

OF THE NAGAS I AM ANANTA --- "*Nagas*" means "the many-hooded serpents." Of them, the thousand-hooded *Sesha Naga* is the one that has been described as forming the "bed" for Lord Vishnu to recline in His "*Yoga-sleep*." Here Krishna only means that, among the many-hooded serpents, He is the mightiest and the most divine, because He is the very Substratum upon which Vishnu, the Sustainer, and Brahmaji, the Creator of the multiple world, recline and function.

OF THE WATER DEITIES I AM VARUNA --- '*Varuna*' is a *Vedic* conception of the Spirit governing the waters, the third of the five great elements. Deifying the elemental forces in the phenomenal world, was the method of adoration and worship in the early *Vedic* period. It was only later, that we started the *Pauranic*-tradition of humanising gods and got into the muddy pool religious differences, sectarian prejudices, and credal warfare, between colonies of ignorant folks, gathered round a Jerusalem Master or a Vrindavana Boy, or a Mecca Messenger. *Varuna* is conceived of as a being, half-fish and half-man, almost something like Arnold's Merman! He is the Ruler of the Oceans and the Lord of the Waters.

OF THE PITRIS, I AM ARYAMA --- In Hinduism, death is one of the experiences in life when the subtle-body chooses to leave permanently its present residence within a given physical structure. The mind-intellect-equipment, maintaining a separate ego-centric concept in itself,