At Other Times The Seer Appears To Assume The Form Of The Modification Of The Mind. 4.

The modifications of mind that take place in the empirical state appear identified with the Seer. Pañcha-śikha has said on this point—"Consciousness is one : Cognitive modification is consciousness" (2). That is to say, in popular erroneous conception, a particular cognitive modification of Buddhi is taken to be the same as Consciousness. Mind is like a magnet and acts only by proximity (3), and by its character of being an object it becomes as one with its Owner—the Puruṣa (4). That is how the beginningless association of the mind and the Puruṣa operates as the condition of the mental modification being revealed to Puruṣa (5).

(1) That the pure Self is presented with objects has been dealt with in Sūtra 1-2. On account of the close association of Buddhi and the pure Consciousness in the same cognitive process, the objects impressed on Buddhi are revealed by the consciousness that is Puruṣa. In like manner by being the manifestor of the things taken in by Buddhi, Puruṣa appears to be indistinguishable from the functions of Buddhi.

(2) Pañchaśikha was a very ancient teacher of Sāṃkhya. It is said in the Purāṇas that Āsuri was a disciple of Kapila and Pañchaśikha was a disciple of Āsuri. Pañchaśikha was the first to compose aphorism on the principles of Sāṃkhya philosophy. Such of his sayings as have been cited by the commentator on Yoga Sūtras in support of his observations are priceless gems. The book from which these have been extracted is now lost. About Pañchaśikha it is stated in the Mahābhārata that it was he who fully determined all the principles relating to the virtue of renunciation and he had no doubts in his mind about them. The word 'Darśana' in the quotation from Pañchaśikha refers to the pure Self or pure Consciousness and the word 'Khyāti' refers to the modification of Buddhi or manifestation by Buddhi.

(3) Vijñānabhikṣu explains the analogy as follows :—

"As a magnet by drawing to it a piece of iron does some