

सर्वम् *sarvam* all इदम् *idam* this प्रोतम् *protam* is strung
सूत्रे *sūtre* on a string मणिगणाः *maṇigaṇāḥ* clusters of
gems इव *iva* like

There is nothing whatsoever higher than Me, O
Dhananjaya. All this is strung on Me, as rows of
gems on a string. 7

The producer, the sustainer and the withdrawer
of the universe is Iswara. There is no power, extra-
aneous to Him, to interfere with His work, great or
small. The gems strung together may vary in colour
and species. But the supporting string is the same
all through. The universes sustained by the Lord,
may, in that fashion, vary in their appearances; but
the Sustainer of all of them is the same. *Sūtra* is
the Samskrit word for string. The Lord is therefore
called the *Sūtrātman*—the string-like supporter of the
manifested worlds. The Pure Consciousness, which is
the Substratum of all beings sentient and insentient,
is the same.

What Brahman is like cannot be grasped by the ordinary
mind. He therefore became *Arddhanariswara*—half-man, half-
woman—in order to make Himself knowable to beings. This
form of His indicates that *Purusha* and *Prakṛiti* are but two
different readings of the same Reality. He has further materi-
alized Himself into the sentient and the insentient. Therefore
nothing is alien to Him

—Sri Ramakrishna

Is it ever possible for us to behold Him as having
become all these manifestations? The clue is given:—

The Is ness in the Elements and Beings is Iswara — 8-9

रसोऽहमप्सु कौन्तेय प्रभास्मि शशिर्धर्योः ।

प्रणवः सर्ववेदेषु शब्दः खे पौरुषं नृपु ॥ ८