

## The Paradigm

We here and that man, this man,  
and that other in-between,  
and that woman, this woman,  
and that other, whoever,  
those people, and these,  
and these others in-between,  
this thing, that thing,  
and this other in-between, whichever,  
all things dying, these things,  
those things, those others in-between,  
good things, bad things,  
things that were, that will be,  
being all of them,  
he stands there.

1.1.4

## The Works of Viṣṇu—I

### 1 • HE PACES THE WORLDS

First, the discus  
rose to view,  
then the conch,  
the long bow,  
the mace,  
and the sword;  
with blessings  
from the eight quarters,  
he broke through  
the egg-shell of heaven,  
making the waters bubble;  
giant head and giant feet  
growing away from each other,  
time itself rose to view:  
how the lord  
paced and measured  
all three worlds!

7.4.1

### 2 • CHURNING THE SEA

That moment:  
with the sound  
of rivers streaming backward  
into their mountains  
and the sound  
of the serpent  
wrapped around the mountain  
and the sound  
of the sea churning  
now left now right  
the lord  
drew out the gods' elixir  
that rose slowly in the churning

7.4.2



### 3 • THE BOAR RESCUES THE EARTH

No, they did not come apart:  
the seven islands of the earth,  
they stayed in place;  
and the seven mountains,  
they stayed in place;  
and the seven seas  
did not go wild  
but stayed in place  
miraculously,  
that day  
our lord pitchforked them out  
with his tusks  
from the deep.

7.4.3

### 4 • A MEAL

Season  
day and hour  
went out of kilter  
so did earth  
water  
the planets and the skies  
fire  
wind  
the mountains and the stars:  
O what a roaring meal  
of chaos  
our lord made  
of the seven worlds!

7.4.4