

SHOWING THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE VERY TERM, *PURUSHOTTAMA*, THE LORD SHOWS HOW HE IS REALLY THE SUPREME:

*18. As I transcend the perishable and I am even Higher than the Imperishable, I am declared as the PURUSHOTTAMA (the Highest -PURUSHA) in the world and in the VEDAS.*

Explaining the very word *Purushottama*, Lord Krishna says that Pure Consciousness is HIGHER than both the 'Perishable' and the 'Imperishable.' The Perishable can continue its processes of change only against the Imperishable Truth. It is a scientific fact that no change is perceptible without reference to a changeless factor. If two trains are both moving at the same speed no movement is recognised by perceivers in both the trains. If the changes in the world of Matter --- the body, the mind and the intellect are recognised, then there must be a steady principle that illumines all these different changes. This constant factor among the Perishing is called the Imperishable.

This illumining factor gathers its status as the "Imperishable" only with reference to the "Perishable" realms. Once the perishable realms are transcended, the Imperishable amidst them Itself comes to shine forth as the Pure Infinite, which is the *Purushottama*. Since the Truth, *Purushottama*, is experienced only on transcending both the 'Perishable' and the 'Imperishable,' It is known by the term the 'Highest-Spirit' --- *Purushottama*. This term is