

*24. And among the household priests, O Partha, know Me to be the chief, BRIHASPATI; among generals, I am SKANDA; among lakes, I am the ocean.*

OF THE HOUSEHOLD PRIESTS KNOW ME THE CHIEF, BRIHASPATI --- The lord of the planet Jupiter, Brihaspati, is mentioned in the *Rig Veda* as Brahmanaspati, which is self-explanatory of his status, among the hosts of heaven. He is considered as the spiritual teacher of the celestials. Similarly, the Lord indicates, 'I AM SKANDA' --- the son of Shiva, the peacock-rider, and the wielder-of-the-spear -- - "AMONG THE GENERALS."

OF WATER, I AM THE OCEAN --- In all these examples, it is quite clear that the Lord is indicating Himself to be not only transcendent, but also immanent. Especially, the last analogy of the series in the stanza proves itself to be a typical example. No doubt, the waters of Ganga seem to have no relationship with the waters of the ocean. Yamuna, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu or Kaveri, Tigris or Nile, Thames or Amazon --- the water of the various lakes of the world, of the ponds of the villages, in all irrigation canals, individually, is independent and has nothing to do with the ocean that embraces the world. And yet, it is a fact that but for the waters of the ocean, all these rivers and water-pools would have long ago dried up. Similarly, in the sentient and the insentient beings, and things of the world, though individually they might look as if they have no direct relationship with the Infinite