

## **Vishnu:**

Among, the Hindu Trinity of Gods, Lord Vishnu is the maintainer of the Universe.

### **Forms of Vishnu**

Lord Vishnu is the protector of creation. Most of the time, good and evil forces are evenly matched in the world. But at times, the balance is destroyed and evil demons get the upper hand. Often in response to a request by the other gods, Vishnu then incarnates to set the balance right again. He maintains the cosmic order Dharma in the universe.

The most popular human forms of Vishnu are Ram and Krishna. Lord Vishnu took the form of Ram to kill evil king Ravana. He came as Krishna to kill his uncle evil Kamsa. He is known to have taken many other forms such as fish, tortoise, and the divine form of half lion and half man.

**Vishnu's vahana:** Garuda the eagle.

**Vishnu's Astra:** Sudarshan Chakra, the discus. Of all weapons, Sudarshan Chakra is the one which is constantly in motion. Lord Vishnu holds it in his index finger. After the enemy is destroyed, the chakra returns to Lord Vishnu. Even after releasing it, it remains under His control.

**Vishnu's Mantra:** Narayan Narayan

**Vishnu's abode:** Vishnu's abode, Vaikuntha, is made of gold and jewels. However, he is usually depicted reclining on Seshnaga, who floats on the cosmic ocean.

## **Lakshmi**

Lakshmi is the goddess of light, beauty, good fortune and wealth. Being the consort of Vishnu, the preserving principle, Lakshmi also signifies love and grace. Lakshmi often expresses her devotion to Vishnu by massaging his feet as he lies on the coils of the snake Shesha. Lakshmi was reborn as his consort each time when Vishnu incarnated. For example, Lakshmi was Sita to Ram, Radha and later Rukmini to Krishna. While Lakshmi is generally worshipped to achieve success, she does not reside long with anyone who is lazy or desires her only as wealth.

First two verses of Lakshmi Aarti

*Jai lakshmi maataa, Maiyaa jaya lakshmi maataa  
Tumako nishadina dhyaavata, Hara vishnu vidhaataa*

Glory to you, O Mother, glory to you, mother Lakshmi. Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma meditate on you every day and night.

