



SVAYAM-RŪPA -- His original form as a cowherd boy in Vr̥ndāvana

SRI KRṢṆA

SVAYAM-PRAKĀṢA
His own manifestations



VAIBHAVA-PRAKĀṢA
expansions with different
moods and bodily features,
such as His brother Balarāma

TAD-EKĀTMA-RŪPA
expansions with different
moods and bodily features



PRĀBHAVA-PRAKĀṢA
expansions into multiple forms
with the same features, such as in the
Rāsa-dance and in the palaces of Dvārakā



VILĀSA
four-armed Viṣṇu forms
expanded from Balarāma



PRĀBHAVA-VILĀSA
the first quadruple
catur-vyūha expansions,
Vāsudeva, Saṅkaraṣaṇa,
Pradyumna and Aniruddha

VAIBHAVA-VILĀSA
second set of catur-vyūha-forms
presiding over the four directions,
three expansions from each one of
the original catur-vyūha-forms,
each presiding over one of the 12 months,
and additional two vilāsa-mūrtis from
each one of the original catur-vyūha
expansions, making a total of 24
primary vaibhava-vilāsa expansions.



LĪLĀ-AVATĀRA
pastime descents
of the Lord, which are
described to be unlimited
just as the waves of the ocean.
some of them are:

MĀTSYA, KŪRMA,
RĀMACANDRA, NRSĪMHA,
VĀMANA, VARAHA



PURUṢA-AVATĀRA
descents of the Lord
related with creation

KĀRANODAKAŚĀYĪ-VIṢṆU
the original Puruṣa-avatāra laying
in the Causal Ocean, from whom
the universes emanate

GARBHODAKAŚĀYĪ-VIṢṆU
the second Puruṣa-avatāra
who expands into every universe

KṢĪRODAKAŚĀYĪ-VIṢṆU
the third Puruṣa-avatāra
who expands into the hearts
of all living entities and
resides within every atom



GUṆA-AVATĀRA
descents of the Lord
for controlling of the three
modes of nature:

BRĀHMA -- rajas -- creation,
VIṢṆU -- sattva -- maintenance,
SIVA -- tamas -- destruction



ŚAKTĪĀVEŚA-AVATĀRA
specially empowered living entities,
who are representatives of the Lord

VIBHŪTĪ
reflections of the Lord's might,
such as listed in Bhāgavad-gītā, ch.10:

"Among demigods I am INDRA,
among Vasus I am AGNI,
among mountains I am MERU,
among priests I am KĀRTIKEYA,
among generals I am KĀRTIKEYA,
and among sages I am BHṚGU."



MANVANTARA-AVATĀRA
descents of the Lord
for each age of Manu,
during one day of Brahma,
there are 14 Manus,
and for each age of Manu,
there is one avatāra.



YUGA-AVATĀRA
descents of the Lord to
establish the religion of the age
for each of the four ages.
they manifest in four colours:

SATYA -- white (śukla)
TRĒTĀ -- red (rakta)
DVĀPARA -- blackish (kṛṣṇa)
KALI -- yellow (pita)

SVĀMŚA
partial manifestations
of the Lord

AVATĀRA
living entities who are
directly empowered by the Lord.
examples:

FOUR KUMĀRAS -- jñāna-śakti -- wisdom
NĀRADA -- bhakti-śakti -- devotion
BRĀHMA -- sṛṣṭi-śakti -- creation
ANANTA -- bhū-dhāraṇa-śakti -- maintenance of the worlds
SEṢA -- sva-sevana-śakti -- personal service of the Lord
PRTHU -- pālana-śakti -- ruling the world
PARAŚURĀMA -- duṣṭa-nāśaka-vīrya -- annihilating miscreants

Who Is This Cowherd Boy Called "Kṛṣṇa"?