

objects, and with its very creation, this Great Knowledge of the Self was given out to the world.

The theme of *Vedic* literature being the subjective divinity, language fails to express it completely. No deep experience can be exhaustively expressed in words. Therefore a study of the scriptures by one's own self is apt to create misunderstandings in the mind of the student, rather than a right appreciation of it. Thus it is a time-honoured tradition in India that spiritual lessons are directly heard from a true Master, who has vivid inner experiences in the realm of the Spirit. It has been handed down from Master to disciple and we have been given here the identity of the earliest students of *Brahma-Vidya*.

*2. This knowledge, handed down thus in regular succession, the royal sages knew. This YOGA, by long lapse of time, has been lost here, O Parantapa (burner of the foes) .*

This *Yoga*, the *Yoga* in which the *Vedic* teachings regarding activity (*Pravritti*) and retirement (*Nivritti*) are comprehended, thus handed down in regular succession among the "Royal sages," has its own destinies. At certain periods of history, this Knowledge seems to be readily available for the service of mankind, but at certain other periods of history it falls into disuse and becomes, as it were defunct. The golden era of spirituality dies down to inaugurate the dark ages of undivine life. At such periods of monstrous materialism, the generation is not left in