

- (2) Bhūḥ-loka is not this earth but the large ethereal region attached to this earth. Sumeru hill, the residence of the Devas, is also such a region, it is not visible to the eye. The location of the different regions of the universe as described herein, was accepted by the ancient Yoga philosopher as was current at the time.
- (3) The Dvipas are inhabited by the holy Devas and the pious men after their death. The Dvipas must therefore be subtle regions.

The nether worlds are located inside the Bhūḥ-loka (not this earth) and are aerial regions. The seven hells appear in subtle outlook as the different parts of the gross earth would appear. The hells have been described from the standpoint of gross earthly states. The creatures living in those regions are endowed with subtle instruments of reception but as their powers are restrained they suffer misery being unable to fulfil their wishes. As in a nightmare the body cannot act on account of the sense-organs being inactive, but the mind being active suffers like an ensuared beast so do creatures suffer in hell.

As in this world there are separate creatures like lower animals, so amongst the subtle-bodied creatures, the inhabitants of the seven hells form separate lower classes. The same gross region appears different according as the view-point is gross, subtle or mixed. What men see as earth, water or fire, those in hell see as hell and, those in the nether regions look upon as their wonted abode. The Deva-lokas start from the top of Bhūḥ-loka. Top of Bhūḥ-loka does not mean top of the earth, but it is situated much above the aerial region of the earth.

Residents of the nether regions and the Devas who come into existence without parents, are regarded as separate species. As the denizens of hell are transformed human beings, so also are