

the Reality.

This world-of-change (*Ashwattha*) is considered here as eternal (*Avyaya*), only in a relative sense. Any peepal-tree in any village must have observed many generations playing and growing up under its shade, and thus, with reference to man's average age, the fig-tree can be considered as RELATIVELY eternal. Similarly, with reference to the generations that grow, conceive, plan, strive, achieve and die away, the world itself can be considered as RELATIVELY immortal.

For this tree-of-life "THE VEDAS THEMSELVES ARE THE LEAVES" --- *Veda* means 'knowledge.' Knowledge does bring forth a greater spurt of dynamism of life into the world. In comparison with the modern world --- with its colossal endeavours, mighty achievements, and superhuman aspirations --- the ancient generations were, relatively speaking, not even alive. More the knowledge a generation acquires, clearer becomes its vision of a greater future and diviner possibilities, and therefore, more is the amount of effort put forth by it to achieve the perceived goal. Now to compare *Veda*-*'knowledge,'* to the leaves of the "Tree" is not quite inappropriate. Leaves are areas from which the water contents get evaporated in all trees, and this, in its turn, creates the 'osmotic-pressure' in the roots and facilitates the roots to draw more quantity of nourishment from the earth. Cut down the leaves of a tree and its growth is immediately stunted; the larger the number of branches and leaves, the greater is the tree's