

Hinduism, Part 6: The Deities of *Bhakti* (Devotional) Hinduism

Purāṇas (Sanskrit, “old”) – mythologies

avatāra (“incarnation” or manifestation)

(1) Gods

- Trimūrti – (1) **Brahmā** (creator) and **Sarasvatī**
- (2) **Viṣṇu** (maintainer) and **Śrī** or **Lakṣmī** (Devotees = **Vaiṣṇavites**)
- 1st: **Matsya** (the “Fish”)
 - 7th: **Rāma** and **Sītā**
 - 8th: **Kṛṣṇa-Gopāla** and **Rādhā**
- sources: Bhagavata-Purāṇas
Gitagovinda (by Jayadeva, 1185 C.E.)
gopi (milkmaid)
rasa-lila (amorous dance)
nikuñj-lila (intense lovemaking)
- (3) **Śiva** (destroyer) and **Devī** (“Goddess”) [Pārvatī] (Devotees = **Śaivites**)
- **Rudra** [the “Howler”] (in the Ṛg-Veda)
 - **Paśupati** (“Lord of Animals”)
 - **liṅga** (“symbol”)
 - **Nāṭarāja** (“Lord of the Dance”) and the **Tāṇḍava**
 - **Skanda** (= Śiva’s son, conceived without the assistance of a female)

(2) Goddesses

Devī (“Goddess”)

Śakti (Female Cosmic Power)

Benign

Umā (“Mother”)

Pārvatī (“Daughter of the Mountain”)

Gaṇeśa (Pārvatī’s son)

Violent/Terrifying

Durgā (“Inaccessible”)

Kālī (“Black”)