

Meghapuṣpa and Valāhaka. Garuḍa is the conveyance of Viṣṇu. He holds conch, discus, club and lotus in each of his four hands. It is said that the discus was made by Viśvakarmā with the dust of the Sun. In Viṣṇu Purāṇa particular mention is made about the ornaments of Viṣṇu.

9) *The names of Viṣṇu.* The names of Viṣṇu given in Amarakośa and their meanings are given below.

1) Viṣṇu. He who is spread everywhere.

2) Nārāyaṇa. (i) He who lies on water. (nāram = water). (ii) He who had adopted Nāra (human body) in incarnations. (iii) He who enters the human society (Nāra) as Jīvātmā (individual soul).

3) Kṛṣṇa. (1) of dark complexion. (2) He who does Karṣaṇa (pulling or dragging) on the agha (sin) of jagat (world).

4) Vaikuṇṭha. (1) The son of Vikuṇṭhā. There is an incarnation as such. (2) At the time of creation twenty-three Tattvas (essences-elements) did not join with one another. So Viṣṇu joined earth to water, ether to air and air to fire; Thus their individual existence was made Vikuṇṭha-prevented. By achieving this he became Vaikuṇṭha. (3) Vikuṇṭha means wisdom (knowledge). So Vaikuṇṭha is he who has acquired knowledge. (4) Vaikuṇṭha means holy basil (a herb). So Vaikuṇṭha is he who wears rosary of holy basil. (5) Kuṇṭha means Māyā—Illusion. So Vaikuṇṭha is Māyā Maya or he who is blended with Illusion. (the female creative energy).

5) Viṣṭaraśravas. (1) Viṣṭara—tree—banyan tree. He who is universally known as banyan tree. (2) Viṣṭara—a bundle of darbha grass. (Poa grass). He whose earlobe is like this. (3) Viṣṭara = is spread—He whose fame is spread everywhere.

6) Dāmodara. (1) Stomach is tied by a rope. (2) Dāma—names of the worlds. He who bears all the worlds in his stomach. (3) He whose habit is dama or self-restraint, is Dāmodara.

7) Hṛṣikeśa—(1) The Īśa-lord, of hṛṣikas—organs of senses. (2) He who makes the world hṛṣṭa—delighted—bristling with his Keśas—hairs.

8) Keśava (Ka-Brahmā. Īśa-Śiva). (1) The Lord of Brahmā and Śiva. (2) He who has killed Keśī. (3) He who has three Keśas (heads) i.e. Brahmā-Viṣṇu-Īśa.

9) Mādhava. (1) Dhava-husband of Mā-Lakṣmī. (2) He who is born of the dynasty of Madhu. (3) He who has killed Madhu.

10) Svabhū. He who comes into existence by himself.

11) Daityāri the enemy of Daityas (the asuras, demons).

12) Puṇḍarikākṣa. (1) With akṣis - (eyes) like puṇḍarika-(lotus). (2) He who dwells in the lotus, that is the heart of devotees.

13) Govinda. (1) He who lifted up the earth assuming the form of a hog. (2) He who protects the heaven. (3) He who redeemed the Vedas.

14) Garuḍadhvaṇja. He whose ensign is Garuḍa (Eagle).

15) Pītāmbara. He who wears yellow silk.

16) Acyuta. He whose position has no displacement.

17) Śārṅgī. He who has the bow called Śārṅga.

18) Viṣvakṣena. He whose army spreads.

19) Janārdana. (1) He who destroys janana-birth (birth and death) (2) He who had destroyed the asuras called Janas.

20) Upendra. He who had become the younger brother of Indra by taking birth as Vāmana.

21) Indrāvaraja. Younger brother of Indra.

22) Cakrapāṇi. He who has cakra—the weapon Discus—in his hand.

23) Caturbhujā. He who has four hands.

24) Padmanābha. He who has lotus in his navel.

25) Madhuripu. The enemy of the asura named Madhu.

26) Vāsudeva. (1) The son of Vasudeva. (2) He who dwells in all living beings as individual soul.

27) Trivikrama. He who has measured the three worlds in three steps. (In his avatāra as Vāmana).

28) Devakinandana. The son of Devaki.

29) Śauri. Born in the dynasty of Śūrasena.

30) Śrīpati. The husband of Lakṣmī.

31) Puruṣottama. The noblest of men.

32) Vanamālī. He who wears the necklace which reaches up to the leg and is called Vanamālā.

33) Balidhvaṁsi. He who had killed the asura called Bali.

34) Kaṁsārāti. The arāti - (enemy) of Kāṁsa.

35) Adhokṣaja. He who is not discernible to the organs of senses.

36) Viśvambhara. He who rules over the Viśva (world).

37) Kaiṭabhajit. He who became victorious over Kaiṭabha.

38) Vidhu. Expert in all things.

39) Śrīvatsalāñcchana. He who has the mark or scar of Śrīvatsa on his chest.

40) Purāṇapuruṣa. The earliest man.

41) Yajñapuruṣa. He who is remembered in yāgas—sacrifices.

42) Narakāntaka. He who had killed Naraka.

43) Jalaśāyī. He who lies in water.

44) Viśvarūpa. One who has the cosmic form.

45) Mukunda. He who gives salvation.

46) Muramardana. He who had suppressed Mura.

10) *Sahasra Nāmans.* (Thousand names of Viṣṇu). The list of thousand names of Viṣṇu, is present in Padma Purāṇa, Uttarakhaṇḍa, Chapter 72. In Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 149, also all the thousand names are given. Variations are seen in these two lists.

11) *Other details* (i) Mention about Mahāviṣṇu occurs in several places in Ṛgveda. But more prominence is given to Indra. Though Viṣṇu is exalted in five Ṛgveda mantras (incantations), when compared with other gods, Viṣṇu is only a lesser god. The story of Trivikrama is hinted in Ṛgveda. But there is no mention about the incarnation of Vāmana or Mahābali. Ṛgveda gives Mahāviṣṇu only the position of a younger brother of Indra. That is why the author of Amarakośa has given Viṣṇu synonyms such as Upendra, Indrāvaraja etc.

(ii) Mahāviṣṇu was one of those who came to see Śivaliṅga (Phallus) when it was detached and fell down at the curse of hermit Bhṛgu. (For details see under Śiva).

(iii) Mahāviṣṇu gave Subrahmaṇya as attendants two Vidyādhara named Vardhana and Nandana. (M.B. Śālya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 37).

(iv) Mahāviṣṇu gave Subrahmaṇya the necklace Vaijayantī. (M.B. Śālya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 49).

(v) It is stated in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, Stanza 25, that Mahāviṣṇu stays in the assembly of Brahmā.