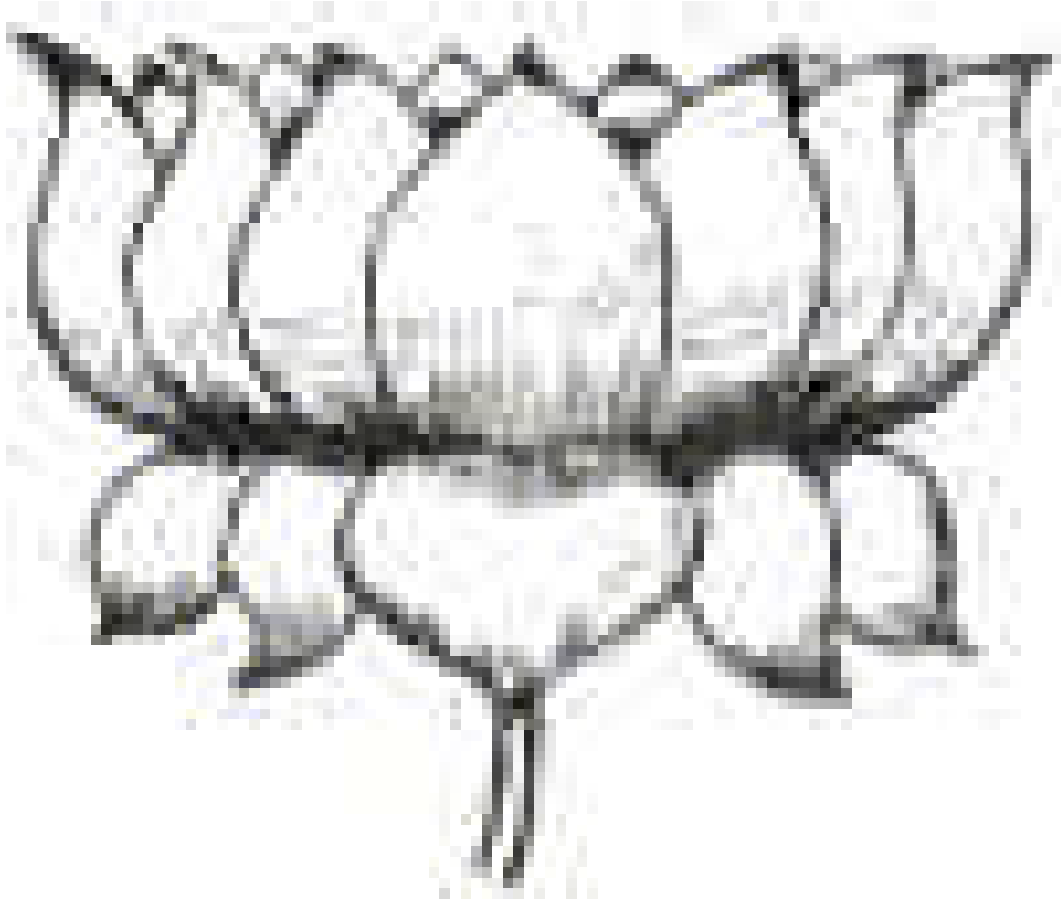


CHAPTER FIVE



COLOR

(DASAVATAR)

MATSYA AVATAR



Lord Vishnu incarnated as Matsya (fish) to save Manu and the Sapta rishis during the cosmic deluge. He also killed the demon Hyagriva who stole the Vedas from Brahma and restored them.

KURMA AVATAR



Once the gods and the demons undertook the task of churning the milky ocean with Mandara mountain as the churning rod. The mountain started sinking during the churning. Lord Vishnu incarnated as Kurma (tortoise) in order to support the mountain at that time.

VARAHA AVATAR



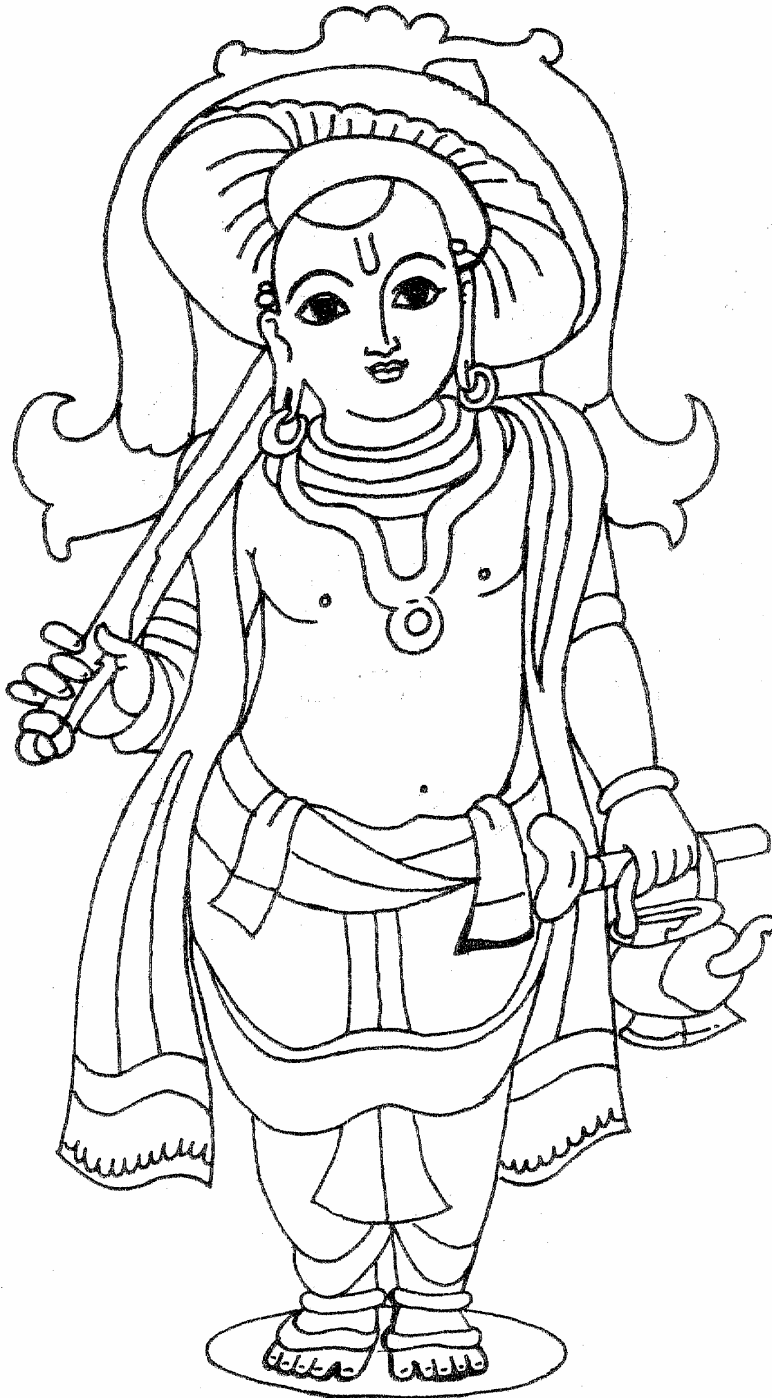
Lord Vishnu came down as Varaha (boar) in order to lift the earth out of the flood waters in which it had been submerged. He also killed the demon Hiranyaksha, the brother of Hiranyakasipu.

NARASIMHA AVATAR



Prahlada, a great devotee of Lord Vishnu was tortured by his father, the demon Hiranyakasipu. When Hiranyakasipu challenged Prahlada whether the Lord was present even in the pillar nearby, the Lord to make true of the words of his young devotee, emerged out of the pillar as Narasimha (man-lion) and killed Hiranyakasipu.

VAMANA AVATAR



Lord Vishnu took birth as Vamana (dwarf) and approached the demon king Bali for a gift of land that could be covered by his three steps. When the large hearted Bali agreed to this with all devotion, the Lord covered the earth and the heaven with just two steps and for the third step, He placed His foot on Bali's head and made him immortal.

PARASURAMA AVATAR

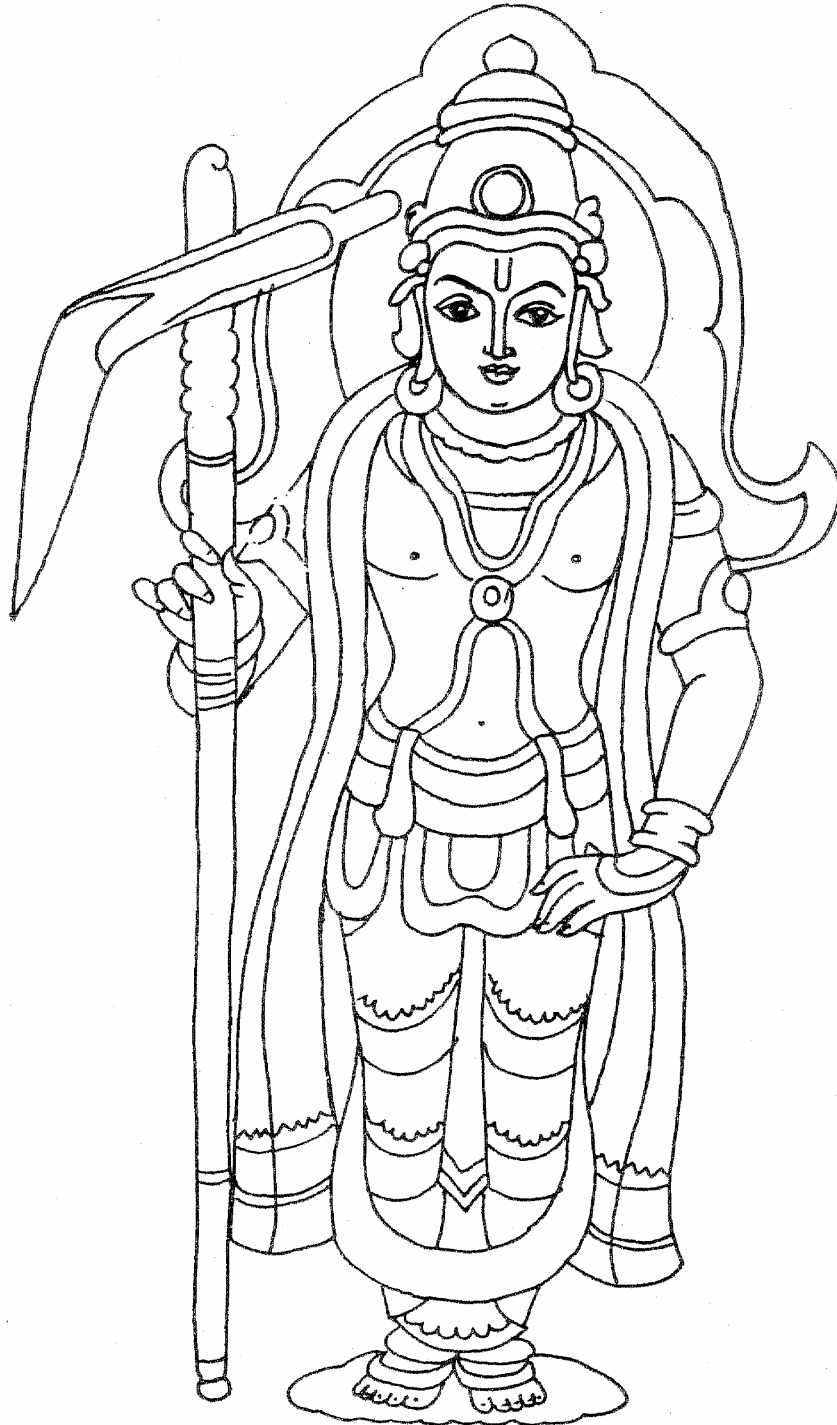


Lord Vishnu incarnated as Parashurama (Rama with the battle-axe), born to the sage-couple Jamadagni and Renuka, and exterminated twenty-one generations of evil kshatriyas (kings) on earth.

RAMA AVATAR

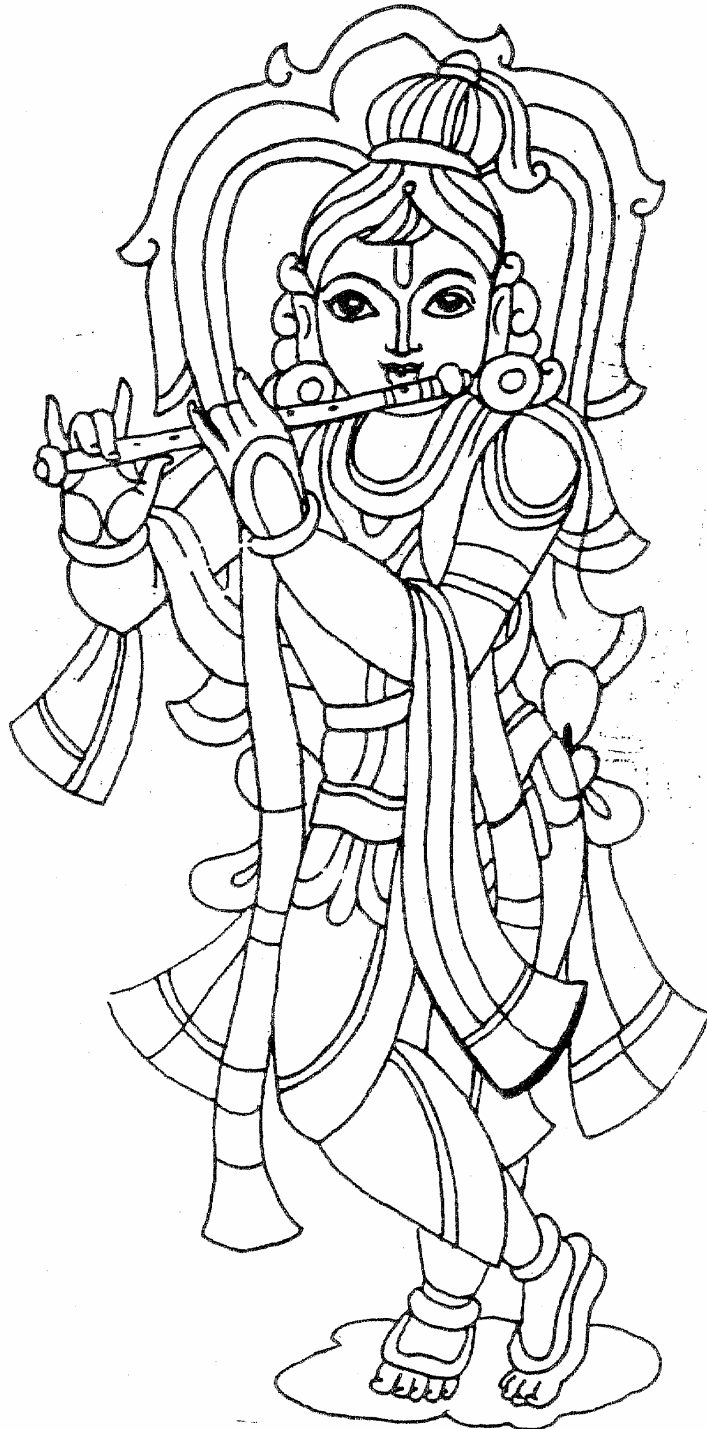
Lord Vishnu incarnated as Sri Rama, the eldest son of King Dasaratha. Rama's wife Sita was abducted by the demon king Ravana when they were in the forest. Rama killed Ravana and returned to Ayodhya with Sita.

BALARAMA AVATAR



Adishesha, an aspect of Lord Vishnu is the serpent on whom the Lord is resting in his supreme abode-Vaikunta. He incarnated as Balarama, the elder brother of Sri Krishna. Hala or the plough is his weapon. His many adventures include the slaying of the ape Dvidha and the demon Dhenuka.

KRISHNA AVATAR



Sri Krishna is considered as the Purnavatara (the perfect incarnation of Lord Vishnu). He destroyed all the unrighteous kings and the asuras on earth. He taught 'Bhagavad Gita' to his dear disciple Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

KALKI AVATAR



Kalki, the tenth avatar of Vishnu is yet to come. Our puranas say that he will descend to the earth at the end of the present age (Kali Yuga). He will come riding on a white horse with a drawn sword in his hand and will re-establish Dharma by destroying its enemies.