

sharp it might be. The principle is that no instrument can hit or destroy an element subtler than itself. Naturally, therefore, *Atman*, the Self, the very cause of the subtlest element, space, and necessarily therefore, subtler than space, cannot be cut asunder by the gross instruments.

FIRE CANNOT BURN IT --- Fire generally can burn things other than the fire, but it cannot burn itself. The burning capacity in fire is the very Essence, the Truth in it, and therefore, fire cannot burn its own Essence, viz., its fiery nature. Wherever there is fire, it can consume things only in space and yet, space is never consumed by fire. Things are consumed by fire in space. If space itself cannot be consumed by fire, how impotent it must feel when it tries to consume the cause of space, the Self?

WATER CANNOT MOISTEN IT --- Things get soaked only when they have got inter-space in themselves. A piece of bread can be soaked in water or milk, but, a piece of iron cannot be soaked, as iron has no inter-space in it. When the substance is one homogeneous mass containing nothing other than itself to condition it, water cannot enter the substance and, therefore, cannot soak it. Another method of destruction observed is either through the quick effects of water, that is drowning, etc., or through the slow effects of moisture, such as corroding, etc. Even these cannot destroy the Truth.

WIND DRIES IT NOT --- Dehydration is possible only when there are some traces of water in the substance