

Kṣīrodakaśāyī Viṣṇu

Lies on the Ocean of Milk

The material planets rest within the stem that grows from the lotus navel of Lord Nārāyaṇa. Among these planets are seven oceans. There, in part of the ocean of milk, lies Śvetadvīpa, the abode of the sustainer, Lord Viṣṇu. The Śvetadvīpa in the milk ocean is situated just south of the ocean of salt water. It is calculated that the area of Śvetadvīpa is 200,000 square miles. This transcendently beautiful island is decorated with desire trees to please Lord Viṣṇu and His consort.

– CC Ādi 5.110-111, 112p

He is the Supersoul of all living entities

He is the Supersoul of all living entities. He maintains this material world, and He is its Lord.

“My dear Uddhava, you may know that My transcendental form of Viṣṇu in Śvetadvīpa is identical with Me in divinity. Anyone who places this Lord of Śvetadvīpa within his heart can surpass the pangs of the six material tribulations: hunger, thirst, birth, death, lamentation and illusion. Thus one can attain his original, transcendental form.”

– CC Ādi 5.112+p

He is the maintainer of all the universes

In the ages and millenniums of Manu, He appears as different incarnations to establish the principles of real religion and vanquish the principles of irreligion. Unable to see Him, the demigods go to the shore of the ocean of milk and offer prayers to Him. He then descends to maintain the material world. His unlimited opulences cannot be counted. That Lord Viṣṇu is but a part of a part of a plenary portion of Lord Nityānanda, who is the source of all incarnations.

– CC Ādi 5.113-116

Śeṣa Nāga is His Sub-part

That same Lord Viṣṇu, in the form of Lord Śeṣa, holds the planets upon His heads, although He does not know where they are, for He cannot feel their existence upon His heads. The universe, which measures five hundred million yojanas in diameter, rests on one of His hoods like a mustard seed. That Ananta Śeṣa is the devotee incarnation of Godhead. He knows nothing but service to Lord Kṛṣṇa. With His thousands of mouths He sings the glories of Lord Kṛṣṇa, but although He always sings in that way, He does not find an end to the qualities of the Lord. He serves Lord Kṛṣṇa, assuming all the following forms: umbrella, slippers, bedding, pillow, garments, resting chair, residence, sacred thread and throne. He is thus called Lord Śeṣa, for He has attained the ultimate end of servitude to Kṛṣṇa. He takes many forms for the service of Kṛṣṇa, and thus He serves the Lord.

– CC Ādi 5.117, 119-121, 123-124