Holy Geeta by Swami Chinmayananda

dynasties destroyed and families forgotten. Each teacher comes and writes on the black-board different words and symbols which represent the design of knowledge that he has in his bosom. But all designs were chalked out and executed upon the same black-board, which illumined the mathematical calculations, the geographical data, the chemical formulae, and the historical facts, in turn.

Similarly, the changing world of the unmanifest must have one Changeless Substratum, "THAT WHICH IS NOT DESTROYED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL BEINGS (bhutas)." When, in the evening, the students and teachers have all left the class room, the black-board still remains. The principle of Pure Consciousness, Itself Unmanifest --- inasmuch as It is not perceivable by the sense organs or comprehensible by the mind and intellect --- is indicated here as the changeless substratum of all, when the Lord declares, "BEYOND THIS UNMANIFEST, THERE IS THE OTHER ETERNAL EXISTENCE, THE UNMANIFESTED."

The unmanifest (*vasanas*) are the seeds of the manifest and they constitute, what *Vedanta* indicates by its very familiar term, "Ignorance" (*Avidya*). "Ignorance" can be only of an existent something; I cannot be ignorant of my tail, since I do not have a tail. This proves the existence of some Positive Factor called the Truth, the Self --- the blackboard upon which all other conditional knowledges are scribbled --- serving as the Permanent and Changeless Substratum. "The ignorance of the Real Nature of this Eternal Factor," is called *Avidya*, which, in its turn projects