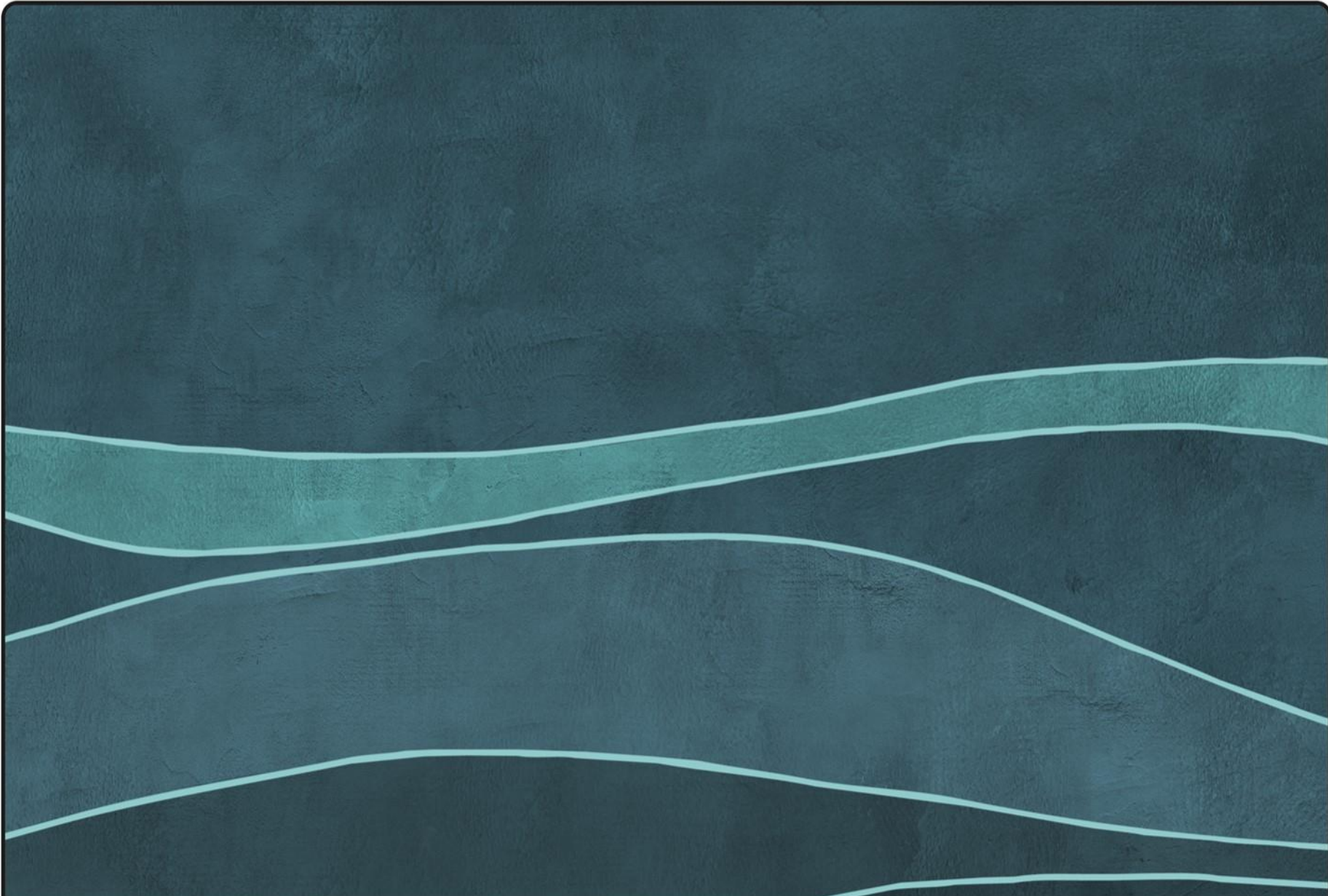


Hindu Creation Story





Before time began, there was no heaven, no earth and no space in between.



An enormous cobra floated in the nothingness. Asleep inside its coils was Vishnu.



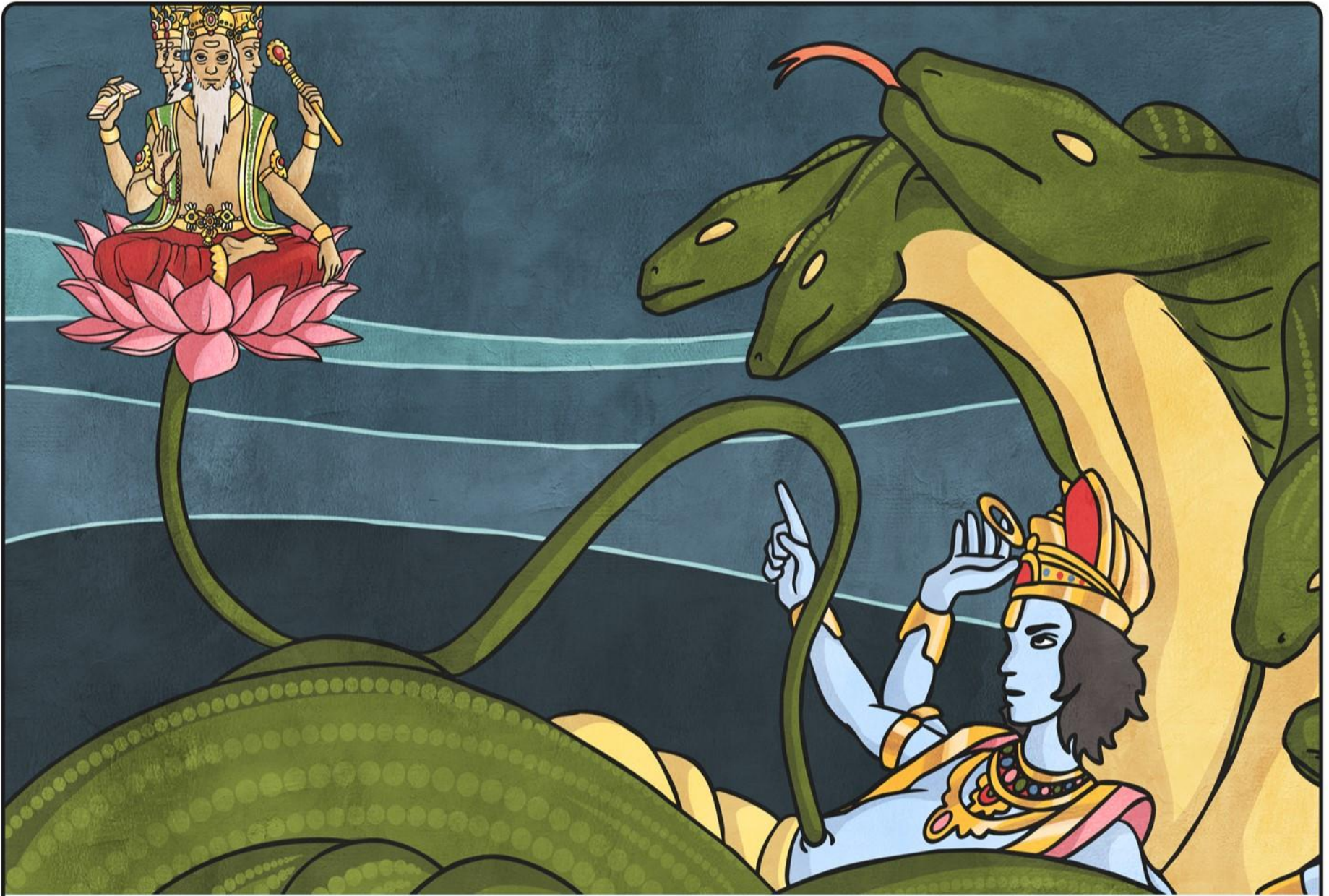
The sound 'om' began to fill the nothingness and woke Vishnu.



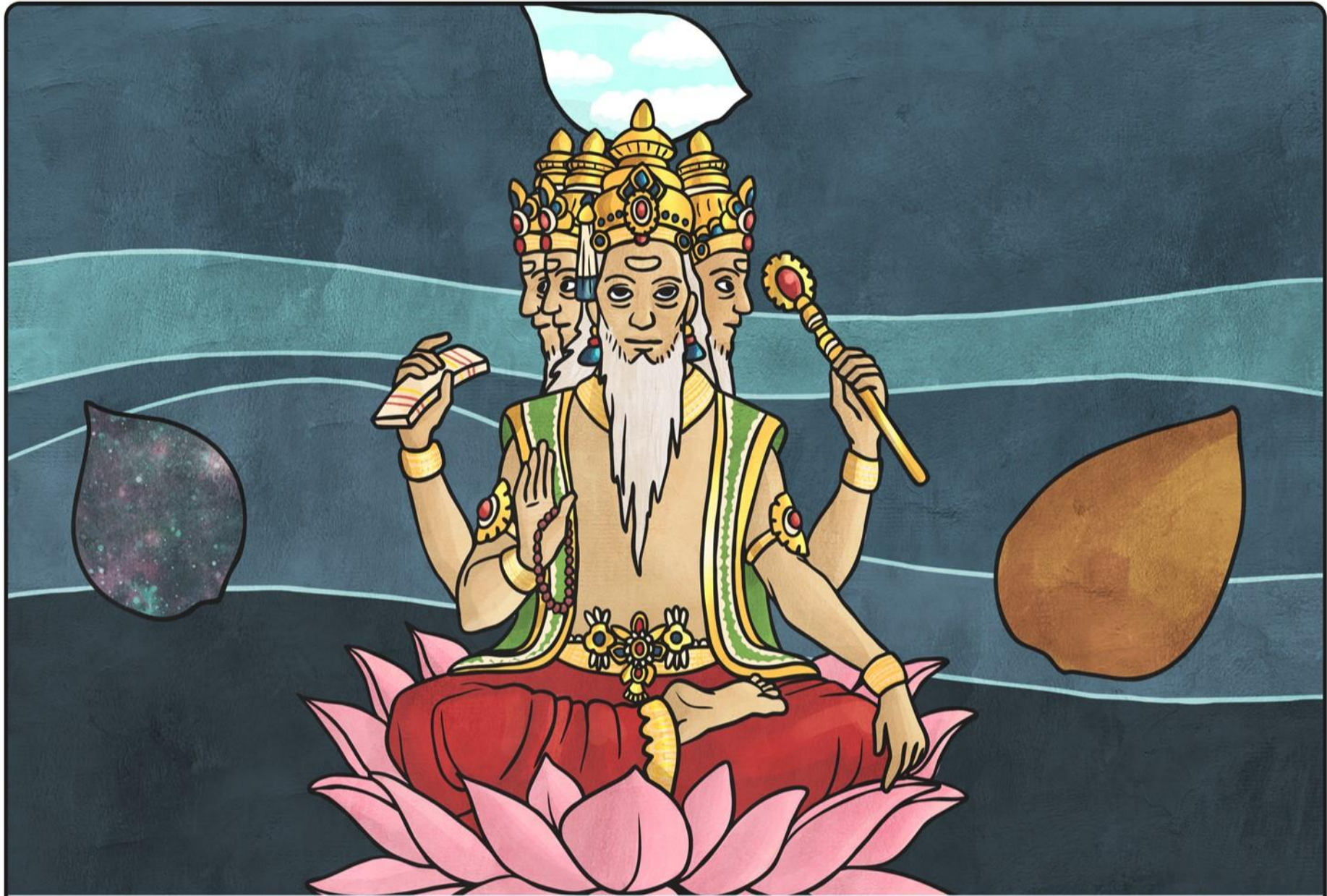
As Vishnu woke, a magnificent lotus flower grew from his navel.



In the middle of the lotus flower sat Brahma.



Vishnu commanded Brahma to create the world, then the cobra and Vishnu disappeared.



Brahma split the lotus flower into three. He turned one part into the heavens, he made another part the Earth and the third part of the flower became the sky.



Earth was completely bare, so Brahma created flora and fauna and gave the animals the senses of touch, sight, sound and movement.