

Chapter 15

Purushothama Yoga

The Yoga of the Supreme Spirit

The Blessed Lord said: 1. They (wise people) speak of the indestructible ASHWATTHA tree as having its roots above and branches below, whose leaves are the VEDAS ; he who knows it, is alone a Veda-knower.

Reminiscent of the casual picture of the "Peepal-tree" brought up in the *Kathopanishad* (VI-1), here Vyasa exhaustively paints the Tree-of-life and shows its relationship with the Infinite. If the Spirit be one-without-a-second, out of this one Consciousness how did the world-of-matter --- constituted of the body and its perceptions, the mind and its feelings, the intellect and its thoughts --- arise? Even if it has so risen up, what nourishes it and sustains it? What exactly is the relationship between God, the CREATOR, and the world, the CREATED --- the Infinite and the finite? These are some of the questions that generally rise up in any human intellect, once it is set to contemplate upon life.

The picture of the "Peepal-tree" unveiled in these three stanzas serves as a beautiful allegory of the entire spiritual concept expounded in this chapter.