

4. *Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intellect, egoism --- these are My eight-fold PRAKRITI.*

In an attempt to explain the world outside as a marriage between matter and spirit, great thinkers of the *Vedic* period had exercised their philosophical acumen and had given us the *Sankhyan* Philosophy. According to them, the Spiritual Factor (*Purusha*) presiding over a given matter envelopment, dynamises the inert matter and makes the insentient mineral assembly to act, as though it is intelligent and vital. This idea becomes clear to us when we take an example from the modern world.

With steel and iron, the manufacturer completes a steam-engine and when the cold engine is harnessed to steam, at high pressure, it does work. Steam by itself can never express its dynamic capacity and strength; on the other hand, when it is made to work through a given equipment, it is capable of adding motion and performance to the inert iron assemblage.

Thus, one of the schools of philosophy in India tries to explain scientifically, how the Eternal and the Perfect Self comes to express Itself as the world-of-plurality, in the embrace of matter. This also explains the relationship between Spirit and matter. The technical terms used in the philosophy for those two items are: *Prakriti*, for the "matter-envelopments," and *Purusha* for the "Spirit-factor."