


# Vishnu Sahasranamam - Intro

## Vishnu sahasranamam Collection

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 **Description:** Discover why this text is called the Fifth Veda, the five gems of the Mahabharata, and the divine lineage of Veda Vyasa.

 **Tags:** vishnu sahasranamam, mahabharata, veda vyasa, sanatan dharma

## The Five Gems (Ratnas) of the Mahabharata

The *Mahabharata* is accorded the status of *Bharata Panchamo Vedaha* (The Fifth Veda). Within this massive epic, there are five specific sections known as the **Five Ratnas** (Five Gems).

Gem Name	Participants	Context/Significance
1. Vidura Neeti	Dhritarashtra & Vidura	Wisdom shared by the wise Vidura (brother of Dhritarashtra).
2. Sanat Sujatiyam	Dhritarashtra & Sanat Kumara	A deep philosophical conversation.
3. Yaksha Prashnam	Yaksha & Yudhishtira	Unique because the <i>questions</i> were considered more beautiful than the answers.
4. Bhagavad Gita	Arjuna & Krishna	The renowned conversation on the battlefield.
5. Vishnu Sahasranamam	Yudhishtira & Bhishma	The essence of the Mahabharata, delivered from the bed of arrows.



## Technically Equal to the Vedas?

Is reciting the *Vishnu Sahasranamam* truly equal to reciting the Vedas? **Yes**, based on a specific "Hierarchy of Essence."

1. **The Mahabharata is the Fifth Veda:** It is the essence of the four Vedas (Rig, Yajur, Sama, Atharvana).
2. **The Sahasranamam is the Essence of the Mahabharata:** It is the core (*Saram*) of the epic.
3. **The Conclusion:** Therefore, the *Sahasranamam* contains the distilled potency of the Vedic ocean.



**The Churning Analogy:** Just as the moon emerged from the churning of the Milky Ocean, the *Mahabharata* emerged as the "moon" form of the Vedas. Since the *Sahasranamam* is the core of this "moon," it is the essence of the essence.



Watch the detailed explanation here: [Youtube Link](#)



## Acknowledgment & Disclaimer

These articles are based on discourses by **Sri Dushyanth Sridhar**, who renders discourses in English & Tamil on Rāmāyana, Mahābhārata, Bhāgavata, Vishnu Purāna, Bhagavad Gitā, Vishnu Sahasranāma, and Divya Prabanda in the upanyāsam, pravachanam, or kālakshepam style. Visit <https://desikadaya.org> for more information. These notes are presented solely for educational purposes to help viewers download and benefit from these teachings. Any incorrect interpretations or inaccuracies are mine and unintentional—please forgive me. For any feedback, please send an [email](#).

