

# Kāraṇodakaśāyī Viṣṇu

## He Lies on the Causal Ocean

*Outside the Vaikuṅṭha planets is the impersonal Brahman effulgence, and beyond that effulgence is the Kāraṇa Ocean, or Causal Ocean. Surrounding Vaikuṅṭha is a mass of water that is endless, unfathomed and unlimited. The earth, water, fire, air and ether of Vaikuṅṭha are all spiritual. Material elements are not found there. The water of the Kāraṇa Ocean, which is the original cause, is therefore spiritual. The sacred Ganges, which is but a drop of it, purifies the fallen souls. In that ocean lies a plenary portion of Lord Saṅkaraṣaṇa. He is known as the first puruṣa, the creator of the total material energy. He, the cause of the universes, the first incarnation, casts His glance over māyā.*

– CC Ādi 5.51-56

## He is the Original Puruṣa

*Balarāma's own expansion is called Mahā-saṅkaraṣaṇa, and His fragment, the puruṣa, is counted as a kalā, or a part of a plenary portion. I say that this kalā is Mahā-Viṣṇu. He is the Mahā-puruṣa, who is the source of the other puruṣas and who is all-pervading. Garbhodaśāyī & Kṣīrodaśāyī are both called puruṣas. They are plenary portions of Kāraṇodaśāyī Viṣṇu, the first puruṣa, who is the abode of all the universes. Just as the original cause of an earthen pot is the potter, so the creator of the material world is the first puruṣa incarnation (Kāraṇārṇavaśāyī Viṣṇu).*

– CC Ādi 5.74-76, 63

## He is the Master of the Illusory Energy

*The first puruṣa casts His glance at māyā from a distance, and thus He impregnates her with the seed of life in the form of the living entities. The reflected rays of His body mix with māyā, and thus māyā gives birth to myriad universes. The material manifestation cannot exist separate from the Supreme Lord, yet Lord Viṣṇu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, in spite of His connection with the material nature, cannot be subordinate to nature's influence. His original form of eternal bliss and knowledge is never subordinate to the three qualities of material nature. This is a specific feature of the Supreme Lord's inconceivable potencies.*

– CC Ādi 5.65-66, 89p

## He is the Shelter of All the Universes

*Kāraṇodakaśāyī Viṣṇu, who lies on the Causal Ocean, creates the universes merely by glancing upon material nature... The glancing power of the Lord agitates the entire cosmic energy, and thus its actions begin at once. This indicates that matter, however powerful she may be, has no power by herself. Her activity begins by the grace of the Lord, and then the entire cosmic creation is manifested in a systematic way. The puruṣa enters each and every one of the countless universes. He manifests Himself in as many separate forms as there are universes. When the puruṣa exhales, the universes are manifested with each outward breath. Thereafter, when He inhales, all the universes again enter His body. That Mahā-puruṣa is identical with the Personality of Godhead. He is the original incarnation, the seed of all others, and the shelter of everything. Although the Lord is the shelter of everything and although all the universes rest in Him, He, as the Supersoul, is also the support of everything.*

– CC Ādi 5.51p, 67-69, 82, 85