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SHIVA AND VISHNU ARE THE SAME. THIS WAS MENTIONED IN THE SKANDOPANISHAD.

"sivasya hridayam vishnuh, vishnOscha hridayam shivah. yathA shivamayO vishnurEvam vishnumaya shivah"

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MEANING:- SHIVA IS A FORM OF VISHNU AND VISHNU A FORM OF SHIVA. SHIVA DWELLS IN THE HEART OF VISHNU WHILE VISHNU IN THE HEART OF SHIVA.

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Lets make it clear with a history

One day, when Lakshmi and Vishnu were together in vihaaram, Lakshmi sees Ucchaishravam, her brother, the horse of Revanta who is the son of Surya. She was thrilled in seeing her brother and does not reply to the repeated calls of Vishnu.

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Seeing her attraction, Vishnu gives her shaapam to go to Bhulokam in the form of a horse and come back to Vaikuntam only after getting a son equal to Himself! She comes to Bhuloka to experience the shaapam and realizing that none other than her brother,

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Shiva can help her calm Vishnu, and immediately does a tapas for Him and Shiva appears to save her soodari(sister). Lakshmi says "You and Vishnu are both same, the Paramaatma. Please help me!". Shiva says "Soodari! How do you know that we both are same?

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Lakshmi said, All learned people know that. Shiva asked Who told you?". Lakshmi says, "Once Mahavishnu Himself told me this. Seeing Him in deep Daiva-dhyaanam, I asked Him "During Samudramanthanam, I thought you were the greatest of all and hence chose you.

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Devaadideva! Who is better than you that you are in dhyaanam of Him?". Mahavishnu replied "I am doing Shankara-dhyaanam. He is Eshwara. He is the same as Me. All learned people know that. If someone is my devotee but still hates Shiva, he will fall into naraka".

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Saying this, She asks Shiva to persuade Vishnu to bless Her with a child. Shiva sends Chitrarupa as a duta to convince Vishnu. Vishnu immediately accepts and comes to Bhuloka and blesses Lakshmi with Ekaveera, who is equal to Vishnu Himself.

End of the thread.

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