

In the relative field of experience, when we talk with reference to the inert and perishable world of Matter, the Spirit is indicated as the Conscious Principle, which is Imperishable. With reference to one's wife alone is one called a husband; when I have a son I will become a father. Similarly, with reference to the perishable and the changing Matter-envelopments, the Consciousness is indicated as the Imperishable and the Changeless. The body changes; from childhood to youth, from youth to old age; the mind changes in its quality of feelings and emotions; the intellect expressing differently with each added knowledge and experience is ever in a state of change. But one is constantly AWARE OF all these changes. This Consciousness which has been constantly recognising and illumining all changes, at all levels, all through the individual's life, is necessarily changeless. This Conscious Principle is called *Akshara* only with reference to and as a contrast with the Perishable, the (*Kshara*).

This Immutable and Imperishable principle of Life is the Self, common in all living creatures at all times. That this Self, in the midst of change remains changeless and that all changes can take place only in contact with it are both indicated by the metaphor suggested by the term used here, *Kootashah*.

DISTINCT FROM THESE TWO --- THE PERISHABLE
AND THE IMPERISHABLE --- UNTAINTED BY THE