

Laghu-Bhāgavatāmṛtā

-Srila Rupa Goswami

Part 1: The sweetness of Kṛṣṇa

Chapter 3 :  
Description of the Līlāvatāras

Text 1

To the best of my judgment, I will now describe the līlāvatāras. These will generally be described according to the Bhāgavatam.

1. The 4 Kumāras

Text 2

The Catuṣsana Kumāras are described in the First Canto :

sa eva prathamam devaḥ  
kaumāram sargam āśritaḥ  
cacāra duścaram brahmā  
brahmacaryam akhaṇḍitam

ŚB 1.3.6

First of all, in the beginning of creation, there were the four unmarried sons of Brahmā [the Kumāras], who, being situated in a vow of celibacy, underwent severe austerities for realization of the Absolute Truth.

Sanaka, Sananda, Sanātana and Sanat-kumāra

★ Garbhodakaśāyī (sa) first made his appearance in the Kumāras.

[SVCT translation and commentary to SB 1.3.6]

➔ Viṣṇu first appeared in the material world as the 4 Kumāras who are śaktyāveśa avatāra.

◆ The words first, second etc. in the Bhāgavatam (for the avatāras) are for enumeration only, and do not indicate the actual order of their appearance.

In SB, the avatāras are not mentioned according to chronology.

◆ The avatāras are arranged in time sequence in this work (Laghu-bhāgavatāmṛta).

In LBA, they are mentioned according to chronology - in time sequence.

### Additional points

These Kumāras are empowered incarnation (śaktyāveśa-avatāra)...

[SP purport to SB 1.3.6]

**Catuṣsana Kumāras** : specifically empowered to distribute transcendental knowledge (jñāna-śakti)

[SP purport to CC Madhya 20.246]

1. The four aspects of vidyā are sāṅkhya, yoga, vairāgya and tapas.
2. These appeared in the form of the four Kumāras.
3. Since vidyā is useless without bhakti, bhakti also is present in these four items as a secondary item.
4. Thus, even the Kumāras also have bhakti.

**SVCT commentary to SB 3.12.4**

They inaugurated their own spiritual party, or sampradāya, known as the Kumāra-sampradāya, or later on as the Nimbārka-sampradāya, for the advancement of bhakti.

[SP purport to SB 3.12.4]

### Text 3

This avatāra is actually four persons but is considered as one by the devotees.

Catuṣsana : four ancient ones (sana- ancient)

Purpose and means of the appearance of 4 Kumāras

### Text 4

They appeared in this world in order to preach bhakti and pure knowledge.

They have the appearance of five year old boys , are golden in complexion, and were born from Brahmā.

★ The 4 Kumāras appear in the first kalpa and remain through all the kalpas of Brahma's life. (LBA 1.3.7)

kalpa- one day of Brahma

Point from class discussion

◆ The 4 Kumāras described in text 2 and those described in SB canto 3 (who curse Jaya- Vijaya) are the same.