

Garbhodakaśāyī Viṣṇu

His Cosmic Pastimes

After creating millions of universes, the first puruṣa entered into each of them in a separate form, as Śrī Garbhodakaśāyī. Entering the universe, He found only darkness, with no place in which to reside. Thus He began to consider. Then He created water from the perspiration of His own body and with that water filled half the universe. After filling half the universe with water, He made His own residence therein and manifested the fourteen worlds in the other half. There He manifested Vaikuṅṭha as His own abode and rested in the waters on the bed of Lord Śeṣa.

– CC Ādi 5.94-96, 98-99

The Appearance of Brahmā

From His navel grew a lotus flower, which became the birthplace of Lord Brahmā. Within the stem of that lotus were the fourteen worlds. Thus the Supreme Lord, as Brahmā, created the entire creation.

– CC Ādi 5.102-103

The Stem of a Very Special Lotus

Within the stem of that lotus were the fourteen worlds. The fourteen worlds are enumerated in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Second Canto, Fifth Chapter. The upper planetary systems are (1) Bhū, (2) Bhuvar, (3) Svar, (4) Mahar, (5) Janas, (6) Tapas and (7) Satya. The seven lower planetary systems are (1) Tala, (2) Atala, (3) Vitala, (4) Nitala, (5) Talātala, (6) Mahātala and (7) Sutala. The lower planets as a whole are called Pātāla. Among the upper planetary systems, Bhū, Bhuvar and Svar constitute Svargaloka, and the rest are called Martya. The entire universe is thus known as Triloka. The material planets rest within the stem that grows from the lotus navel of Lord Nārāyaṇa. Among these planets are seven oceans.

– CC Ādi 5.103, 98p, 110

That Garbhodakaśāyī Viṣṇu is but a part of a plenary part of Lord Nityānanda Balarāma, who is the source of all incarnations.