

happening in the properties and to the qualities of a thing, is the phenomenon of its decay. That which is Changeless cannot perish. And that which has no quality cannot change!

Therefore, the Beginningless, the Quality-less, the Imperishable Supreme Self, though living in the physical structure, and thrilling the inner matter-field around each embodied creature into the play of life, does not, in Itself, and by Itself, act.

This is one of the subtle concepts in *Vedanta* which lesser intellects must find rather difficult to grasp. This is a well-recognised difficult portion in the *Vedantic* literature. But a little effort at reflection can clear the confusions and remove all the difficulties

HERE THE LORD GIVES SOME PARALLEL EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THE ACTION-LESS-NESS OF THE SELF AND ALSO THE QUALITY-LESS-NESS OF THE SPIRIT IN ESSENCE, IN SPITE OF THE DISCORDANT AND DEVLISH ACTIVITIES OF MATTER AROUND IT:

*33. As the all-pervading ether is not tainted, because of its subtlety, so too the Self, seated everywhere in the body, is not tainted.*

AS THE ALL-PERVADING AKASHA (SPACE) IS NEVER SOILED --- Space is an example we can take to indicate