

# 10 Avatars of Vishnu



# Matsya

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- First Avatar
  - Gigantic Fish
  - Saved the four Vedas from being lost in a gigantic flood
  - Brahma was feeling asleep. This is particularly bad because when he falls asleep Pralaya happens in which the universe begins to end. As Brahma drifted off, a demon named Hayagriva took advantage of it and stole the Vedas from Brahma and descended deep into the ocean.
  - Vishnu saw Hayagriva dove deep into the ocean after him and defeated him to save the Vedas and bring them back to Brahma.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1INpbdTDyY>
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# Kurma

- Second Avatar
- A turtle
- During on going battle between Devas and Demons, the devatas(demigods) lost all their strength and power, due to a curse. They turned to Vishnu for help and Vishnu said to churn the ocean of milk with a mountain to obtain amrita (nectar of immortality) They also needed help with the asuras(demons) and in exchange the asuras get some of the nectar.
- While churning, the mountain was falling so Vishnu took the form of a turtle and held the mountain up.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu-yloqozUQ>





# Varaha

- Third avatar
- Boar
- Another demon named Hiranyaksha stole Bhoomdevi (earth/god of earth) and hid it in the cosmic ocean of creation.
- The boar (with its giant nostrils) used his smell to find the Earth. Once he found it, he hooked it on his tusks and carried back to surface. Along the way he bumped into Hiranyaksha, they fought with Varaha winning and returning Bhoomdevi.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_mRNcjOCj50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mRNcjOCj50)





# Narasimha

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- Half man, half lion
- Story of Prahlad and killed Haranyankshipu (Holi)
- Fourth Avatar
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrPEVPN5hXk>





# Vamana

- Fifth Avatar
- A dwarf
- Bali, King of Demons, set up a shop on earth and gave the god Indra (King of Heaven) and dismissed his presence. The gods did not like Bali on Earth and Heaven, so they tried to get him back to the underworld.
- Vishnu took form of a dwarf to tricked Bali into giving him enough of his land to cover Vamana three steps. Noting his small boyish body Bali agreed.
- Once Bali granted Vamana the land Vishnu transform himself to giant covering his first step to cover Bali's entire property on heavens, his second step covering Bali's properties on Earth.
- Vishnu rested and did not take the third step, allowing Bali and other demons to possess and return to the underworld.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kp-w0gwEmGA>



# Parashurama

- Sixth Avatar
- Rama (also might be a completely different person as well) with an axe
- A warrior caste Kshatriyas began to abuse their power and began to disrespect the Brahman caste, which they had sworn to protect
- A Brahman boy named Parashurama wielded a deadly axe and killed the seven-armed Kshatriya king. However in retaliation the Kshatriyas killed Parashurama's father.
- Parashurama was deeply upset by this and went on twenty-one battles that wiped out all the Kshatriyas. Parashurama was so saddened by this (even though he won) he threw his axe very far away and lived the rest of his life on a mountaintop.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_yZrGbsInmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yZrGbsInmo)





# Rama

- Seventh Avatar
- Story of Ramayana
- Is the husband of Sita and kills Ravana
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p59n0So-XE>



# Krishna

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- Eighth Avatar
- Name means “the dark one”
- Son of a cowherd (there are many stories of him being a mischievous child)
- Played the flute and is known for frolicking with gopis





# Buddha

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- Ninth Avatar
- Born in Kali Yuga, Brahman were doing sacrifices and rituals that were doing more harm than good.
- Gave up being a king to go into the forest and become a monk
- 8-fold path to nirvana (eternal bliss)
- Helped end Brahman oppression
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wUh3E9PSbl>





# Kalki

- Tenth Avatar
- Appears at the end of Kali Yuga. (Age of Darkness) Kali Yuga is when the environment is polluted, and society is filled with corruption. (We're in Kali Yuga today!)
- Kalki will appear on a horse and use a flaming sword to kill everyone who is corrupt
- Those who escape his wrath will be purified and reborn into Satya Yuga (Golden Age) and start a new cycle of creation.