

Hindu Creation Story

There is more than one creation story in Hinduism. This is one of them.

Can you imagine no Earth or sky, no space, no stars – only a deep, dark, surging sea? Well, this is how it was before the world began. But things were going to change. For on the surface of the sea there floated an enormous cobra. He lay in comfort and contentment, but he was not alone. For the Lord Vishnu rested among his winding coils.

Vishnu did not stir. He slept soundly, protected by the mighty snake. He had no fears. He had no dreams. Then all of a sudden, there came a rumbling sound. It swelled and spread, humming and trembling with a restless energy. Something was about to happen!

Dawn broke and Vishnu awoke to find a beautiful lotus flower growing from his stomach. In the middle of the flower sat Brahma, Vishnu's servant. Brahma sat quite still until Vishnu said, 'The time has come. Everything must begin.'

Brahma bowed in readiness.

'Brahma! Create the world!' ordered Vishnu. And it was the last thing that he said. For all at once, a fierce wind leapt upon the waters. It picked them up and tossed them all around. Vishnu and the giant cobra vanished in the storm.

But the lotus blossom cradled Brahma in its petals. Together, Brahma and the flower bobbed and swayed on the angry waves. But Brahma had serious work to do. First, he flung his arms above the storm to calm it. The wind and the waves soon slowed, rolling gently back and forth.

Then Brahma split the lotus blossom into three pieces. He thrust the first piece far into nothingness to create the heavens. Then with the second piece, he moulded the Earth. With the third piece, he designed the skies.

Brahma looked all around him. It just didn't look finished. The Earth was bare and lifeless. So he created tall trees, bright flowers and rustling grasses. And all this plant life was allowed to feel the world around it. Then Brahma created animals and birds, insects and fish. And all this wildlife was allowed to see, to feel, to hear and to move around the Earth that Brahma had created.

The world soon throbbled with living things. Flowers nodded, bees hummed, trees swayed in the breeze. Creatures leapt on the land, weaved in the water, swooped across the skies. Brahma's job was done.

