

*25. This (Self) is said to be Unmanifest, Unthinkable and Unchangeable. Therefore, knowing This to be such, you should not grieve.*

This Eternal, All-Pervading Self is certainly Unmanifest, Unthinkable, and Unchangeable, and therefore, having known this truth in Its essential nature, Krishna argues that it is neither possible to kill nor to get really killed. Each of these terms is quite expressive of certain logical truths.

UNMANIFEST --- The five Great Elements that we know, when they become subtler, they lose their capacity to impinge themselves upon our sense perceptions: considered from 'Earth' to 'Air,' we find the elements progressively getting subtler for our perceptions and finally 'Ether' or 'Space,' by itself, cannot be perceived directly by our senses at all. However, the five Great Elements can, to some extent, be perceived through our sense-organs. But the CAUSE of 'Ether,' the subtlest of the Five Elements, is too subtle for our perception, and therefore we will have to assume that it is Unmanifest.

A thing is called manifest when we can perceive it through one or the other of our sense-organs. That which is beyond all five sense-organs is called Unmanifest. I cannot see, smell, hear, taste or touch a full-grown mango tree in a mango seed, and yet, I know that the seed is the cause for the tree. Under the circumstances, the tree is said to be in an 'unmanifest' condition in the seed. Similarly,