

Hindu Prophecies and the Incarnation of the Kalki Avatar

In the prophecies of the Hindu religion there also exists the notion of an awaited one or Avatar, which is understood as a manifestation of God in bodily form. When we also understand that the central truth behind all religion is the idea that 'everyone is God' then the notion of the Avatar is in effect the equivalent to any human being who in his or her behaviour and effect upon the World, manifests the divine and transcendent on the earthly plane. So we may consider an Avatar to be related to the concept of a prophet, saint or other person considered to be extremely holy. So by the same token, the next Avatar in Hinduism is equivalent to and of the same nature as the Messiah in Judaism, Second Coming in Christianity and the Imam Mahdi in Islam etc.

In Hinduism time is considered to be cyclical and each such cycle is ended and the next cycle commences with the appearance of an Avatar. It is as if Avatars act as punctuation marks demarcating the great cycles of time, separating one cycle from the next. When we examine each cycle of the Hindu time scheme then we discover that it is divided into four separate sub phases or 'Yugas', these are in chronological order the Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dvapara Yuga and Kali Yuga. In the beginning of the cycle we have the age of purity and light i.e. the Satya Yuga. As we progress through that cycle then things become steadily less pure and descend gradually into relative darkness. When we get to the final age, the Kali Yuga then we arrive at a stage where things are in a pretty degenerate state of morale and social decay. This sets the stage for the coming of the Avatar, leading to the beginning of the next cycle and a return once again to a happy and wholesome state of affairs. Though there are different opinions on this matter, it is widely believed that in present times we are living in the Kali Yuga and that the end of the current age or cycle is imminent. Likewise it is also believed that the next Avatar Kalki, will make his appearance on Earth in the not too distant future.

What follows are some prophecies concerning the coming of the Kalki Avatar, grouped in two partitions. The first containing those prophecies relating to the condition of the World at the time of the Kalki's appearance and the second concerns his attributes and the role he plays in the proceedings at the end of the age.

Prophecies concerning the state of the World when Kalki Avatar makes his appearance

'Whenever there is a falling away from the true law [religion] and an upsurge of unlawfulness, then I emit myself. I come into being age after age, to protect the virtuous and to destroy evil-doers, to establish a firm basis for the true law.' - Bhagavad Gita 4:7-8

'Those who present themselves as saints are constantly engaged in preaching false doctrines. Those who have apparently renounced the world are rich in worldly possessions, and have become family men.' - The Srimad Bhagavata (BEF 300 CE)

'And the path of the wind will be confused and agitated and all around will be noise and uproar, and everywhere there will be conflagrations and fires will blaze on all sides. ' - The Mahabharata (circa 3000 BCE)

'Wealth and piety will decrease day by day, until the world will be totally depraved. then property alone will confer rank; wealth will be the only source of devotion; passion will be the sole bond of union between the sexes; falsehood will be the only means of success in litigation; and women will be objects merely of sensual gratification. Earth will be venerated but for its mineral treasures; the Brahminical thread will constitute a brahmin; external types will be the only distinction of the several orders of life; dishonesty will be the universal means of subsistence; weakness will be the cause of dependence; menace and presumption will be substituted for learning; liberality will be devotion; simple ablutions will be purification; mutual assent will be marriage; fine clothes will be dignity; and water afar off will be esteemed a holy spring. Amidst all castes he who is the strongest will reign over the principality, thus vitiated by many faults. The people unable to bear the heavy burdens imposed upon them by their avaricious sovereigns, will take refuge amongst the valleys of the mountains, and will be glad to feed upon wild honey, herbs, roots, fruits, flowers, and leaves: their only covering will be the bark of trees, and they will be exposed to the cold and wind and sun and rain. NO man's life will exceed three and twenty years. Thus in the Kali age shall decay constantly proceed, until the human race approaches its annihilation.' - Vishna Purana 4.24

'The learned pandits [Hindu theologians] for their part indulge in sexual commerce with their wives like buffaloes. They are expert in breeding children and are not at all clever in attaining Enlightenment.. the substance and depth of things has disappeared everywhere.' - Srimad Bhagavata

'People in that era [Kali age] turn out to be greedy, immoral and merciless; they freely enter into violence without cause and are unlucky and excessively covetous.' - Srimad Bhagavata

'There are numerous quarrels between husband and wife.' - Srimad Bhagavata

'In the Kali age, men will be afflicted by old age, disease, and hunger, and from sorrow there will arise depression, indifference, deep thought, enlightenment, and virtuous behaviour. Then the age will change, deluding their minds like a dream, by force of fate, and when the Golden Age begins, those left over from the Kali age will be the progenitors of the Golden age ... Thus there is eternal continuity from age to age.' - Hinduism. Linga Purana 1.40

'Already vexed by famine and heavy taxation, people will perish through drought, excessive cold, storms, scorching sunshine, heavy rain, snowfall and mutual conflict. In the age of Kali men will be tormented by hunger and thirst, sickness and worry.' - Srimad Bhagavata

Prophecies concerning the attributes, role and actions of the Kalki Avatar

'Lord Vishnu [appearing as Kalki] adorned of the whole animate and inanimate creation, and the soul of the universe, appears in this world of matter for protecting the virtue of the righteous and wiping out the entire stock of their karma and thereby liberating them. The Lord will appear under the name of Kalki ... riding a fleet horse ... and capable of subduing the wicked. The Lord of the universe wielding ... divine powers and possessed of endless virtues and matchless splendor, he will traverse the globe on that swift horse and exterminate with his sword the robbers [those whose minds are devoted to iniquity] by the tens of millions.' - The Srimad Bhagavata (circa 1500 BCE)

'When the practices taught by the Vedas and the institutes of law shall nearly have ceased, and the close of the Kali age shall be nigh, a portion of that divine being who exists of his own spiritual nature in the character of Brahma, and who is the beginning and the end, and who comprehends all things, shall descend upon the earth. He will be born as Kalki in the family of an eminent brahmin of Sambhala village, endowed with the eight superhuman facilities. By his irresistible might he will destroy all the barbarians and thieves, and all whose minds are devoted to iniquity. He will then reestablish righteousness upon earth; and the minds of those who live at the end of the Kali age shall be awakened, and shall be as pellucid as crystal. The men who are thus changed by virtue of that peculiar time shall be as the seeds of human beings, and shall give birth to a race who shall follow the laws of the Krita age, the Age of Purity. As it is said, "When the Sun and Moon, and the lunar asterism Tishya, and the planet Jupiter, are in one mansion, the Krita age shall return." - Vishnu Purana 4.24

'Vishnu will return as Kalki, upon a white horse, as the last Avatar, amid fire and flames.' - Hindu Puranas c 900 c.e.

'Vishnu will return ... as [Kalki] the last Avatar, amid fire and flames ... he will travel across the globe ...'
- The Srimad Bhagavata (circa 1500 BCE)

'When the Kali age.. is well-nigh past, the Lord will appear in His Divine form consisting of Sattva[purity] alone for the protection of virtue. Lord Vishnu adorned of the whole animate and inanimate creation, and the Soul of the Universe, appears in this world of matter for protecting the virtue of the righteous and wiping out the entire stock of their Karma and thereby liberating them. the Lord will appear under the name of Kalki.. riding a fleet horse.. and capable of subduing the wicked. the Lord of the Universe wielding.. divine powers and possessed of endless virtues and matchless splendor, he will traverse the globe on that swift horse and exterminate with his sword the robbers[those whose minds are devoted to iniquity] by the tens of millions.' - Srimad Bhagavata

'He will then reestablish righteousness upon Earth; and the minds of those who live at the end of the Kali age shall be awakened, and shall be as translucent as crystal.' - Vishnu Purana IV:24,26-27