

BOOK IV

On Isolation

जन्मीषधिमन्त्रतपःसमाधिजास्सिदयः ॥ १ ॥

भाष्यम् —देशन्तरिता जन्मना सिडि:, श्रोषधिभि: —श्रमुरभवनेषु रसायने-नेत्येवमादि, मन्त्रै: —श्राकाशगमनाणिमादिलाभः, तपसा -- संकल्पसिडि: काम-रूपौ यत्र तत्र कामग इत्येवमादि । समाधिजाः सिडयो व्याख्याताः ॥ १ ॥

Supernormal Powers Come With Birth Or Are Attained Through Herbs, Incantations, Austerities Or Concentration. 1.

Supernormal powers arising at the time of changing the bodily frame show themselves with birth. By herbs, as for example with chemicals in an Asura's (demon's) abode, medicinal powers are acquired. By Mantras or incantations, powers like flying or reducing one's size are attained. By practising austerities, power of fulfilment of wishes, e.g. going to any wished-for place etc., is acquired. The powers acquirable through concentration have been explained before (1).

(1) Some of the supernormal powers mentioned in the previous book have been known to have been acquired sometimes without Yogic concentration. With some, the powers manifest themselves with birth, i.e. with the process of being embodied in a particular way. For example, powers of clairvoyance or of thought-reading have been found to be produced by particular dispositions. These have nothing to do with Yoga. Similarly, as a consequence of being incarnated in a celestial body as a result of virtuous deeds, the supernormal powers associated with such forms also appear.

Herbs also induce supernomal powers. Some in a state of stupor through the application of anaesthetics like chloroform etc. acquire the power of going out of the body. It has also been reported that by the application of hemlock all over the body