

these सर्वम् *sarvam* all इदम् *idam* this जगत् *jagat* world मोहितम् *mohitam* deluded न *na* not अभिजानाति *abhijānāti* knows माम् *mām* me एभ्यः *ebhyah* from them परम् *param* higher अव्ययम् *avyayam* immutable

Deluded by these threefold dispositions of Prakriti — the Gunas, this world does not know Me, who am above them and immutable. 13

Brahman is here designated as *Param* which means the One beyond the ken of the intellect and the senses. This Reality undergoes no modification and so It is immutable.

Those who see a cinema take no note of the screen on which it is projected. The phenomenal universe is made up of the three Gunas; likes and dislikes in all forms are also born of the three Gunas. People entangled in these three categories are immersed in their experiences of the phenomenal existence and they take no note of the Basis which is unaffected by all these modifications. The *Chit-akasa* or Brahman the Pure Consciousness remains as the Substratum of the perceived universe. They who are bound by the Gunas are unable to cognize It.

Iswara plays at assuming the human forms. He is a great magician. The universe and the beings in it are all His magic, created by His inscrutable power called *Maya*. The magician is real while his magic is a mere phantom.

— Sri Ramakrishna

How shall one extricate oneself from this delusion ? The way is shown :—

देवी ह्येषा गुणमयी मम माया दुरत्यया ।

मामेव ये प्रपद्यन्ते मायामेतां तरन्ति ते ॥ १४