

mythology, the Seven great *Rishis* starting with Bhrigu and ending with Vasishtha.

The following is a philosophical explanation of the "Seven Seers."

When the Infinite is seemingly identified with the Total-intellect, or Cosmic-intellect (*Mahat*), and develops thereby an ego-centric personality of Its own (*Ahamkara*), It projects Itself, for Its own joy-transactions, as a world of sense objects. These sense objects are called the five *tanmatras*. The '*Mahat*', the '*Ahamkara*' and the five '*tanmatras*' together constitute the Seven *Rishis* personified in the *Puranas* under different names. These Seven *Rishis* together represent the intellectual and the mental life of man, the EFFICIENT and MATERIAL causes for all creation.

*Devas* do not literally mean the hosts of heaven; the word *Deva* rises from its root, meaning, 'to illumine'. The *Devas*, therefore, are the "sense organs" which illumine for us the world-of-objects for our innumerable experiences.

It is, therefore, clear that the Self, the Pure Consciousness, is "THE SOURCE OF ALL THE DEVAS AND THE GREAT RISHIS," meaning that the Conscious Principle is the substratum for both the physical and mind-intellect life in each one of us. Even though they are thus sustaining themselves in Truth, they cannot 'KNOW MY ORIGIN.'