shiva is depicted in a sitting, meditative pose, or in a family setting with consort Parvati and sons Ganesh and Kartikeya and surrounded by Nandi (bull), and Ganas. Shiva is the God with utter simplicity and austerity. His clothes, his decorations, his abode are minimal. He has a simple deer or tiger skin as his clothes, sacred ash (*vibhuti*) smeared on the body, long hair tied together in a knot, snakes around the neck and His arms are decorated. He is an embodiment of *Tapas*, *Vairagya*, and Knowledge. He is always meditating on the welfare of the Universe. What do all of these mean to us?

Ganga symbolizes Chid-Shakti (pure consciousness, wisdom) or knowledge flowing from heaven to earth. She comes down to Earth through Shiva (auspiciousness). Wisdom descends only through the medium of auspiciousness. The crescent moon symbolizes complete control over mind and the third eye, which is usually closed, symbolizes pure knowledge which burns away all dualities when opened. Sacred ash on the body signifies spiritual wealth left over after dissolution of all worldly desires. The blue neck of Shiva points to His extreme compassion for the world. He is holding poison in the neck and not completely swallowing it.

*Trishula* (trident) shows that he is beyond three *Gunas* (Sattva, Rajas, Tamas), beyond three states of consciousness, and beyond past, present and future. Beats of *damaroo* (drum) sets the cosmic rhythm by which the universe maintains its dynamic harmony and balance. The snake is a representation of Kundalini Shakti (mystic spiritual energy) and also represents a poisonous animal. Shiva is immune to its poison. Nandi (bull) is a vehicle of Shiva and signifies Dharma as well as pure *Ananda* (joy). Tiger skin represents slain ego (*ahankar*) and control over all lower nature.

In the form of Dakshinamurti, Shiva is a universal teacher who imparts knowledge by silence. In the form of Nataraj, dancing Shiva represents the cosmic laws of the dynamic universe—a universe continuously in motion but not out of balance. In the form of Ardha-Nareeshwara, Shiva represents simultaneously both male and female principles working together to manifest the universe. In the form of *Linga*, Shiva is depicted as form-less, feature-less ultimate reality, the Self who is fully absorbed in his own self. There are twelve famous and ancient Jyotir-linga spread across India.

There is an ancient saying: *Shivam bhutva Shivam Yajet*, which can be generally translated as “meditate on Shiva to become like Shiva”. In the famous Shloka of 'Shiva Mansa Pooja' connection of Shiva to ourselves is made clear: My own Atman is Shiva, my own pure *buddhi* is Parvati, my own *Prana* is nothing but *Ganas*, and my own Body is Shiva's abode... and therefor whatever I do let it be an offering of pooja to Shiva (my own *Atman*). An image of Shiva once understood in its true sense, can be a source of great inspiration for all to improve themselves.



# SARASWATI



Aura of knowledge

Beauty, harmony, perfection

Expression of wisdom in the world

Pure knowledge, complete knowledge

Pure consciousness is the foundation

Discriminating intelligence

# SARASWATI

**Other names:** Sharada, Veena-Dharini, Vageshwari

Saraswati is usually depicted as sitting on a lotus flower, holding a Veena instrument and clad in white clothes, with a white swan nearby as her vehicle.

**Significance:** Saraswati literally means one who gives essence (*Sara*) of the self (*Swa*). She is the Goddess of spiritual knowledge and wisdom, and is the consort/power of Brahma the creator, who needs all the knowledge to create a universe. It is through Her grace that one gains *Vidya* (knowledge, wisdom), and learns *Kalaa* (arts and skills). She is the Goddess that shines through our intellect (*Buddhi*) and the Goddess of speech (*Vaani*). Her white clothes represent purity since knowledge has to be pure, without any confusion and misunderstanding. *Veena*, the musical instrument is a symbol of the joy and harmony that arise with wisdom and knowledge. A white swan symbolizes discriminating intellect, i.e. the ability to grasp the essential and leave out the trivial. (A swan is believed to have the power to separate milk from water and take only milk). A peacock is a symbol of perfect beauty which is inherent in wisdom. Her seat, a fully blossomed lotus flower, represents *Chid-shakti*, the pure consciousness (the middle term of *Sat-Chit-Ananda*) in which all knowledge resides. The four hands of Saraswati represent four aspects of our mind *Mana*, *Buddhi*, *Ahankar*, and *Chitta*.

This symbolism means that Saraswati is our own inherent wisdom which is lying dormant within us and once the mental chattering and agitation stops our mind becomes calm and peaceful. Then the pure buddhi, the discerning intelligence (our own inner wisdom) starts revealing itself with a soft and convincing voice; doubts vanish and clarity remain.

She is prayed to and invoked by all. Children recite prayers to Her before beginning studies and those who are in pursuit of self-development also seek her blessings.

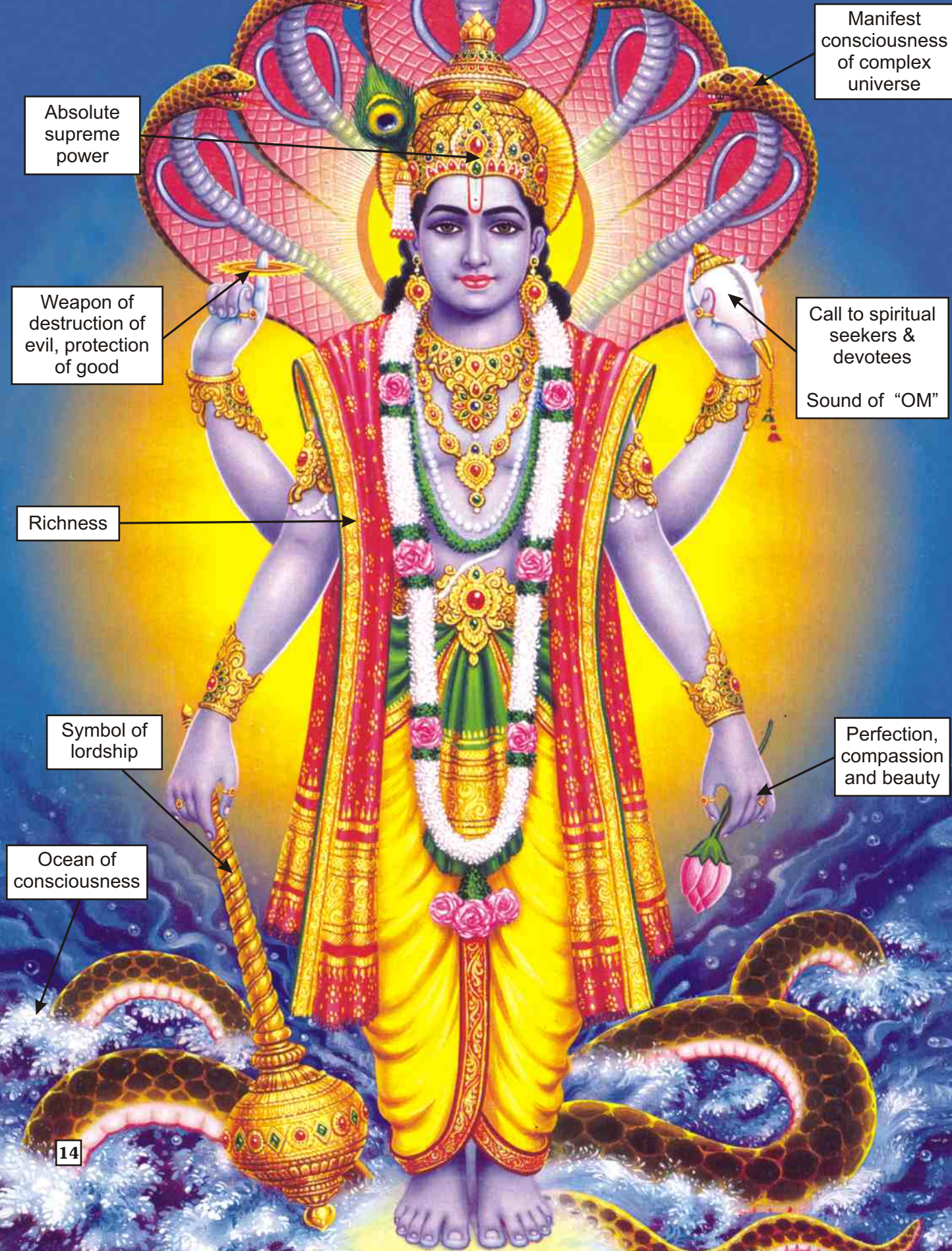
Of the three Goddesses worshiped during Nava-Ratri festival, last three days are for Saraswati. It is only after Durga (Kaali) has removed obstacles (negativity), and Lakshmi has established harmony and balance in our external lives that our mind turns towards acquiring wisdom (Saraswati).



saraswatee namastubhyam varade kaamaroopinee,  
vidyaarambham katishyaami, siddhirbhavatu mein sadaa



# VISHNU



# VISHNU

**Other Names of Vishnu:** Narayana, Rama, Krishna, Vishweshwar, Balaji, LakshmiPati, Shesh-Shayee, Satyanarayana, Lakshmi-Narayana, and hundreds more.

**Other forms of Vishnu:** Vishnu is depicted in many forms. Since He is the one who has taken Avatar as Rama, Krishna etc., there are many popular forms of these Avatars. He is also shown as reclining on a great Serpent (*Shesha-Naag*), with Lakshmi nearby, in “Sheer Sagar”.

**Significance:** Vishnu is one of the three main aspects of the Supreme Lord; the other two are Brahma and Shiva. Vishnu represents the principle of preservation of the universe in its dynamic form. All things in the universe come to existence, stay for a while and then get destroyed or dissolved. This is true without any exception. It is true not only for things, but also for beings, ideas, events, concepts etc. It is due to the power of Vishnu that things remain in existence. His Shakti is Lakshmi or *Prakriti* (nature).

**Incarnations:** Since Vishnu is the preserver of the Universe He takes incarnations and comes to Earth when necessary to preserve the good and to remove the evil. Thus, he restores the balance. Men who live by following *Dharma* (eternal Values), are also doing similar things as Vishnu. Rama and Krishna are the most adored and worshipped incarnations of Vishnu among Hindus. Rama established an example of an ideal human being (events described in Ramayana). Similarly Krishna's incarnation shows the various paths leading to divine-love and God-surrender while living in the world (the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata, and Srimad Bhaagavat Purana). By carefully studying and understanding the events in the lives of these incarnations, and following their messages, we also can become God-like while still alive.

Vishnu is reclining on a serpent (*Shesha Naag*) and is floating on an ocean. The ocean represents the infinite, inactive/dormant consciousness (*Chid Shakti*), while the serpent is the active, awakened consciousness. This means that there is a hidden capability in us and only a small portion comes on the surface as thoughts, which make us act in the world. Weapons in the hand of Vishnu are for preservation; lotus represents perfection and manifestation of qualities already within us; the crown, *gadaa* (mace) and rich decorations represent His royalty, meaning we ourselves are like kings and already possess power and wealth. The conch shell is a symbol of the sound of OM, (eternal joy).

Lakshmi, Goddesses of wealth, near the feet of Vishnu symbolizes that all wealth really belongs to the divine and should be used for protection and preservation of the universe. She is always with Vishnu, meaning wealth follows people who are engaged in noble work. All others' wealth is transitory.

Vishnu-Sahasra Naam is a collection of the thousand names of Vishnu, each pointing to His divine qualities. Devotees of Vishnu recite these names daily to remind themselves to cultivate such qualities.

Images of Vishnu and Lakshmi have great symbolism and provide a message to all who want to live a life full of prosperity of material wealth, joy and harmony, and progress in spiritual path as well.



# RAM DARBAR

Ram – (Soul)

- a. Blue color means sky, infinity
- b. Bow & arrow – Shakti ready to act, always being in the present; detached
- C. Playing the role of an ideal human being as a son (obedience), brother (love), husband (commitment), friend (trust-helpfulness), disciple (surrender to the Guru), as a king (just, fair, compassionate and firm).

Sita – Intellect –

Totally dedicated to Ram (The Soul),  
one with Ram (Soul), desireless

Laxman – Body –  
Healthy, strong –  
ready to act

Hanuman – Mind  
– relaxed, balanced  
selfless, purity  
– trained, disciplined,  
humble - egoless

Ram Darbar – my true identity – The Soul (Atman)  
Constant awareness, remembrance of the Soul  
is the Goal and Purpose of life



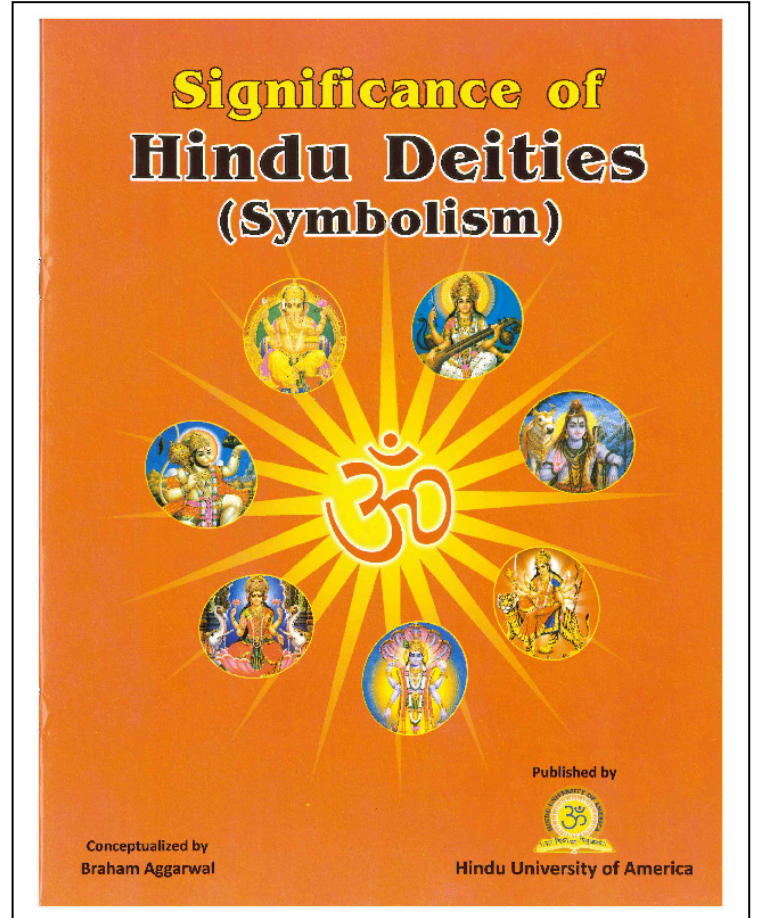


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