



## PRAYER TO LORD OF THE UNIVERSE

Translated by Dr. Subas Pani, I.A.S.

### Dasavatara (Ten Incarnations of God)

From the depths of the great deluge  
 Did you the Vedas rescue,  
 Taking the form of a boat did you salvage  
 With ease, the scripts, auspicious and noble.<sup>1</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the body of a Fish !

On thy vast back doth the earth repose.  
 The weight of carrying the world's load  
 Does etch thereon, a giant wheel-mark.<sup>2</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the Tortoise form !

Perched on the tip of thy tusk,  
 The earth to you does cling  
 As the petite blemish does the moon embrace.<sup>3</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the form of Boar !

On thy lotus hands did strange nail-peaks sprout,  
 With which you did, the demon, tear apart  
 As if crushing the body Of some giant bee,  
 You did gore Hiranyakasipu's heart.<sup>4</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the Man-Lion form !

As the strange dwarf your prowess you displayed.  
 You beguiled Bali and his pride curbed  
 Water from thy toenails became a stream  
 That absolved men from worldly woes.<sup>5</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the Dwarf form !

Drenched in the blood of the warrior race,  
 As if in water performing your daily rites,  
 You rid the world of all its sins.  
 You cooled the world's burning heats.<sup>6</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who as chief of Bhrigu clan was born !

Destroying the ten-headed demon, O Lord,  
 To each handsome God of the ten Directions,  
 You did prorate one severed head,  
 As fair oblation of battleground.<sup>7</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, He who took the body of Rama !

Thy ample figure is adorned  
 By robes dark as the rain-filled cloud,  
 Blue as the deep waters of river-Yamuna  
 When afraid of being struck by thy mighty plough,  
 Scared, she came running to you.<sup>8</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the Ploughshare-carrier form !

Touched was thy tender heart  
 By every sight of sacrificed beast.  
 You did disapprove the *yagnic* rite,  
 Although the *Vedas* did deem it right.<sup>9</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the body of Buddha !

To slay the unclean hordes, did you wield the sword,  
 Strange and fierce, as some terrible comet.<sup>10</sup>  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the body of Kalki !

Sri Jayadeva, the bard, presents these noble songs,  
 These that contain the world's essence.<sup>11</sup>  
 Hear, hear, these auspicious, joyous songs.  
 Glory to the Lord of the Universe !  
 To Keshava, who took the ten incarnations !

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