

AVATĀRAS

Avatāras in Various Purāṇas

The Avatāras of Viṣṇu according to the Purāṇas

Mahābhārata

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. hamsa (swan) | 6. vāmana (dwarf) |
| 2. matsya (fish) | 7. Paraśurāma |
| 3. kūrma (tortoise) | 8. Rāma Dāśarathi |
| 4. varāha (boar) | 9. Kṛṣṇa |
| 5. narasiṃha (man-lion) | 10. Kalkin |

Elsewhere there is mention of Hayaśīras [horse-headed one]

Matsyapurāna (47.32ff): (3rd-6th c)

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|---|--|
| 1. narasiṃha (man-lion) | 7. [avaīra] for [the destruction of] Tripura |
| 2. vāmana (dwarf) | 8. [avaīra] for [the destruction of] Andhaka |
| 3. varāha (boar) | 9. for the killing of Vṛtra |
| 4. amṛtamānibana (churning [of the ocean] for nectar) | 10. battle of the creator |
| 5. battle of Tāraka | 11. Halāhala poison |
| 6. Ādivaka (the heron and the crane) | 12. Kolāhala |

Vāmana Purāna [4.2] (5th-10th c)

[matsyaḥ kūrmo varāhaś ca narasiṃho 'tha vāmanaḥ /
rāmo rāmaś ca kṛṣṇaś ca buddhaḥ kalkī ca te daśah //]

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. matsya (fish) | 6. Paraśurāma (Rāma with an axe; Rāma Jāmadagnya) |
| 2. kūrma (tortoise) | 7. Rāma (Dāśarathi) |
| 3. varāha (boar) | 8. Kṛṣṇa |
| 4. narasiṃha (man-lion) | 9. Buddha |
| 5. vāmana (dwarf) | 10. Kalkin |

Narasimhapurāna [54.1.36-54] (5th-13th c.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. matsya (fish) | 6. Paraśurāma (Rāma with an axe; Rāma Jāmadagnya) |
| 2. kūrma (tortoise) | 7. Rāma (Dāśarathi) |
| 3. varāha (boar) | 8. Balabhadra (Balarāma) |
| 4. narasiṃha (man-lion) | 9. Kṛṣṇa |
| 5. vāmana (dwarf) | 10. Kalkin |

Śeṣaśāyī Viṣṇu



Puruṣottama



Viṣṇu and Lakṣmī on Garuḍa

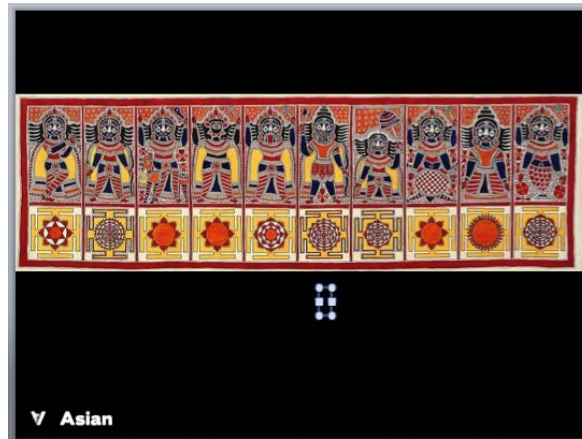


Viśvarūpa

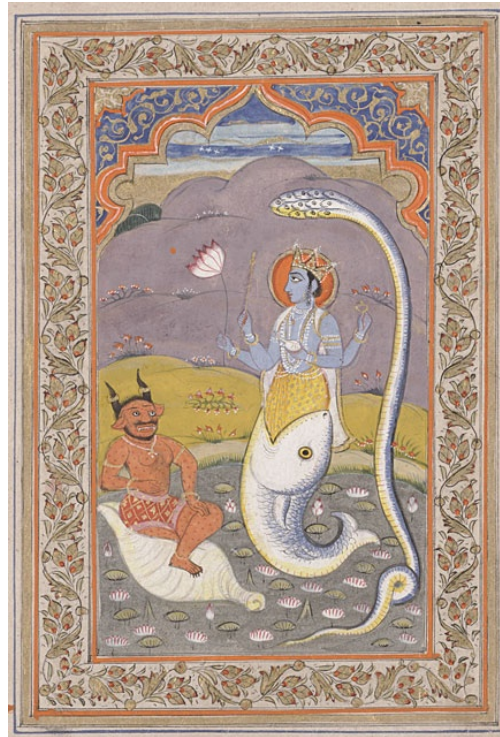


Viśvarūpa École du Rajasthan,
secondes moitié du XIII^e siècle.
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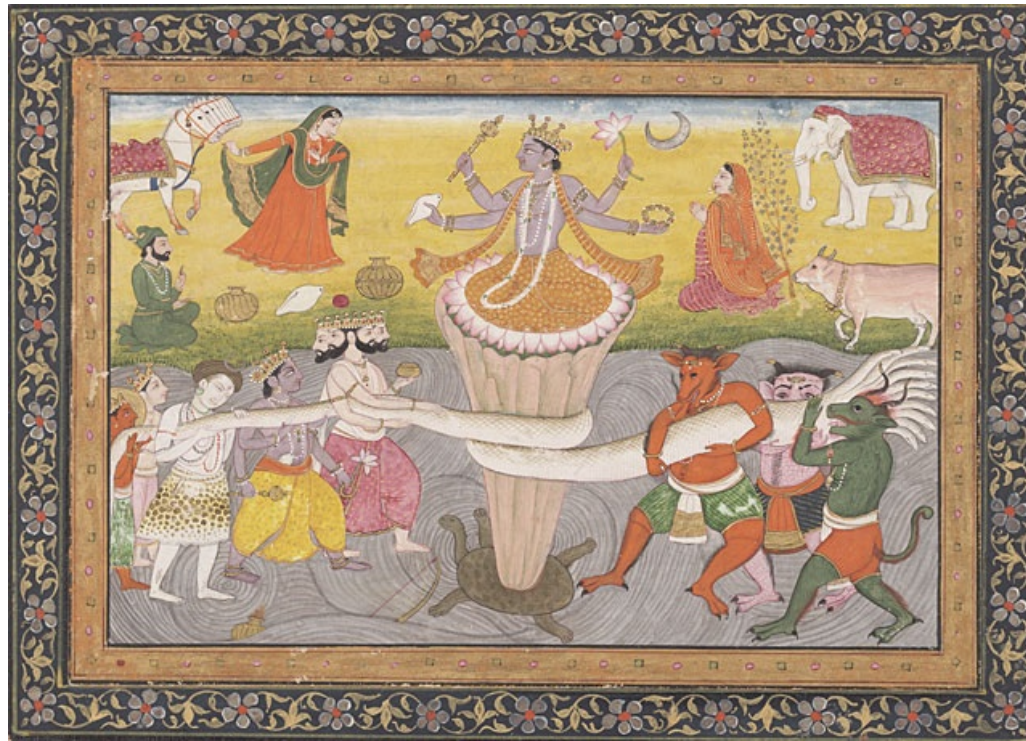
Daśavatāras



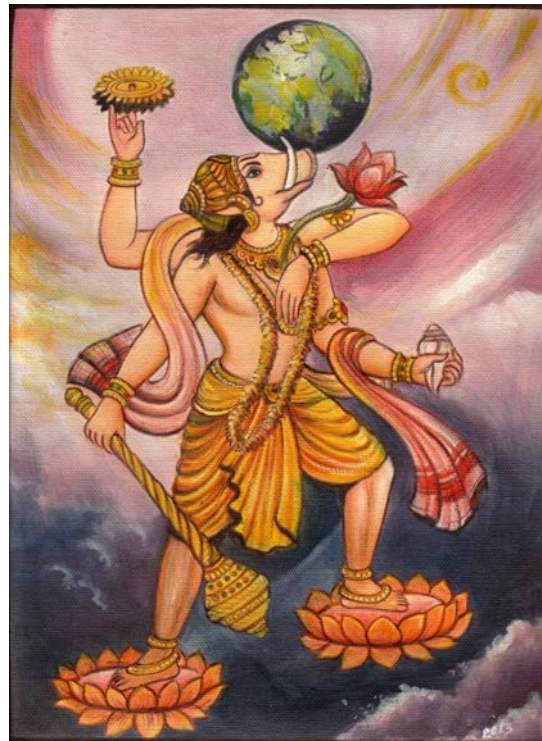
Matsya



Kūrma



Varāha



Varāha



Narasimha



Vāmana



Paraśurāma



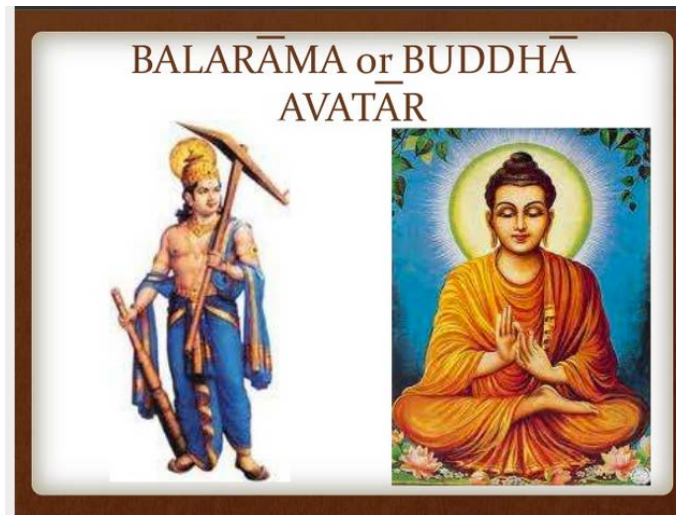
Rāma



Kṛṣṇa and the Gopīs



Balarāma and Buddha



Kalkin

