

birth and thrive. The Prakriti is the Cosmic Mother for the entire creation. And Iswara is the Father.

How does the 'Prakriti bind the *Jīvās*? The process is explained :—

The Functions of the Gunas — 5-10

सत्त्वं रजस्तम इति गुणाः प्रकृतिसंभवाः ।

निबध्नन्ति महाबाहो देहे देहिनमव्ययम् ॥ ५

सद्-त्वम् रजः तमः इति गुणाः प्र-कृति-सम्-भवाः ।

नि-ब(न्)ध्-नन्ति महा-बाहो देहे देहिनम् अ-व्ययम् ॥

*sattvaṁ rajas tama iti guṇāḥ prakṛtisambhavāḥ ।*

*nibadhnanti mahābāho dehe dehinam avyayam ॥*

सत्त्वम् *sattvaṁ* Sattva रजः *rajaḥ* Rajas तमः *tamaḥ* Tamas इति *iti* these गुणाः *guṇāḥ* Gunas प्रकृतिसंभवाः *prakṛti sambhavāḥ* born of Prakriti निबध्नन्ति *nibadhnanti* bind महाबाहो *mahābāho* O mighty-armed देहे *dehe* in the body देहिनम् *dehinam* the embodied अव्ययम् *avyayam* the indestructible

Sattva, Rajas, Tamas — these Gunas, O mighty-armed, born of Prakriti, bind the indestructible embodied one fast in the body. 5

The Prakriti is made up of the three Gunas. It should not be construed that just as forms are superimposed on substances like gold, the Gunas are superimposed on the Prakriti. Verily just as fire and its heat are one and the same; Prakriti and the Gunas are identical. In tricolour printing, all the various hues and shades required for a colourful picture can be very effectively brought out. Even so the entire Prakriti consists of the three Gunas.