

THE HORSEMAN ABOVE THE SKIES



*If the radiance of a thousand suns
were to burst into the sky,
that would be like
the Splendor of the Mighty One.*

—From the *Bhagavad Gita*

By Carlyle A. Pushong

**There are similarities in myths around the world.
Here, author Carlyle A. Pushong compares
one such myth and how it appears in different cultures.
He shares the value of these similarities.**

The Eastern *Kalki Avatar* (Pronounced "Kahl-kee Ah-va-tar," an *Avatar* is a divine purpose in human form.) is a reference to the god Vishnu's ("Veesh-nu) tenth and final incarnation that is supposed to come at the end of the *Kali Yuga* ("Kah-lee Yoog") or Black Age. During this Age, it is believed, there will be marked astronomical phenomena. Vishnu will be seen as the Horseman above the Skies mounted on a White Horse (Kalki), and wielding a fiery sword blazing like a comet, intent on the final destruction of the wicked and the renovation of creation.

A *Yuga* is an age of the world. There are four *Yugas*: *Krita* ("Kree-ta), *Treta* ("Treh-ta"), *Dwapara* ("Dwah-pahr"), and *Kali*. During the current *Kali Yuga*, for which there is no fixed measure, righteousness on Earth will be only one-quarter of what it could be. It is also said that there will be calamities, diseases, hatred, distress, wars and hunger, and that and fear will prevail.

Vishnu, "the unconquerable preserver," is the second god of the Hindu triad of *Brahma*, *Vishnu* and *Siva*. *Vishnu* on his *Kalki*, or White Horse, is a manifestation of Solar energy representing the three manifestations of light: fire, lightning and the Sun. It is also seen as the three

"faces" of the Sun: its rising, culmination and setting.

I am a student of the esoteric, trying to get a grip on the metaphysics of Hinduism as expounded by the Seer Sankara (c. 788-820 C.E.). Sankara, in his commentary on a Hindu text, wrote, "The body of the sacrificial horse is the year consisting of twelve or thirteen months." (The thirteenth month refers to the month or days that are added to the Lunar calendars of some cultures). Since the year relates to the Sun, the horse is seen as a Solar symbol.

In the *Rigvedic* hymn to the god *Varuna* ("Vah-roon-ah"), who is associated with the brightness of the Sun, a verse reads as follows:

*If we have sinned against man who
loves us,
have ever wronged a brother,
friend or comrade,
The neighbor ever with us,
a stranger, O Varuna,
remove from us the trespass."*

This correlates interestingly with the "Lord's Prayer" of Christianity which says, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them who trespass against us." *Varuna* was also viewed as king of the air and sea, and one of the *Adityes*. (*Aditi*, "Uh-dee-tee," was one of the earliest names invented to express the Infinite.)

These comparisons are fascinating because they indicate the similarity of myths and spiritual

systems the world over. Myths must be taken seriously for they form the framework and vocabulary of primitive reality. The primitive myths of origin and creation were personal dramas of the gods. Myths provide the archetypes governing the present and the future.

BACK TO THE HORSEMAN ABOVE THE SKIES

Much of world history and events lies symbolically concealed in the Revelation of St John the Divine in the Christian New Testament. I want to show some correlations between the final incarnation of *Vishnu* and the awaited Christian Messiah. In Revelation 6:2, we are told, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse and he that sat upon him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer."

In Revelation VI: 12, the number six links with the suffering and woe resulting from the opening of the Sixth Seal of the Book of Life. It should be noted that the six-pointed star is not only the Seal of David; it is also the number and sign of *Vishnu* and the Pythagorean Hexad or "the perfection of the parts."

The fifth Book of Moses in the Old Testament, is called Deuteronomy. Chapter 33-17 reads: "His glory is like the firstling of his

bullocks, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth..." The White Horse, when equipped with a horn, becomes the Unicorn of myth. The horn of the Unicorn represents the Sword or Word of God.

The White Horse traditionally appears as the ninth sign of the Western Zodiac—Sagittarius—covering the period from November 22 to December 21. "The Sun was in Sagittarius when the first human tendencies struggled to the fore...Sagittarius governs human evolution for it symbolizes progress towards a conscious goal." (Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on White Magic*.) A Sagittarian, therefore, will see everything in the "Vishnu Mode"—an open mind in terms of its cosmic significance. A person born under this sign is "electrically charged" (has expansive psychic energy rather than the so-called "magnetic" or receptive psychic energy) but is not always properly grounded or down-to-earth. The flaming arrows of Sagittarius symbolize optimism and intellectual theory.

As has been said, St. John in his vision beheld a White Horse and he who sat on him had a bow and went forth conquering and to conquer. The White Horse of both *Vishnu* and Revelation is

a Cosmic Horse, a symbol of communication in the hour of destiny. The Greeks called the cosmic horseman *Cheiron* ("Kiron," the first syllable rhymes with "eye"), the chief centaur, who dealt with righteousness. "And in Thy Majesty ride prosperously, because of Truth and meekness and righteousness. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies." (Psalms of David: 45, 4-5.) Some

astrologers attribute the rulership of Chiron, a recently-discovered small planet, to Sagittarius.

Thus we can see the similarities in this one aspect of Vedic, Jewish, Christian and even Greek spirituality. To me, the message is clear—the interpretation of the universe and the myths by which humanity lives, in some vital sense, are one and indivisible. By studying the myths we can develop a valuable philosophy of life.

A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE

By Claire Metzger

On January 19th, at 3:30 a.m., a mysterious, black-clad stranger placed a bottle of cognac and a single red rose on the tombstone of Edgar Allan Poe. Buried 139 years ago in a cemetery adjoining Westminster Hall in Baltimore, Maryland, Poe receives this mysterious birthday tribute each year.

Jeff Jerome, curator of the Edgar Allan Poe House Museum in Baltimore, and a group of people celebrating Poe's 108th birthday from the catacombs of Westminster Hall, watched the ceremony. "He wore a black hat, a black cloak and black pant," said Jerome of the visitor. "...He placed the cognac and

rose on the grave site, then kneeling very slowly, placed his left hand on the tombstone and paused for about 20 seconds as though saying a short prayer. Then he left."

Jerome said, "...we make no attempt to identify him. I think it's nice to have a mystery, especially connected with Poe. We are curious, but we've been strong so far."

According to an article from UPI, the visitor, in the past, has been seen dressed in a black top hat and a white scarf. His visits are yet another aspect of the mystery and controversy that has become part of the legend of Poe, who reportedly died October 7, 1849.