

LORD KALKI:

The Purnahuti of the MahaVishnu Avatara

His Appearance Marks The End Of Kali Yuga

INTRODUCTION

By Ishana

When Heaven Came Down To Earth

Every once in a great while an extraordinary and enlightened being appears on Earth when righteousness becomes the exception rather than the rule for human conduct. We call such a personality an Avatar, and in the particular context of Hindu cosmology, a MahaVishnu Avatar. Lord Vishnu is one of the three primary deities within the Hindu trinity who pervades all of Creation and maintains the universe. Since His last several appearances on Earth, He has been continually revered and loved as a living embodiment of God by His devotees the world over.

There have been nine major incarnations of Lord Vishnu, according to most Hindu theologians, philosophers and historians, among His twenty plus earthly appearances that have been identified throughout the current race of humanity. The last three to appear prior to the modern age, beginning with the most recent incarnation, are Lord Buddha, Lord Krishna and Lord Rama.

The tenth and final divine incarnation, known as Lord Kalki, has been foretold for centuries and portrayed in the lore of various cultures and religious traditions. Particularly as the Kali Yuga (our current era also known as the Iron Age) draws to a close, speculation about “the Kalki” is reaching a crescendo of hopeful expectation as well as apocalyptic apprehension.

Rarely does the Lord Himself incarnate and descend into human affairs. When He does, he does so out of love and compassion for His devotees. His explicit purpose for taking human birth is to transform the existing spiritual order -- one person at a time -- so that life for truth seekers will once again permit, and even encourage, the pursuit of one’s spiritual journey.

Such a time has occurred on this planet during the last century in the wake of World War II. That earth-shattering war produced a generation of extraordinarily disaffected souls who would never again accept the world as it was represented to them. They were known as the Beat Generation, and they were called Beatniks.

Many of the Beatniks constituted a countercultural, iconoclastic and freethinking group of highly evolved souls who were determined and fierce in their search for the truth. They were equally avid in their pursuit of social equality, economic justice and political reformation. However, it was their ardent seeking of eternal spiritual truths and classic philosophical ideals that readied them to participate in the greatest mystical drama of all time – a story that will be told, and retold, with more passion and enthusiasm than any to come before it.

Whenever the Lord chooses to fulfill His preordained earthly mission, none would be more fortunate than those whose destiny it is to cross His path. Oh, what heavenly bliss and divine rapture to lay one’s eyes upon the Lord! Truly, what wonderful and great good fortune it is!

Such was the great, good fortune of the Beat Generation, as well as their younger, hippie brothers and sisters – the first half of the Baby Boomer Generation. Whereas the Beatniks were often the newly trained swamis, teachers and mentors of the numerous Eastern spiritual traditions that took root in American society back in the 1960s and '70s, their junior Baby Boomer collaborators were the industrious and devoted students, always willing to render selfless service for a great and noble cause as an outworking of their individual spiritual paths. But before we tell any more about this highly auspicious meeting between Lord and disciples, let us review some history which will both inform and contextualize this unprecedented, modern-day rasalila.

The “American chapter” of this story seems to have begun with a most propitious invitation to one Swami Vivekananda. Swamiji was the foremost disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa of Calcutta, a highly revered Bengali mystic and Hindu saint in the tradition of the Divine Mother (also known as the Goddess Kali). Vivekananda was an extremely accomplished and learned Vedantin who represented India as a delegate to the 1893 Parliament of World Religions in Chicago.

After his initial speech to a thoroughly captivated congress, Vivekananda’s talks and further participation in this event were quite eagerly anticipated by the mostly Christian audience with the excitement and reverence normally afforded to an authentic emissary of God. By all accounts, Swamiji was the shining star of the whole Parliament, and he received effusive accolades from every corner for his profound spiritual wisdom, fully baked understanding of world scriptures and truly ecumenical spirit. Subsequent invitations to speak flowed in from around the globe in the wake of his preeminent international reception.

This rare and fortuitous occasion, when Swami Vivekananda imbued such a unique global gathering with the depth of true Indian spirituality, could be construed as one of the most consequential happenings in the religious history of the United States of America, and because of its many far-reaching ramifications, the entirety of Western Civilization. In a phrase, this single event could even be considered an *act of national spiritual awakening* on the same order that any true prophet, genuine saint or yoga master had on their cultural audience during their public ministries.

How is it possible that such an extraordinary and enduring impact could be attributed to an Indian holy man steeped in an Eastern spiritual philosophy as foreign to the American mindset, religious sensibilities and spiritual orientation as Advaita Vedanta?

Before this question is addressed, it ought to be pointed out that Swami Vivekananda is only the first in a long procession of high spiritual beings from India who, by gracing American shores, served to quite exquisitely and selflessly set the stage for the most sublime event of the 20th century, and arguably of the last five thousand plus years. Each of these great teachers – to include Swami Ram Tirth, Paramahansa Yogananda, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, and A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada – had a significantly uplifting and enlightening effect on the American consciousness.

We speak, of course, of the same effect that Jesus had on Judea, Mohammed on Mecca and Medina, and the Buddha on those who peopled the plains of the Ganges. Further comparisons can be made to Confucius’ influence on classical Chinese culture, Moses on the Hebrews, and Krishna and Rama on their respective ancient Indian kingdoms, among many other sages and seers, saints and siddhas who have appeared throughout human history.

It should be acknowledged that, as we telescope back through time and space, we see a whole firmament of divine beings who likewise had much influence on the momentous events we are about to describe. In fact there are many great saints from India, who never left that subcontinent, who by the sheer power of their high states of being, have had an enormous impact on this drama made in heaven. Here we honor, with the utmost reverence and respect, the likes of Bhagavan Nityananda of Ganeshpuri, Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh and Sai Baba of Shirdi. We further acknowledge Neem Karoli Baba of Vrindavan, Anandamayi Ma of Haridwar and Ramana Maharshi of Arunachala to name but a few of these distinguished Masters of Self-Realization.

The appearance of Lord Kalki always marks the end of the Kali Yuga, and lays the spiritual foundation for the following Golden Age.

It has long been prophesied throughout all the major religious traditions of the world that there would come a time when humankind would find itself in the throes of an end-time scenario. Each set of scriptural prognostications seems to have as its central character a divine personage who comes to the aid of faithful devotees in their time of greatest need and desperation. No matter where the religion, the society, the nation or the culture is located, or predominates, somehow this larger-than-life savior is expected to show up just in the nick of time to save the day, as well as the believers.

Everyone throughout Christendom has heard of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, just as those in the Orient have heard of the prophecy of Lord Maitreya – the equivalent and future incarnation of the Buddha. Likewise, the Madhi is well known throughout the Muslim world as the eventual redeemer of Islam, just as the coming Messiah is still expected by those who practice Judaism.

What is less known in Western civilization is the common belief system wherever Hinduism is either practiced or understood. Hindu scriptures speak of a uniquely great being who will likewise appear on the world stage to enact a drama that has been foretold countless times. He is known as Lord Kalki, and very few will recognize him as one of the most spiritually powerful, life-transforming and awesome incarnations that the Lord will assume throughout the Kali Yuga. The relevant predictions, including the astrological circumstances of His birth, are presented in the sacred Hindu scripture known as the Kalki Purana*.

So, this is where we are heading – to the end of the Kali Yuga to meet the tenth major incarnation and final fulfillment of the MahaVishnu Avatara – Lord Kalki. Could it be that He is the divine incarnation of the very same Supreme Being of all the world's major religions? Might He be the revered deity fervently prayed to and eagerly awaited by all the world's faithful and pious believers? Only His magical 20th century rasalila is capable of revealing such a long sought after truth.

* “The **Kalki Purana** is a prophetic work that details the life and times of Sri Kalki, the tenth and final Maha Avatara of the Hindu deity Lord Vishnu. ... The work primarily describes the onset and exponential increase of evil and sin on the earth during the Kali Yuga, and the life of Kalki, who is said to bring an end to the darkness of the Kali Yuga, destroying evil and sin, and beginning a new *yuga* (age) of sinlessness and peace known as the Satya Yuga.” (Wikipedia – Kalki Purana)