

# Viṣṇu is the supreme god and creator of the universe

Nilachal Mishra

## Abstract

Lord viṣṇu is all-powerful god and he is called viṣṇu due to pervading all and he is called as nārāyaṇa because he is resting place of all. Viṣṇu is very popular as a protector god in Hinduism. He is Aja means unborn. He has taken birth in this mortal world when righteousness is in danger and saved the saints. He is described as four arms and he holds sankha, chakra, gadā, Padma and sometimes, the khadga and shāraṅga. Viṣṇu's carrier name is Garuda who is half man and half eagle. He is the only supreme god of the entire universe and creator of the universe. He is omnipresent and possessed thousands of heads, thousands of eyes, thousands of feet and pervaded all over the universe. He is the creator, protector, and destroyer of the world and everybody should meditate him in every moment of life.

**Keywords**-visnu, visnu purana, srimad bhagavad mahapurana, sankha, chakra, gada, padma, kaumodaki, kumuda, garuda, kubera, yama, kala, pitambara.

## Introduction

Lord viṣṇu is the all-powerful god who originated everything and he is called as protector of this mortal world and the full of extraterrestrial creation. He is called viṣṇu due to pervading all and he is called as nārāyaṇa because he is resting place of all creatures. He has possessed sattvaguṇa and also he is called as Hari because he can remove the darkness of delusion. The delusion means the wrong idea which is related to living beings who lives without the blessings of God. Viṣṇu is very popular as a protector god in Hinduism. When God creates the creation at that time he is called as brahmā and when he protects the universe, he is called as viṣṇu and when he destroys the devilish, he is called as śiva. The three forms of God is called as Trinity. The Trimurti controls the entire universe and saves the world. He is called as Parama Bhagavata and Aja means who is the unborn.

Lord viṣṇu has taken incarnation himself on earth when righteousness is in danger and his intention to save the saints from the wicked and place the peace in this mortal world. In Bhagavad gītā god says that-

*yādā yādā hi dharmasya glānirbhavati bhārata/  
abhyuthānamadharmasya tadātmānaṁ sṛjāmyaham//  
paritrāṇāya sādḥūnāṁ vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām/  
dharmasaṁsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge// 1*

In Veda, Lord viṣṇu is described as a friend and supporter of Indra who is the rain god. viṣṇu and Indra both narrated as the killer of Vritra.

Viṣṇu is described as four arms and sometimes he is found with eight, seven and sixteen. He holds in his hand sankha, chakra, gadā and Padma and irregularly, the khadga and sharaṅga(bow).

**Gadā**

viṣṇu's gadā(mace) is called as kaumodaki which was given by varuṇa, the lord of waters and that mace has kept the capability to destroy the demons. The word kaumodaki is originated from the plant of lily kumuda.

**Shankha**

Krishna has obtained the conch named panchajanya. The sacred book mahābhārata says that Krishna was gained that conch after the death of demon panchajana who lives in pātāla. He killed the devil panchajana and gained his conch and as per his name, that sankha(conch) is called as panchajanya. The conch was the sign of god viṣṇu when Lord Krishna was recognized as viṣṇu. That conch was not a sacred itself but became sacred by the godliness of lord viṣṇu.

**chakra**

When the gods and the demons spun the ocean to obtain the amrita, at that time viṣṇu destroyed the thousand of demons by his destructive chakra. According to the sacred scripture mātābhārata that chakra was created by lord śiva which is blazing and lord śiva could see it. So the name of that sudarsana chakra(marvelous seeing).

**padma**

Viṣṇu holds the Padma in his hand. At the time of creation, a lotus was created from the navel of viṣṇu and the creator brahmā was seated on it. Viṣṇu nārāyaṇa was given the name padmanābha. The lotus which exists in the hand of lord viṣṇu indicates the goddess of wealth also

**Khadga**

Irregularly, Lord viṣṇu appears with khadga. There is no proves how and when that khadga or sword was gained by him. In iconography, it shows occasionally.

**Shāraṅga**

Viṣṇu's chakra and sankha are related to his avatāra Krishna and the bow of śrīRāma related to the god. The bow (shāraṅga) is not a valuable weapon of lord viṣṇu but sometimes he holds it and that weapon is an important weapon in the incarnation of Rāma also. śrīRāma is the incarnation of viṣṇu. So that weapon has been identified with lord viṣṇu.

Lord viṣṇu wears a garland whose five rows of flowers indicates the five senses and his delusory powers. His armlets indicate dharma(righteousness), Artha(financial achievement) and kāma means pleasure which is the three objectives of human life. Viṣṇu wears the cloth whose name is pitāmbara, that indicates Vedas, the sacred text of Hindu religions. His crown indicates the top and incomprehensible ability.

Viṣṇu is called in many more names like *Nārāyaṇa*(universal restor), *Govinda*(earth protector and cow's protector), *mādhava*(domineer of all bits of knowledge), *Madhusudana*(killer of the devil named Madhu), *Trivikrama*(conqueror of all the systems of three planets), *Sridhara*(holder of the lucks), *padmanābha*(lotus produced from whose navels), *sankarsaṇa*, *puruṣottama*(best among men), *Hrishikesa*, (domineer and sense controller), *Anirudha*(who has no opposer), *Dāmodara*(self controller), *Nrismha*(half human and half animal lion), *Hari*(obstacle remover) *Upendra*(brother of the Indra), *Achyuta*(who has no decline), *janārdana*(giver of

the rewards), *Kṛṣṇa* (attractive and possessed the dark colour), *vāmana* (incarnation of the dwarf), *vāsudeva* (who lives within), *pradyumna* (who acquired vast wealth), *Adhoksaja* (who spread the universe). Lord Krishna has obtained many names which described in the *viṣṇu sahasranāma and mahābhārata anuśāsana Parva* (149,14-20). He is also called as *Nilameghaśyāma* and *Ananta* (endless), and *Anantaśeṣa*.

Viṣṇu's carrier is the bird Garuda who is half man and half eagle. Garuda, s father name is *kāhyapa* and mother's name is *vinata*, daughter of *dakṣha*. *Aruṇa* is the elder brother of Garuda.

Viṣṇu's avatars are mainly based on *Gita Govinda* of *jayadeva*, that is the number of ten. But there is no fixation of his avatars in *purāṇas*. In *purāṇa*, the number of avatars is said ten, twenty, and thirty numbers or more. But he has taken ten avatars which are popularly known to all. i.e *Matsya*, *kūrma*, *varāha*, *Narasimha*, *vāmana*, *parśurāma*, *Rāma*, *kṛṣṇa*, *Budha* and *kalkī*. but this list is not a fixed list. The root of the ten avatars of lord viṣṇu is only taken from the *Gita Govinda* of *jayadeva*.

Whatever may be, God viṣṇu is the only supreme god of the entire universe and there is no doubt. viṣṇu *purāṇa* describes his supreme godliness very beautifully. I have described briefly his some supreme quality as he is the supreme god and also the creator of this universe.

### **Description of Visnu's supreme godliness and his creation quality in visnu purāna**

God viṣṇu exists in all the bodies of this world and he can do the creation, sustenance, and destruction of the creation. It is described in *viṣṇu purāṇa* like this.

***evaṁ sarvaśarīreṣu bhagavānbhūtabhāvanaḥ/  
saṁsathitaḥ kuṛte viṣṇuruptatisaṁyamāt//2***

In another place of *viṣṇu purāṇa* said that o *Maitreya*, The *vaiṣṇava śakti* has always spread in all the bodies in the same way and which *Sakti* is the cause of *sṛṣṭi*, *stīti*, and *pralaya* (creation, sustenance, and destruction).

***sṛṣṭi sthītivināśānām śakyaḥ sarvadehiṣu/  
vaiṣṇavyaḥ parivartante maitreyāharniśaṁ samāḥ//3***

It is described in *viṣṇu purāṇa* that, O son of *ṛṣi*, this is the dreadful form of lord viṣṇu and also this form is the cause of the destruction of the world.

***roudrāṇyetāni ṛpāṇi viṣṇormunivarātmaja/  
nityapralayahetutvaṁ jagato.sya prayānti vai//4***

Lord viṣṇu is the creator and he created his own creation and protected as a protector and he destructed as a destroyer of all in the end.

***Sraṣṭā sṛjṣnti cātmānaṁ viṣṇuḥ pātyaṁ ca pāti ca/  
Upasaṁhṛiyate cānte saṁhartā ca svayaṁ prabhuḥ//5***

In another place of the *viṣṇu purāṇa* described that supreme and *puṛṣa* are created from that supreme soul of viṣṇu. At the time of creation and destruction that form of viṣṇu is added and removed. Hence that formation name is *kāla*. *kāla* is created from that form of viṣṇu.

***Viṣṇoḥ svarpātparato hi te dve ṛpe pradhānaṁ puṛṣaśca vipra/  
tasaiva te.nyena dhṛte vijukte ṛpāntaraṁ taddvija kālasamjñam//6***

Many other gods said to viṣṇu O Lord, we give you salute you are nirviśeṣa(indiscriminate) yet you are brahmā, you are śankara and you are Indra, Agni, air, varuṇa, Surya and also yamarāja. O Prabhu, you are the vasus, Maruts,sādhyagaṇas and viśvedeva and all the gods are in front of you.O creator of creation, you are the same and you are omnipresent.

***namo namo.viśeṣastvaṁ tvaṁ brahmā tvaṁ pinākadhrk/  
indrastvamagnaiḥ pavano vaṛṇaḥ savitā yamaḥ//  
vasavo marṭaḥ sādhyā viśvedevaganaiḥ bhavān/  
yo.yam tavāgrato deva samīpaṁ devatāganaḥ/  
sa tvameva jagatsraṣṭā yataḥ sarvagato bhavān//7***

Lord viṣṇu is nārāyaṇa, incarnation of brahmā, endless and cause of all the place of creation.it is described very beautifully in viṣṇu purāṇa like this.

***nārāyaṇaḥ paro.cintyaḥ pareṣāmapī sa prabhuḥ/  
brahmasvarpī bhagānanādīḥ sarvasambhavaḥ//8***

Nara means puṛṣa-lord puruṣottama from that created so water is called as 'nāra'.Nāra(water) is his first Ayana (resting place). So god is called as nārāyaṇa.

***apo nārā eti proktā apo vai narasūnavaḥ/  
ayanaṁ tasya tāḥ pūrvaṁ tena nārāyaṇḥ smṛtaḥ//9***

It is said in viṣṇu purāṇa O Prabhu, you have possessed the thousands of heads, thousands of eyes, thousands of feet and you are the supreme men (Parama puṛṣa) and you are omnipresent and you are pervaded all over the universe.

***sahasraśīrṣā puṛṣaḥ sahasrākṣaḥ sahasrapāt/  
sarvavyāpī bhuvaḥ sparśadityatiṣṭhaddaśāngulam//10***

Viṣṇu purāṇa describes O puṛṣottama, you are all the past and future and virāt,svarāt,samrāt(king) and brahmā all are originated from you.

***yad bhutaṁ yacca vai bhavyaṁ puṛuṣottama tadbhvān/  
tvatto virāt svarāt samrāt tvattścāpyadhipūṛṣaḥ//11***

Ṛk,sām, and gāyatri all the meters are originated from lord viṣṇu and he is the originator of Yajurveda and the animal of having one tooth buffalo is created by him also.

***tvattaḥ rco.tha sāmāni tvattaścandānsi jajñire/  
tvatto yojūṁṣyajāyanta tvatto.svāścaikato dattaḥ//12***

Brahmā said to god viṣṇu in viṣṇu purāṇa that, O thousand handed, O endless faces and feet, a thousand times of salutes to you.O cause of creator, protector, and destroyer of this creation. O aprameya(immeasurable) many many salutes to you.

***namo namaste.stu sahasrakṛtyaḥ***

**sahasrabāho bahuvaktrapāda/  
namo namaste jagataḥ pravṛtti  
vināśasaṁsthānakarāprameya//13**

In another place of viṣṇu purāṇa describes the supreme quality of lord viṣṇu. Akrura said viṣṇu is the brahmā, śiva, Arjyamā, vidhātā (lord), dhātā (protector), Indra, vāyu (air), Agni (fire), varṇa, Kubera and Also Yama. He is the only one who has performed different types of works and saves the world by his division of own powers.

**tvaṁ brahmā paśupatirajamā vidhātā dhātā tvaṁ tridaśapatissamiraṇo.gñiḥ/  
toyeśa dhanapatirantakastvameko bhinnarthairjagadabhipāsi śaktibhadaiḥ//14**

### **Description of visnu's supreme godliness in śrīmad Bhāgavat purāna**

Śrīmad Bhagavad puraṇa describes when lord viṣṇu slept on water at that time he was in deep sleep and a lotus created from his navel and that navel lotus lord brahmā who was the creator has been created. So lord viṣṇu is the creator of the creator.

**yasyāmbhasi śayānasya yoganidrām vitanvataḥ/  
nābhīḥṛdāmbujādāsīdbramhā viśvasrjām patīḥ//15**

Bhagavān said that I am the cause of the creation and I am brahmā, mahādeva and I am the soul of all and I am the witness, Iśvara and I am self-illuminated and also I have no designation. In śrīmad Bhagavad purāṇa, the description is like this.

**ahaṁ brahmā ca śarvaśca jagataḥ kāraṇaṁ parama/  
atmeśvara upadraṣṭā svayaṁḍṛgaviśeṣaṇaḥ//16**

### **Conclusion**

From the above discussions, it is found that viṣṇu is the god of gods and creator of the creator of this entire universe. Every creation which has seen in this world that created by the supreme power of lord viṣṇu. He is the cause of all living being. There is no value of this mortal world without viṣṇu because he is the creator, protector, and destroyer of the universe and everybody should meditate him in every moment of life which is the eternal bliss for all mankind.

### **Footnotes**

1. Bhagavad gitā. chapter. 4, sloka-7, 8.
2. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter, 7, sloka-46.
3. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter, 7, sloka-47.
4. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 7, sloka-36.
5. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 7, soka-67.
6. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 2, sloka-24.
7. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 9, sloka-69, 70.
8. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 4, sloka-4.
9. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 4, sloka-6

10. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 12, sloka-56ṁ
11. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter. 12, sloka-57.
12. viṣṇu purāṇa. Aṁśa. 1, chapter 12, sloka-60.
13. viṣṇu purāṇa. Skanda-5, chapter 1, sloka-55.
14. viṣṇu purāṇa. Skanda-5, chapter. 18, sloka-56
15. śrīmad bhāgavad mahāpurāṇa, skanda. 1, Chapter-3, sloka-2.
16. śrīmad bhāgavad mahāpurāṇa. Skanda. 4, chapter-7, sloka-50.

## References

1. viṣṇu purāṇa-Gita press, Gorakhpur.
2. śrīmadbhāgavad mahāpurāṇa-Gita press, Gorakhpur.
3. Nagar Shanti Lal-Vishnu The preserver--B.R publishing corporation, Delhi.
4. Nanditha Krishna-The book of Vishnu-penguin books of India, 2001.
5. Knapp Stephen-Hindu gods and goddesses-jaico publishing house, Mumbai
6. Morr Edward-.complete book of Hindu gods and goddesses-lotus press publishers and distributors, New Delhi.

