

Śrī Ēṣopaniñad



Introduction, Day 1

ŚRĪ ĪSOPANISAD

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A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

President, Society for the Advancement of Krishna Consciousness



1

a) What is Upaniñad?

b) “sit near”

Upa = Near

ni = down

shad = to sit

c) Sit near a spiritual teacher to learn...

2

BUT 1st WHAT IS VEDAS? AND IMPORTANT OF VEDAS

a) Vedas = hymns chanted by
priests, in praise of gods.

Rig

Yajur

Säma

Atharva

“Praise
of agni,
indra”

“Instructions
for
performing
sacrifice”

“Praise
of soma”

“chants for
hearing,
sickness &
rites”

b) Vedas encourage satisfaction of material desires. (e.g.)

Sex - Indra

Good progeny - Prajapati

Fortune - Durga

Power - Agni

Money - Vasus

Body - Earth

**Gradual
elevation to
transcendental
life**



Leads to
Upanisad's
(Chance for Self –
Realization)

c) Conclusion

a) Rig:- on tad visnoh.....(1.2.22.20)

b) Srila Prabhupada's quotes in BG.

d) Krishna's Instruction

1. yävän artha udapäne.....

2. veda-väda-ratäù pärtha nänyad
astéti vädinaù.....

3. trai-guëya-viñayä vedä

3

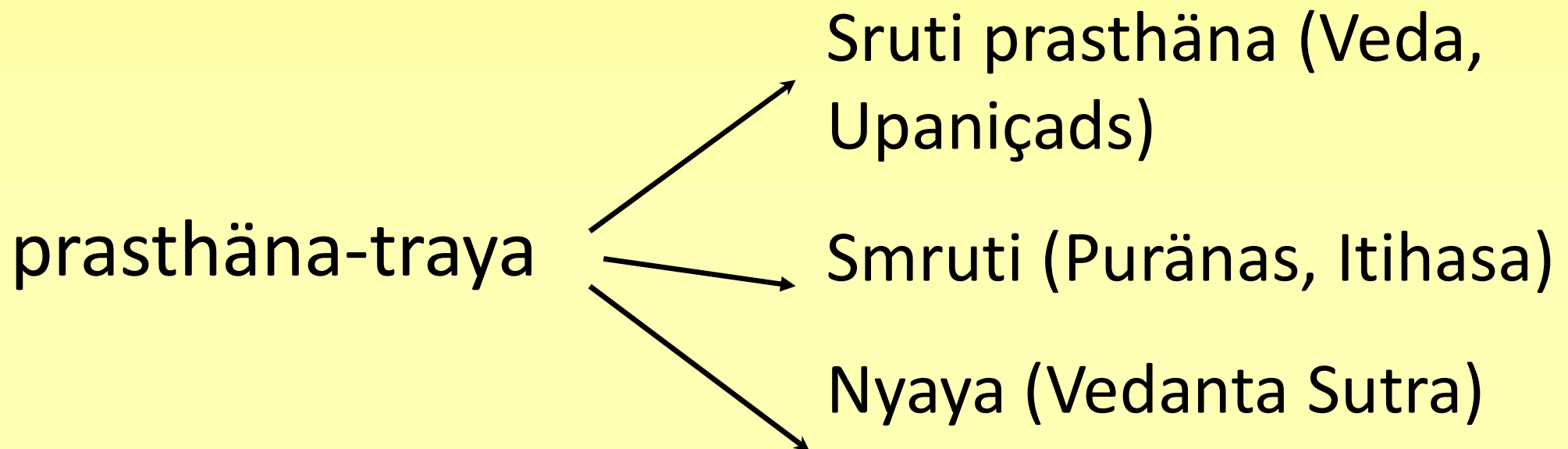
UPANISADS

- a) Mark being of Spiritual life.
- b) Main contribution – establish Absolute Truth As non-material.
- c) Deny material personality (nirguna, a rupa) but do assert Spiritual personality.
- d) 3 stages (Brahman...)
- e) Paramatma – Mundaka, Sveta, Katho
(Imp:- defeats Mayavad)
(Defends Bhakti :- Bhakti depends on ideally being retried)

f) Thus prepares way for proper understanding of “Bhagavan” – (Full of opulence)

g) Éçopaniñad

a) Importance of Çruti & Smruti



Introduction, Day 2

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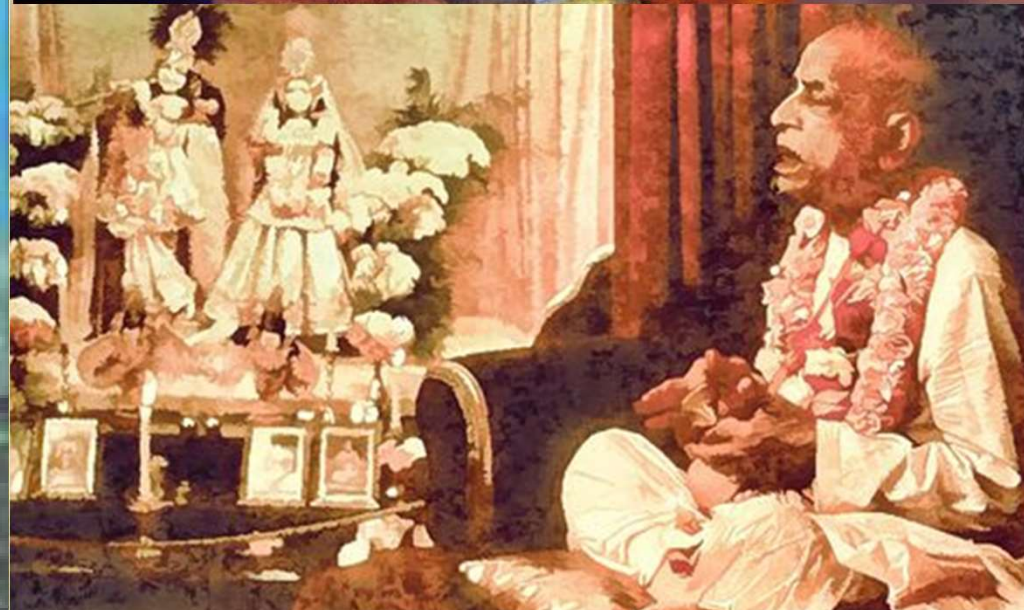
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h) Scholars deny but all äcäryas accept

1. Madhva's quote
2. Sankara on BG
3. Ramanuja
4. Rupa Goswami

i) Sruti = hearing = mother
Smruti = hearing = sister

4

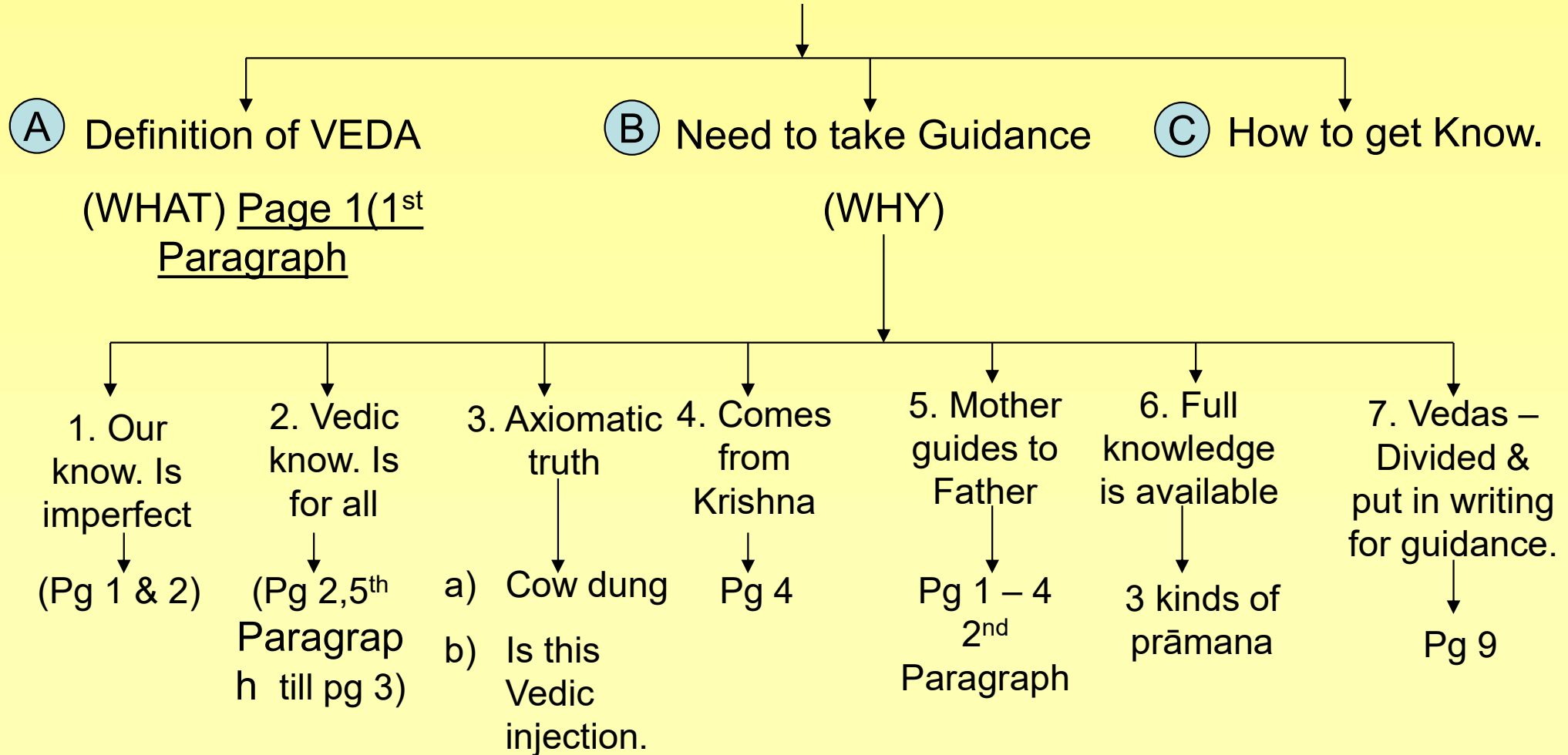
Çré Éço paniñad

- a) Éça = Supreme controller
- b) Sambandha = invocation, 4, 5, 8, 14
Abhidheya = 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18
Prayojana = 6, 7, 10, 12, 13
- c) Establishes authenticity of ISKCON
- d) Brings one nearer to Krishna, Supreme personality of Godhead.

Introduction

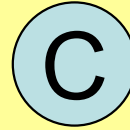
Introduction is a lecture given by SP on the
October 6, 1969, at Conway Hall, London, England.

VEDIC KNOWLEDGE

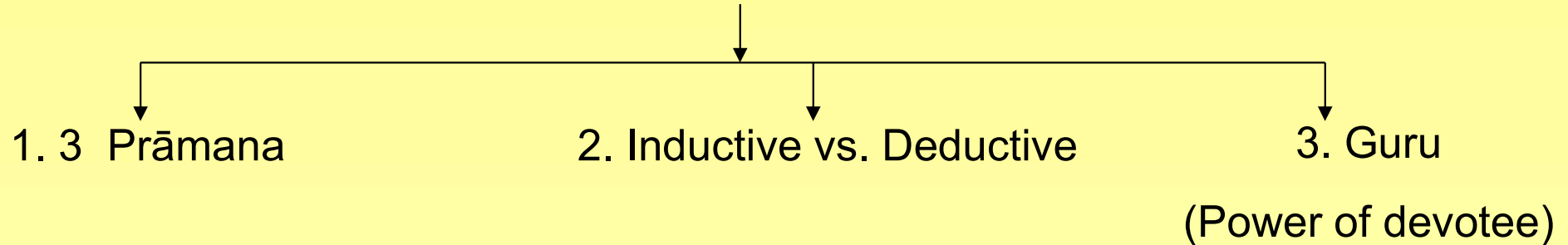


Conclusion:-

Explanation of Vedic knowledge is in SB & BG (eg.: Jackfruit & real fruit)



HOW TO GET



Inductive:- From part to whole, particular to gigantic, Individual to universal.

Axiom:- 1) Self evident or Universal accepted truth.

2) A statement or proposition, requiring no proof as a self-evident, self consistent or accepted principle.

Invocation, Day 3

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Introduction Revision :

- The Four Defects
- Who are Vedic followers?
- Vedas are axioms
- Vedas are like mother
- For understanding Vedas, Krishna is the authority
- Two systems of knowledge
- Who is a guru?
- Krishna's inconceivable form
- Vedic literature is vast
- Bhagavatam is summum bonum of Vedic literature

Invocation

- The SPOG is The Complete Absolute Truth
- Material world is complete
- Human life is a complete opportunity for self realization
- Illusory and real completeness in human life



Mantra 1

- Shabda Praman authenticity
- Quotes from shabda Pramana to corroborate this verse from BG
- Gives examples of éçäväsyaṁ idam sarvaà yat kīica jagatyää jagat
- Gives examples of tena tyaktena bhuījéthä mä gādhaù kasya svid dhanam
- Human society meant to live according to this principle

Mantra 2

- How karma bandhana causes mortality
- Karma, Akarma and Vikarma
- Vedas ultimately lead us to akarma
- Begin by bringing God into sense gratificatory life
- Without God consciousness; all activities are in vain – therefore add God to altruism.
- Karma yoga

Mantra 3

- Who is a demon?
- Who is a soul-killer?
- Liberate the soul, don't kill it
 - If don't use higher facilities of human form, then have to live worse than animals in this life and go to hell in the next
 - Even failure in liberating the soul brings glorious result, what then to speak of success.
 - Modern “politicians” as demons
 - Solve all problems forever

INVOCATION

Invocation to mantras 1, 2 & 3

- **MT: “ understanding Proprietorship and Occupation with in the society”**

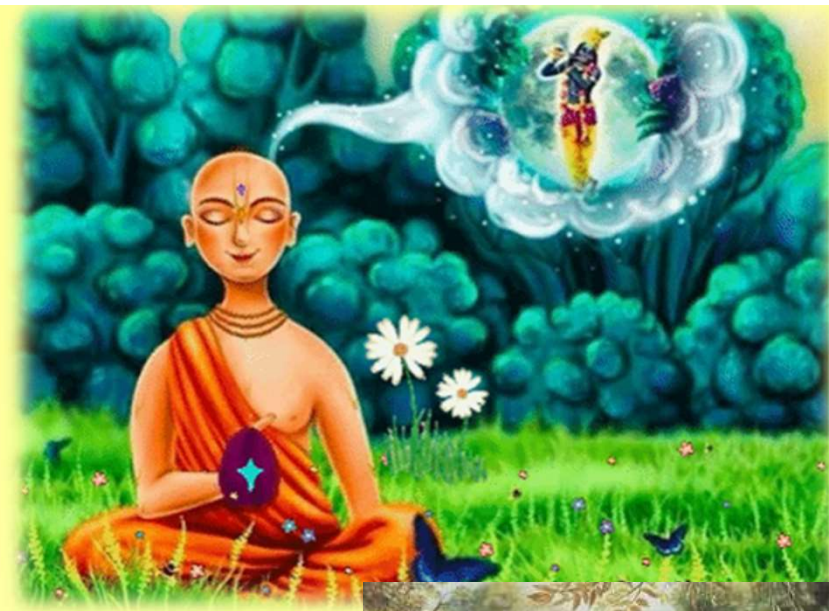
INVOCATION

- **MT: “ All things in existance are emanating from complete whole”**

Sri Isopanisdad_Invocation

Main Points Discussed

1. The invocation mantra describes the objective of the book - the Absolute Truth - the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
2. By repeatedly recognition of His various types of completeness, this mantra establishes the supreme position of the Personality of Godhead
3. Brahman and Supersoul realization is partial realization of the Supreme Absolute Truth
4. The Supreme Personality of Godhead is *sac-cidananda-vigraha*. This is the complete realization of the Supreme Personality of Godhead - Sri Krishna.



Sri Isopanisdad_Invocation

Main Points Discussed

5. All emanation from the Complete Whole is also perfect and complete in their purpose.

6. Purpose of human form of life. The purpose of higher consciousness.

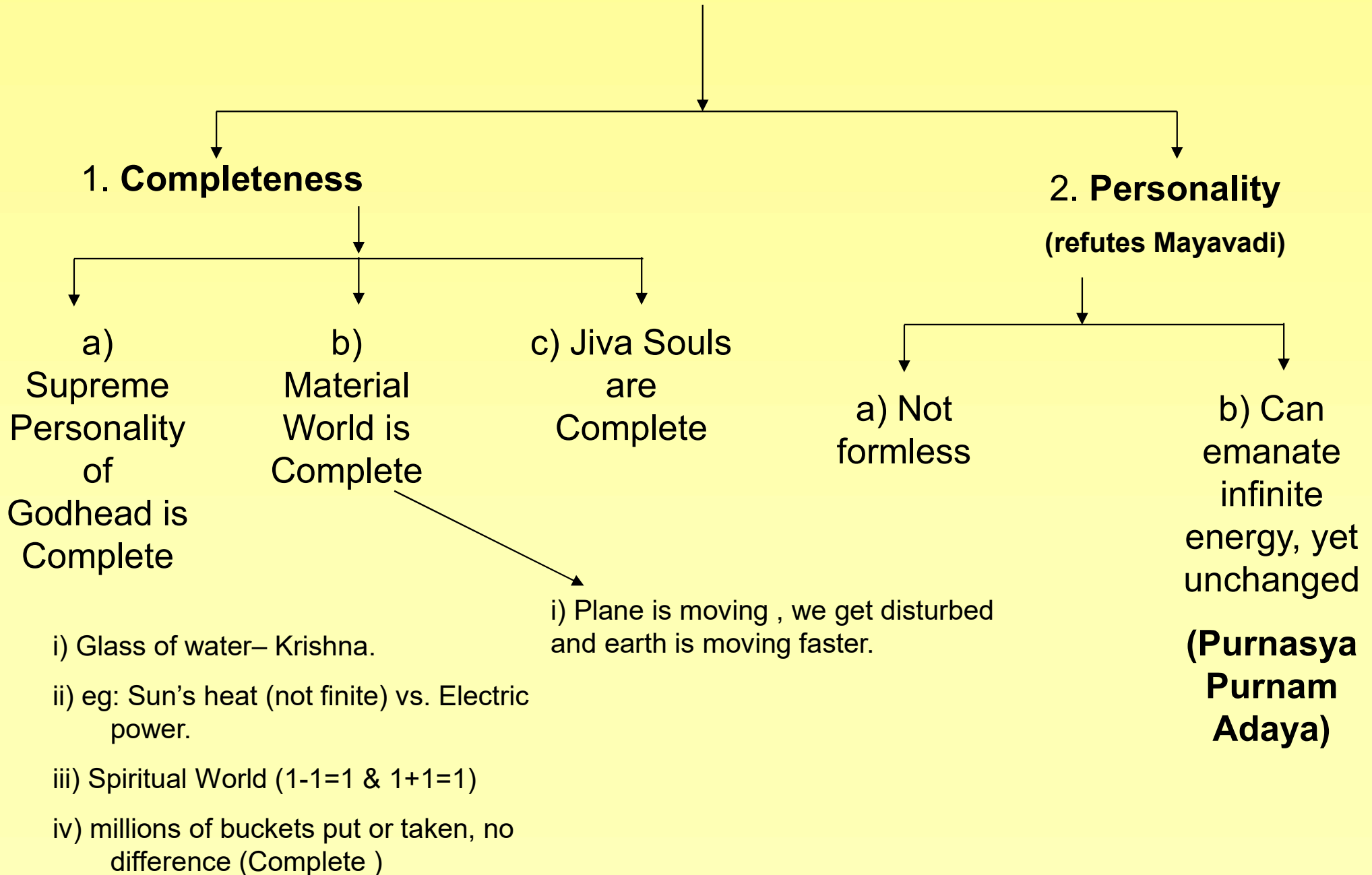
7. The completeness of the human life can be realized when one engages in the service of the complete whole - the Supreme Absolute Truth - Sri Krishna.

8. All other services will remain incomplete until they are dovetailed with the complete whole.



INVOCATION

Completeness & Personality of Krishna



Mantra 1, Day 4

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Mantra - 1

Connection: Krishna is complete whole (Invocation), naturally He is also the proprietor. Also conditioned souls are complete (Invocation). Now this verse explains how they can realize their completeness by recognizing Lord's proprietorship.

Accepting & Recognizing Lord's Proprietor

1. Krishna as Proprietor

a) Who says it ?

b) What is said ?

c) How is He Proprietor ?



2. Living entity's Role

a) Not a Proprietor

a i) Can't I claim to be Proprietor

a ii) What if I claim ?

b) Acting on this role

b i) Recognizing

b ii) Offering

b iii) Go BTG

Krishna's Proprietor

Who says it ?

- i. Vedas (not produced by imperfect Creature)
- ii. Apauruṣeya
- iii. Not 4 defects
- iv. Heart of Brahma

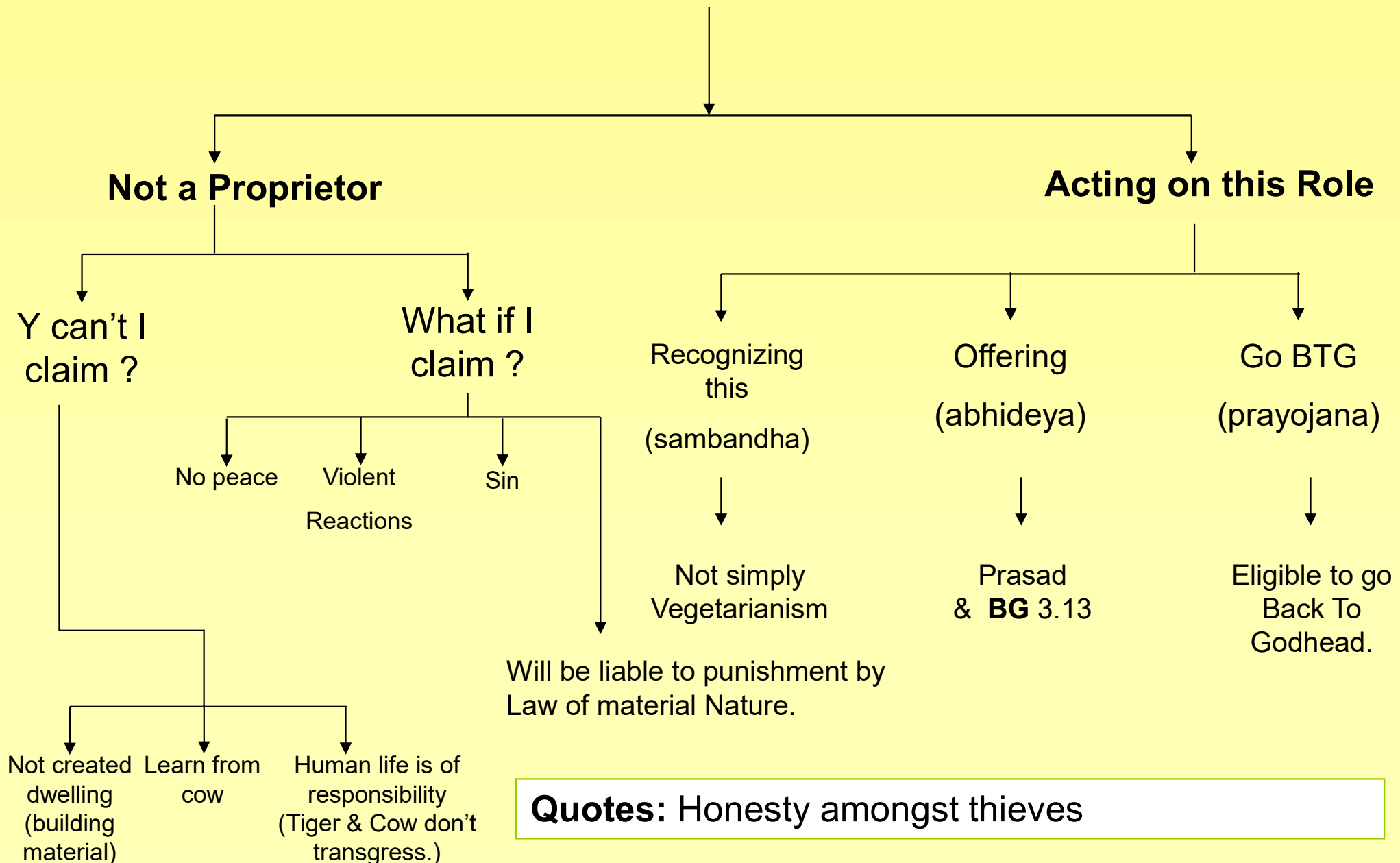
What is said

- i. Not controlled by Material Nature. He controls.
- ii. Proprietor (Bg.-7.4-5) Para & Apara

How is He Proprietor

- i. Perfect Intell to adjust
- ii. Fire
 - Heat
 - Light
- iii. Inconceivable opulence: fame, beauty...

Living entity's Role



Quotes: Honesty amongst thieves

Mantra 2, Day 5

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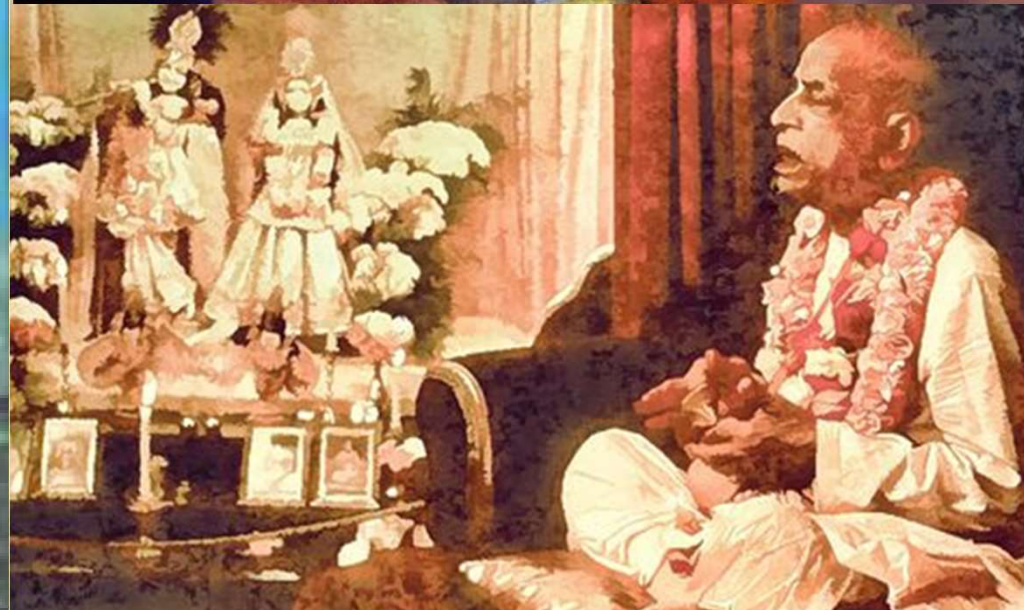
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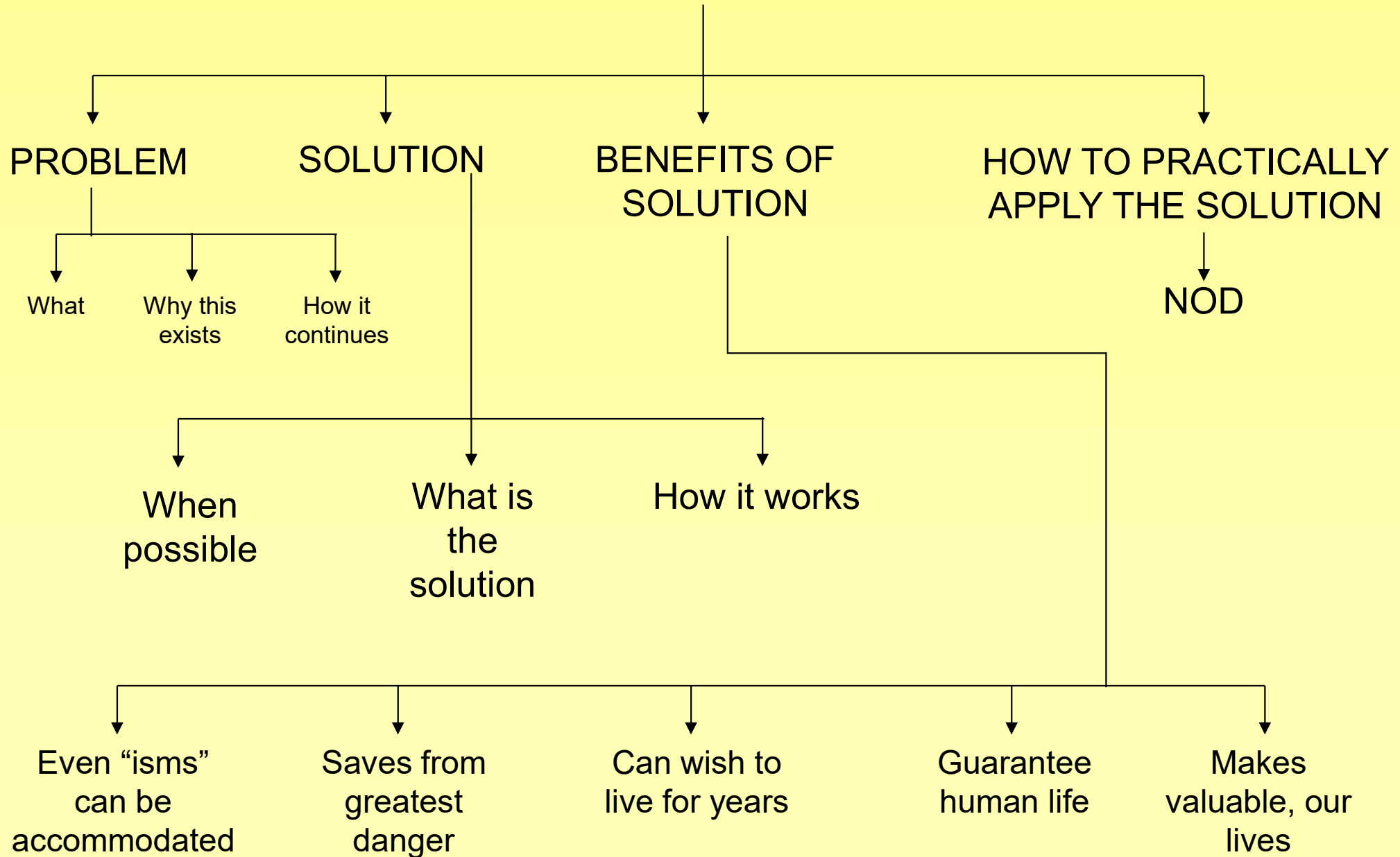
Mantra - 2

Connection:

Describes the necessity & results of
acting in God-centered
consciousness , as described in
Mantra - 1

Acting in God consciences

(Niśkāma Karma Yoga)



PROBLEM

What

“ Karma bandhana”
(Bondage of material
existence) Birth &
Death.

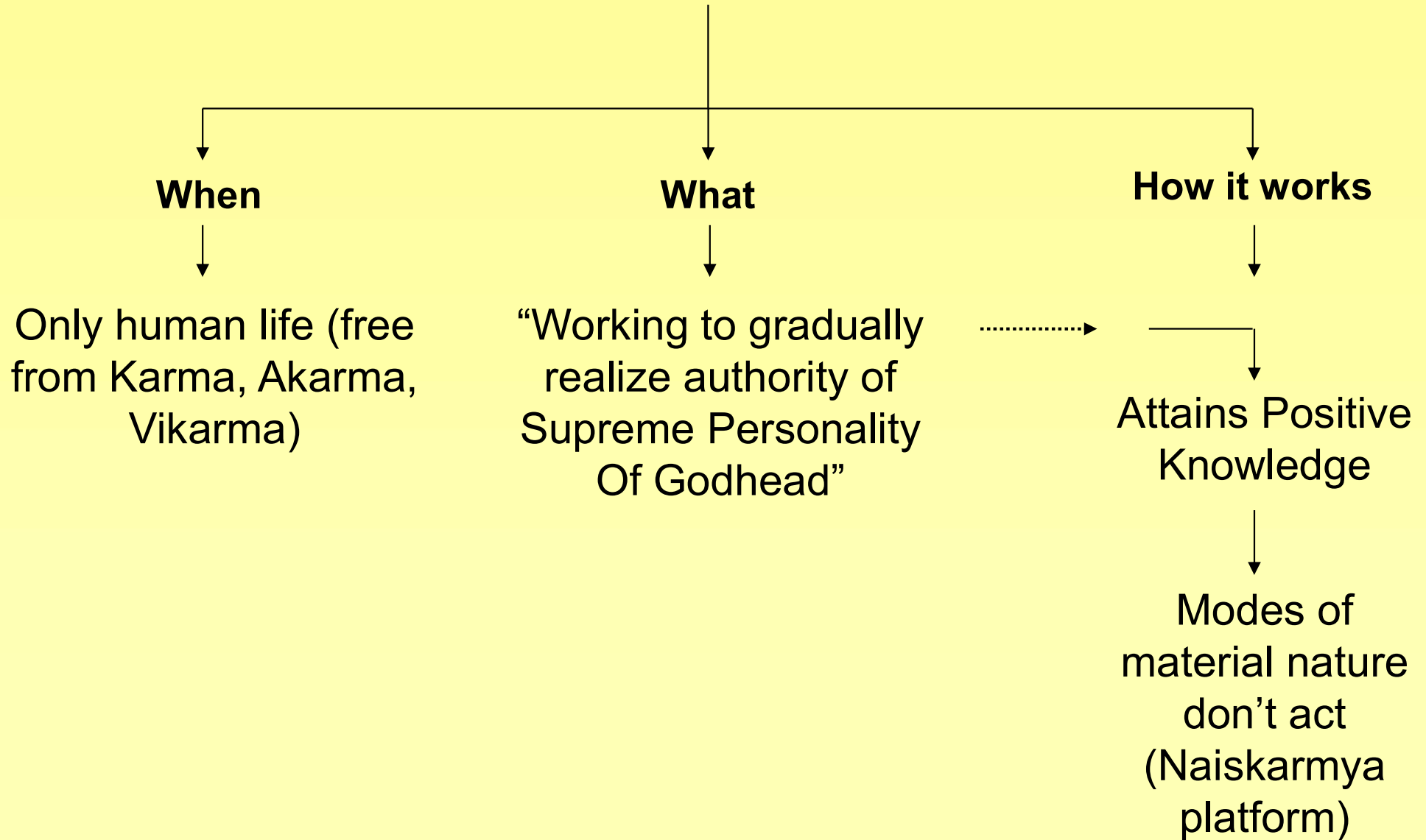
Why

- a) Not Acting according
to prescribed duties
- b) Transgressing Law
Of Material Nature.

How

Sense gratification
& “isms”

SOLUTION



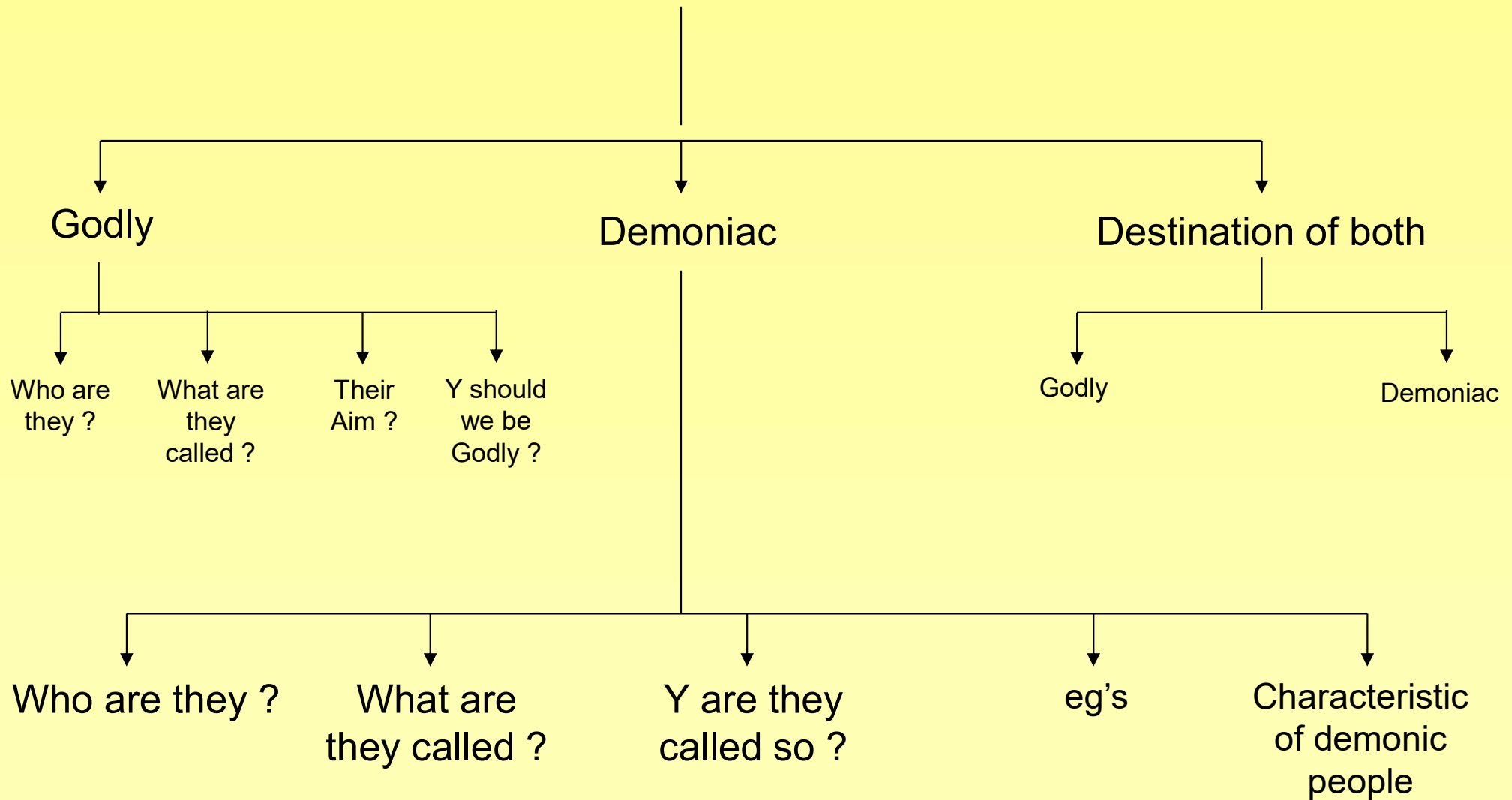


Mantra - 3

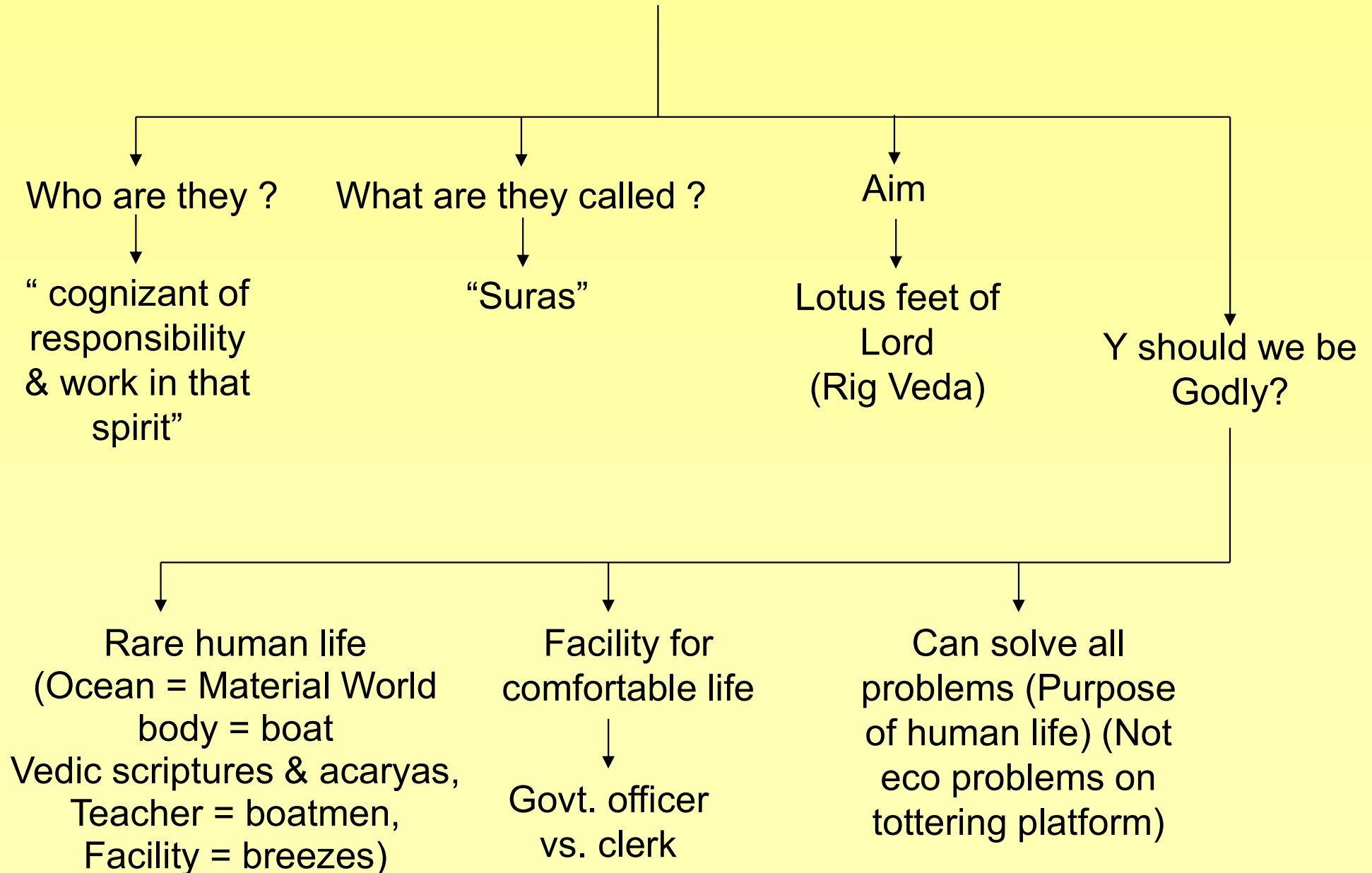
Connection:

Consequences of not acting in the
isavasya concept as described in
Mantra - 2

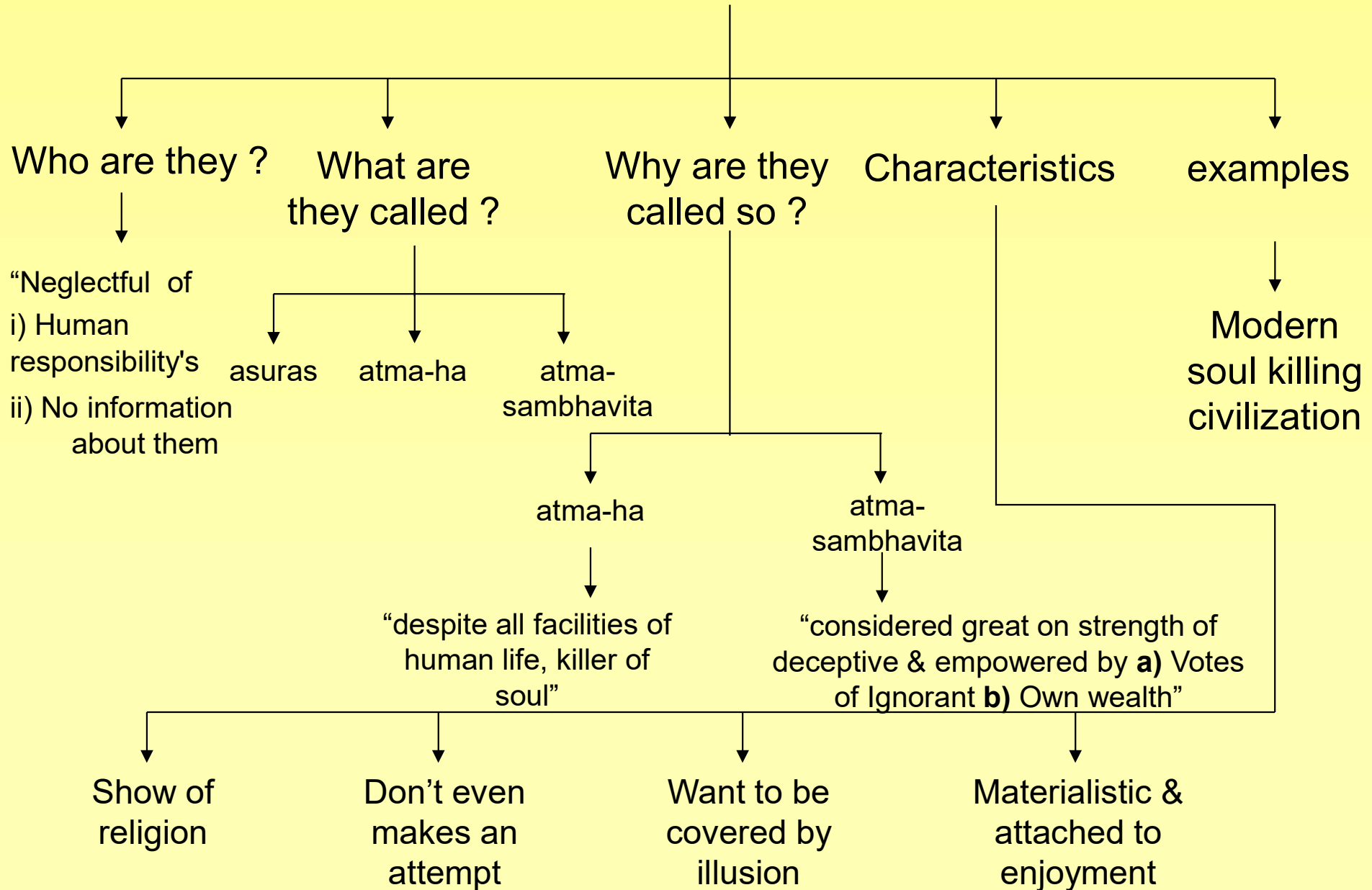
GODLY & DEMONIAK PEOPLE



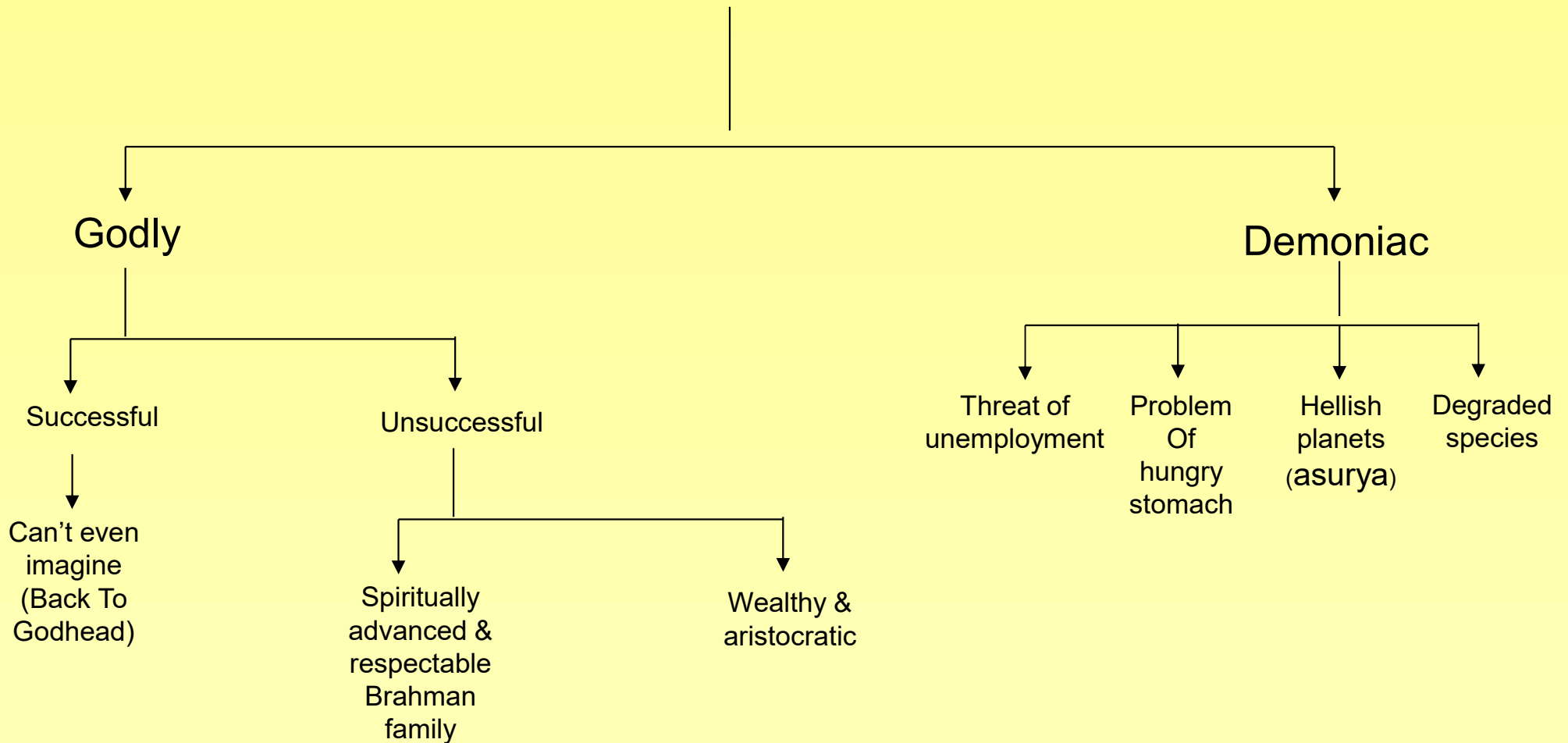
GODLY



DEMONIAC



Destinations / Results of being



Mantra 4, Day 6

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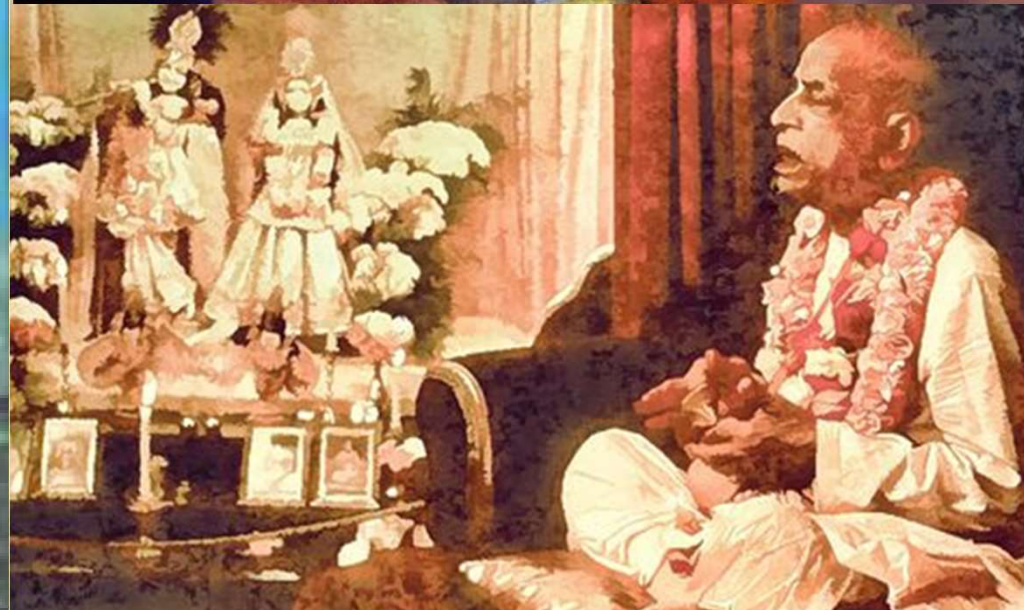
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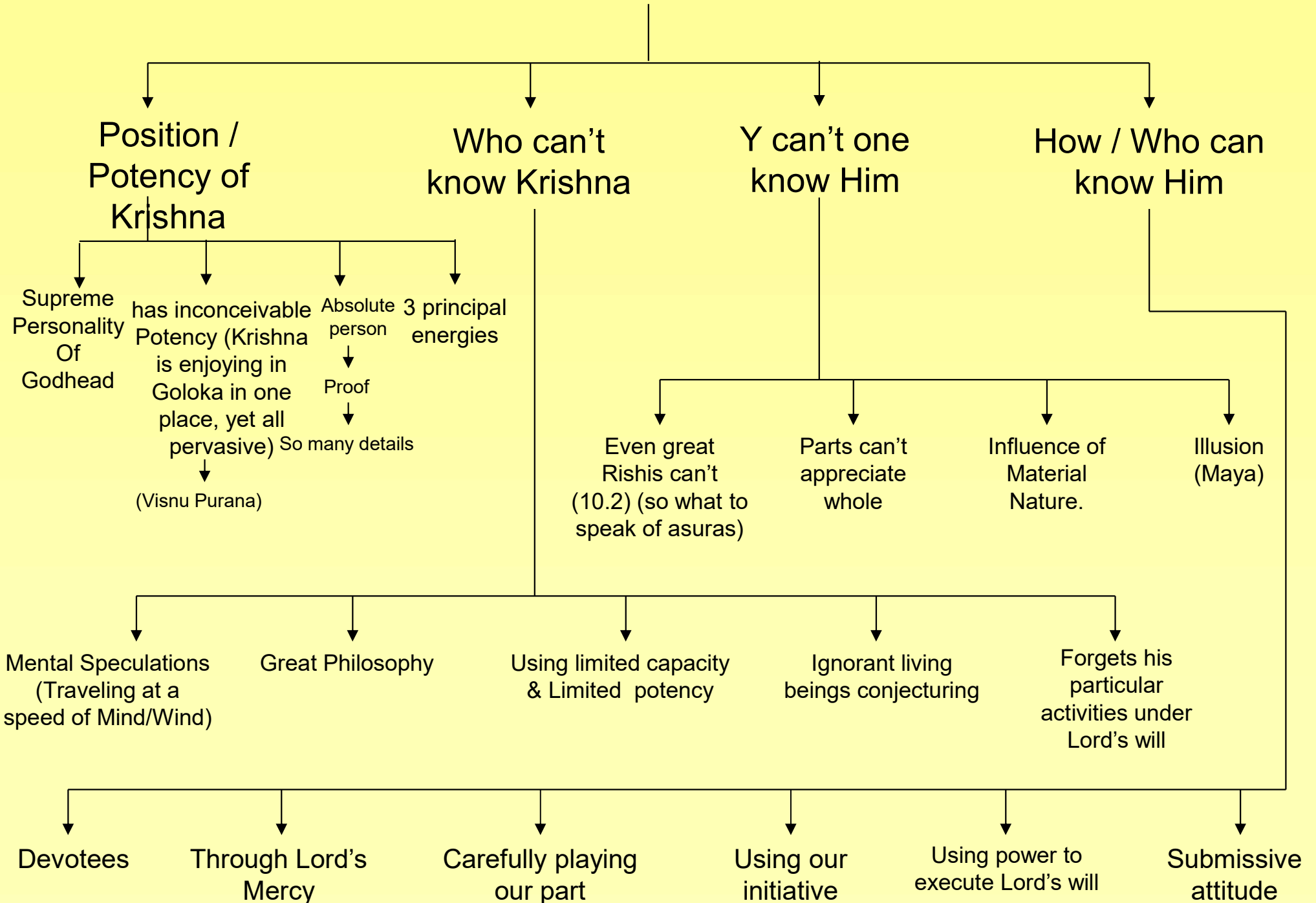
Mantra - 4

Connection: Explains why the 'atma-ha' cannot act in knowledge of the Lord. Thus therefore the Lord is inconceivable to mundane minds & is known only when He reveals Himself.

Connection between mantra 4-5: Conception of Supreme Lord, His inconceivable potencies & His transcendental reflection to creation.

Main Theme of Mantra 4 : "Krishna is in His abode yet simultaneously everywhere. This is not realized by speculation but His mercy"

KNOWING THE LORD



Mantra - 5

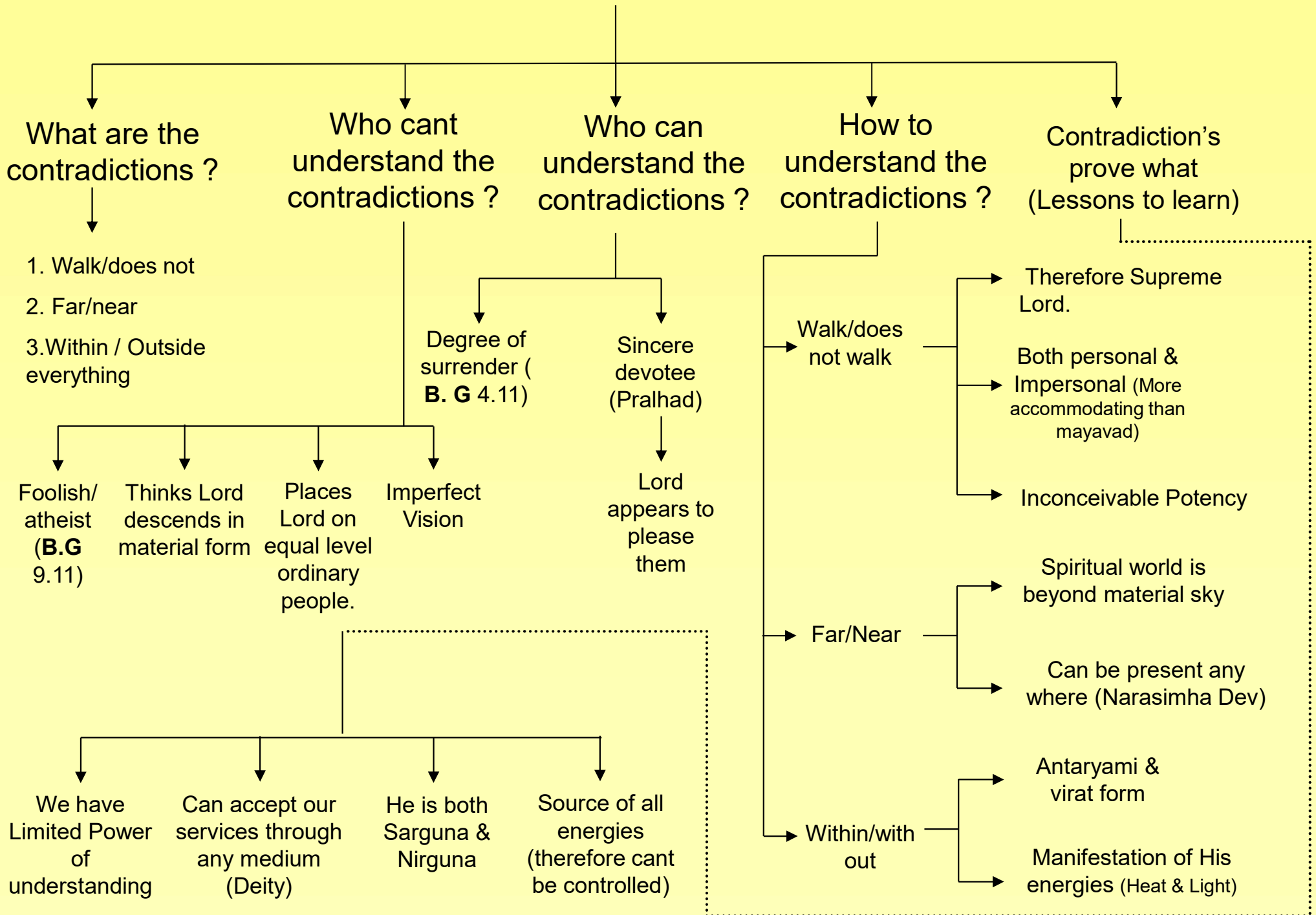
Connection:

Mantra – 4 explains that Lord cannot be understand by Mental speculation. Mantra – 5 shows why His potencies are inconceivable for conditioned soul.

Main theme:

The Lord has contradictory potencies thus proving He has inconceivable power.

LORD'S CONTRADICTIONARY QUALITIES



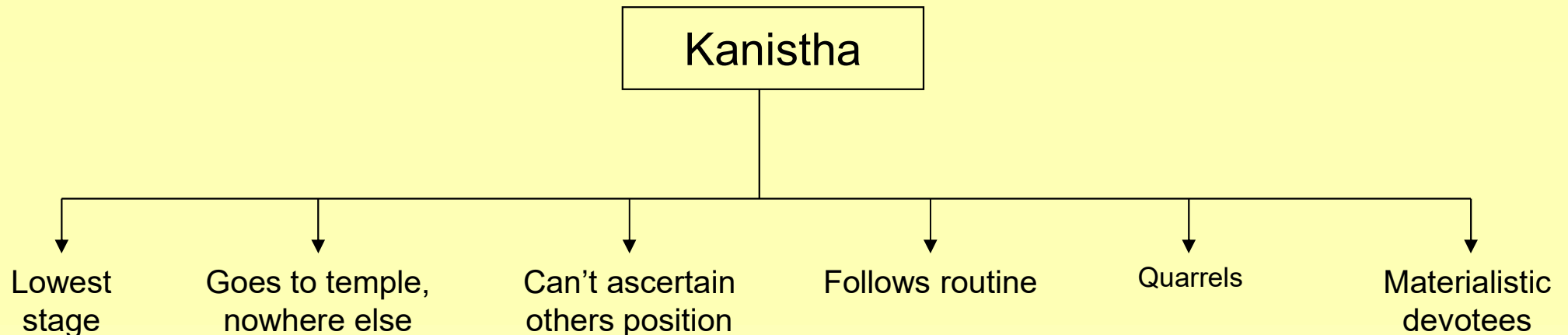
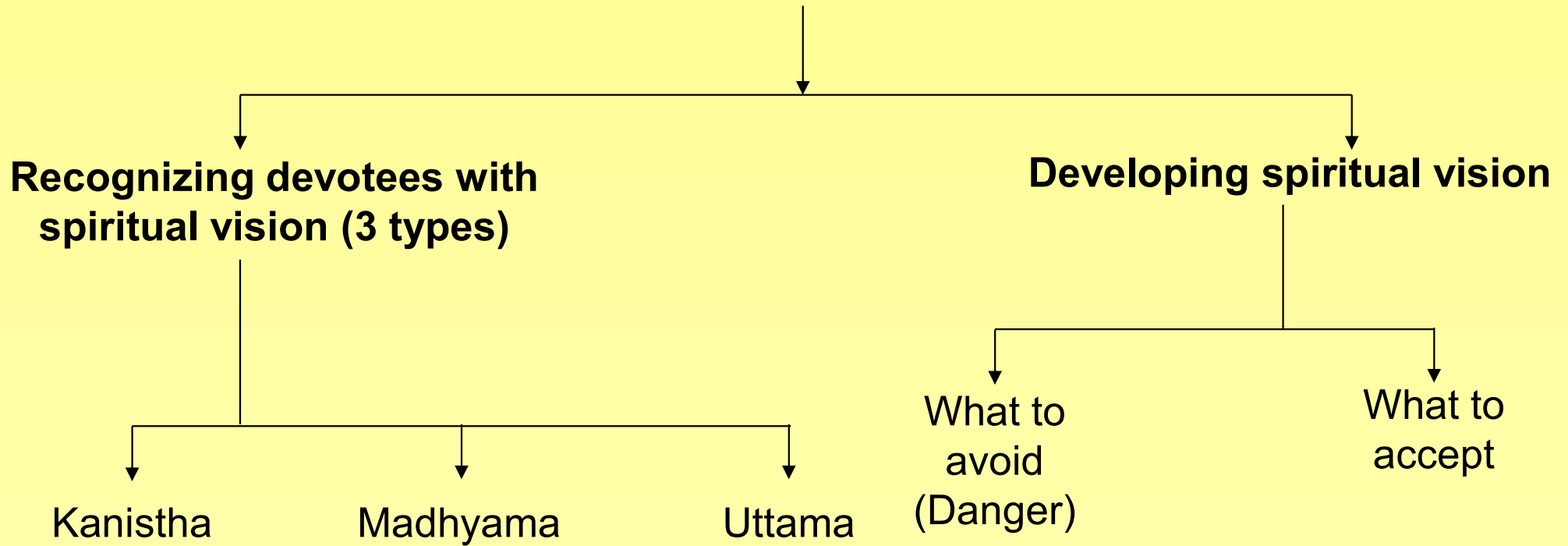
Mantra - 6

Mantra 6 – 8 : Vision of a Mahabhagavat.

Connection: Mantra – 5 describes some qualities of Lord, including His presence in all things. Mantra – 6 describes the person who has the capacity to factually appreciate the Lord, seeing Him in all things.

Main Theme: A spiritually advanced devotee everything in relation to Supreme Lord & to develop this vision one should follow footsteps of such great souls.

VISION OF SPIRITUALLY ADVANCED DEVOTEES



Madhyama

Second stage

Distinguishes 4 categories

Sees whom ?

1. Supreme Lord► Loves / adores
2. Devotees► Makes friends
3. Innocent► Tries to awaken dormant love
4. Atheists► Avoid

Behaves how ?

Uttama

Sees everything
in relation to
Supreme Lord

Doesn't discriminate

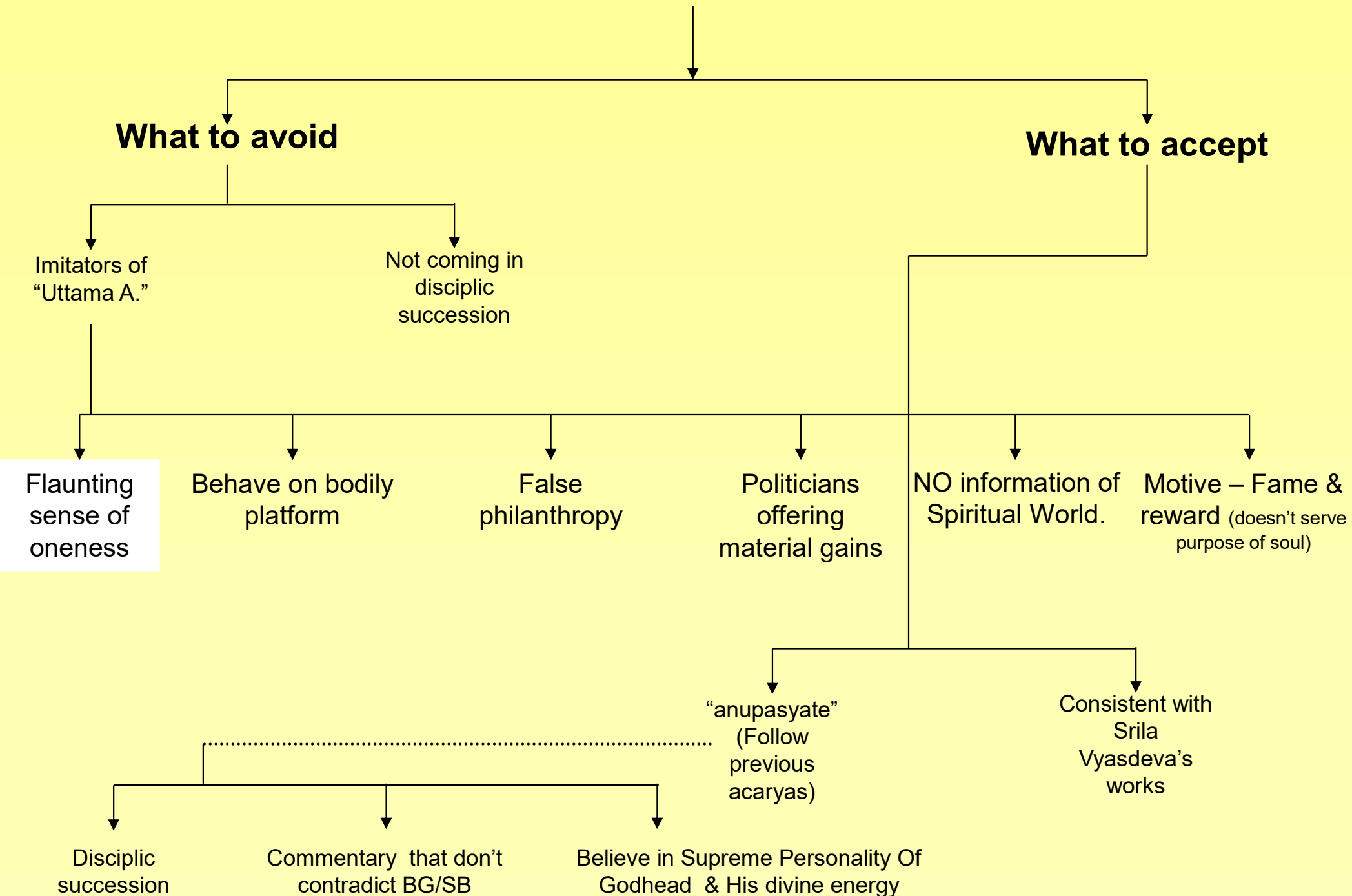
Atheist / theist Brahman / dog

Sees in terms of
using/misusing
independent

Not misled by
material bodies

Sees spiritual spark

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL VISION



Mantra - 7

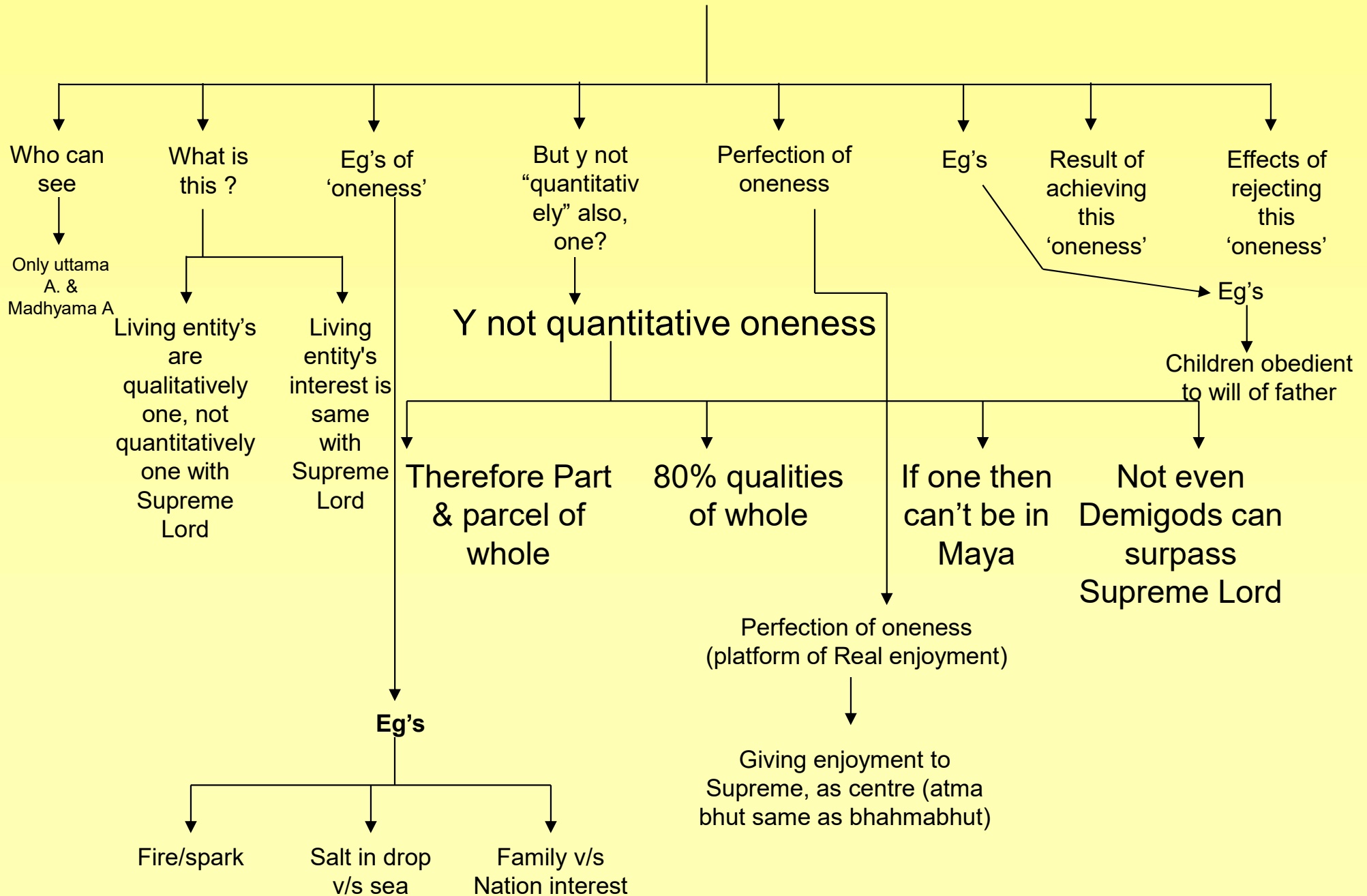
Connection:

Mantra – 7 further describes the consciousness of the Mahabhagavat introduced in Mantra – 6

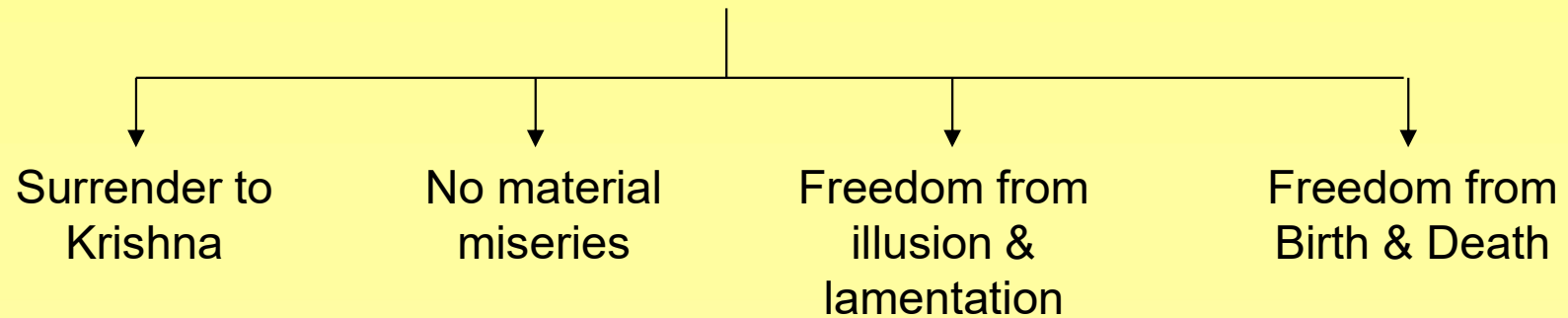
Main Theme:

Living entity's & the Lord are one in quality & interest & not in quantity.

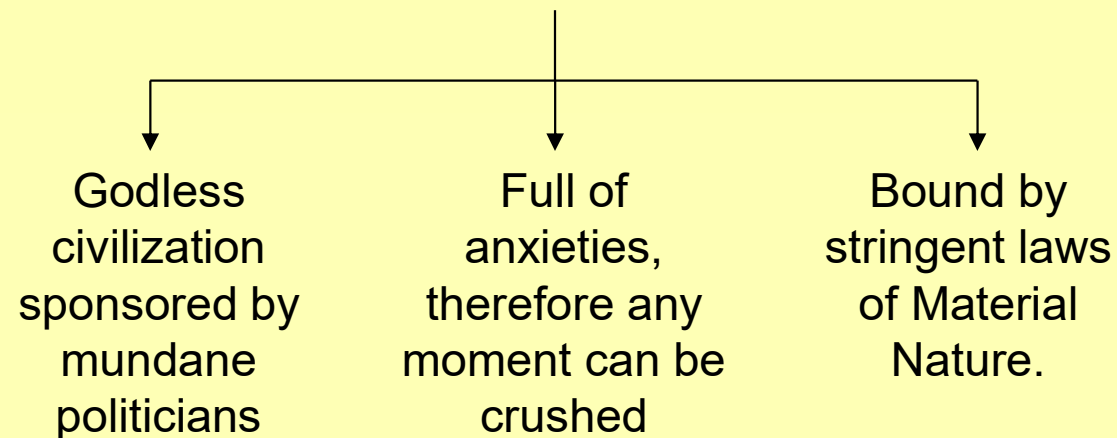
SPIRITUAL ONENESS



Result of achieving oneness



Effect of rejecting 'oneness'



Mantra - 8

Connection:

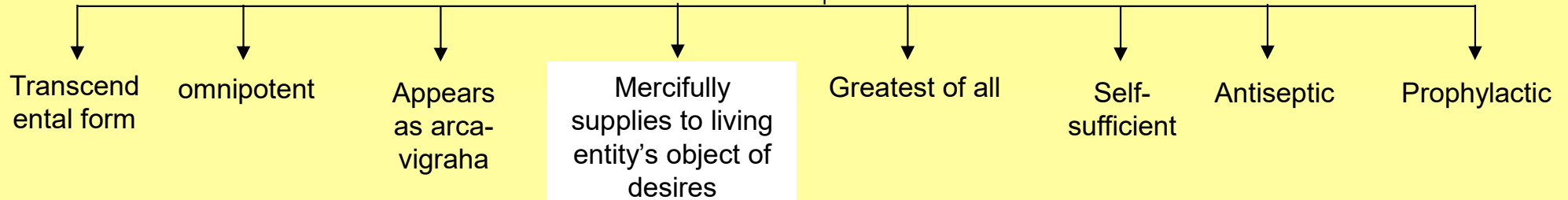
Mantra – 8 mentions some of the qualities of the Lord as he is known by the Uttama-adhikari mentioned in Mantra – 7

Main Theme:

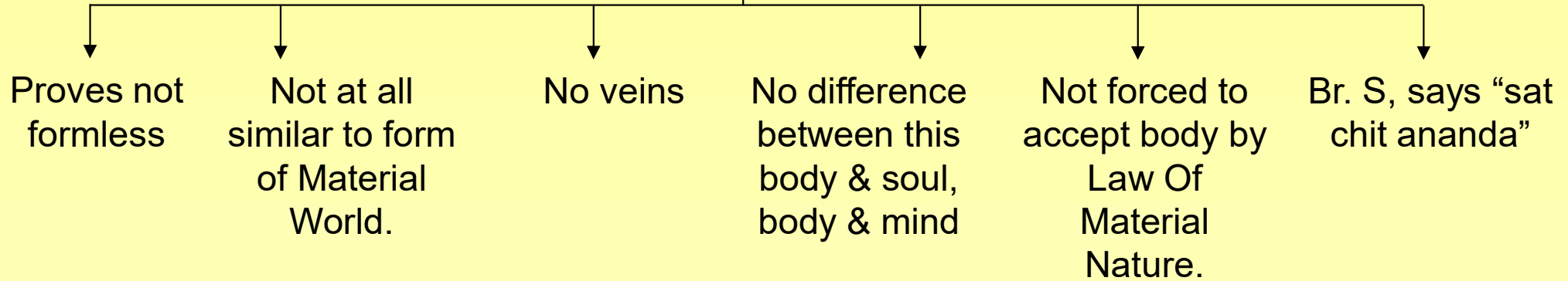
Lord has a transcendental form and attributes that are unlike that of any materially embodied entity.

Lord's Transcendental qualities

Who can't appreciate them? ←



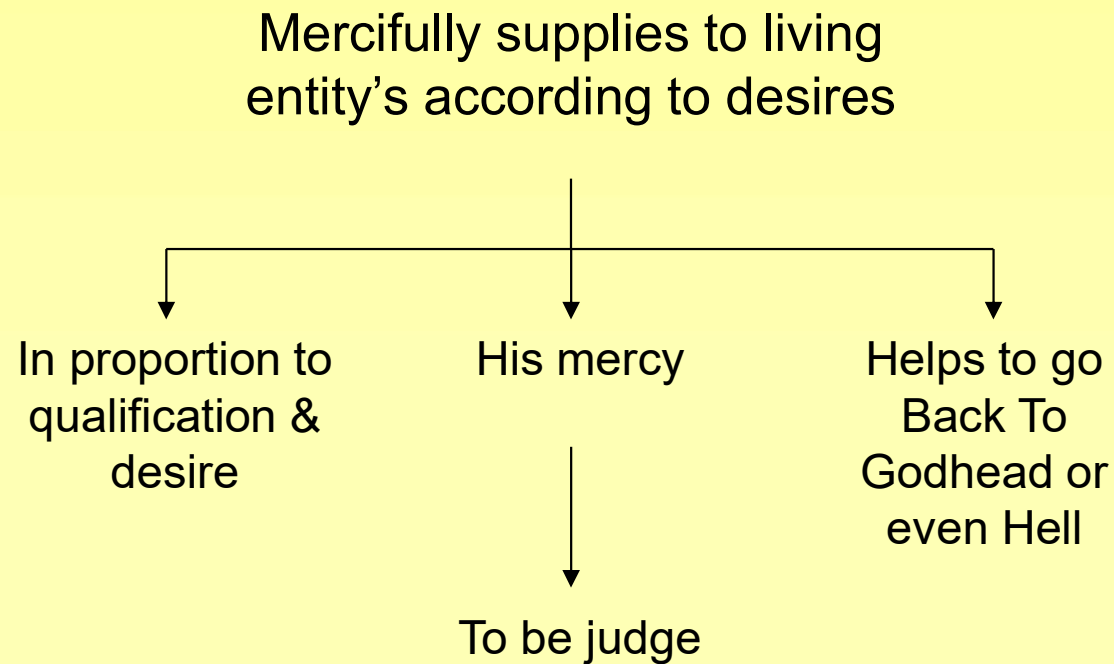
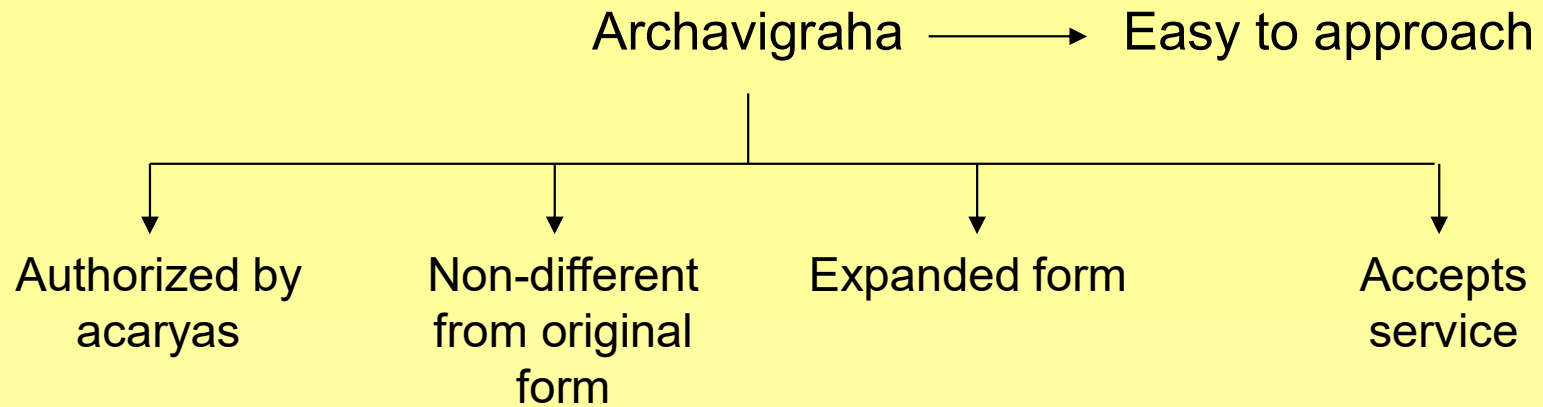
Transcendental form



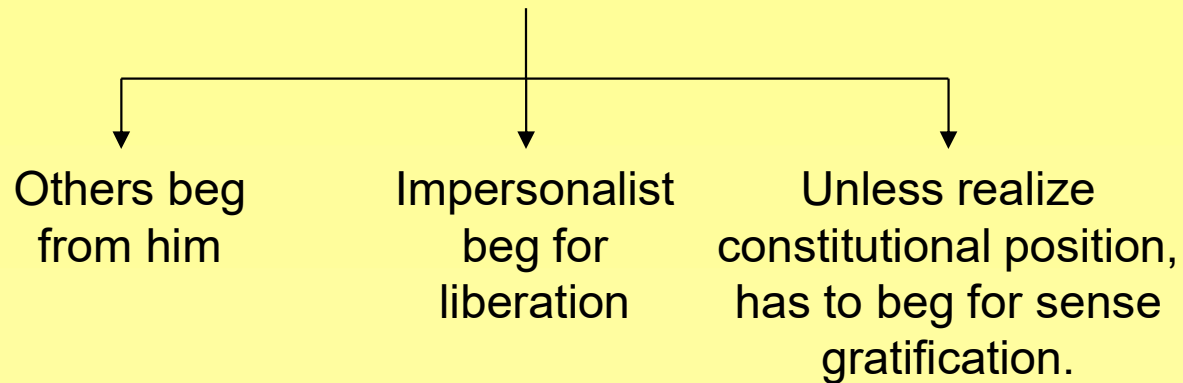
omnipotent

Sruti means
"No hands & legs but
accepts & run
faster"

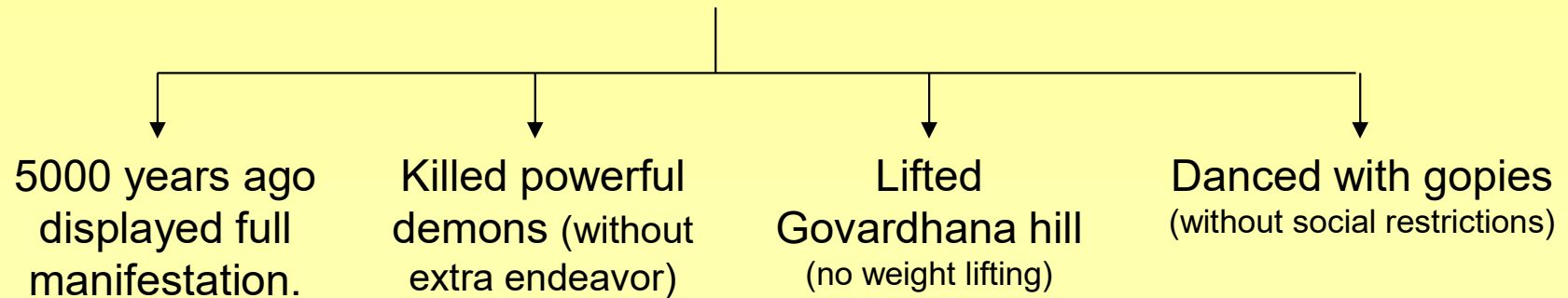
Angani asya



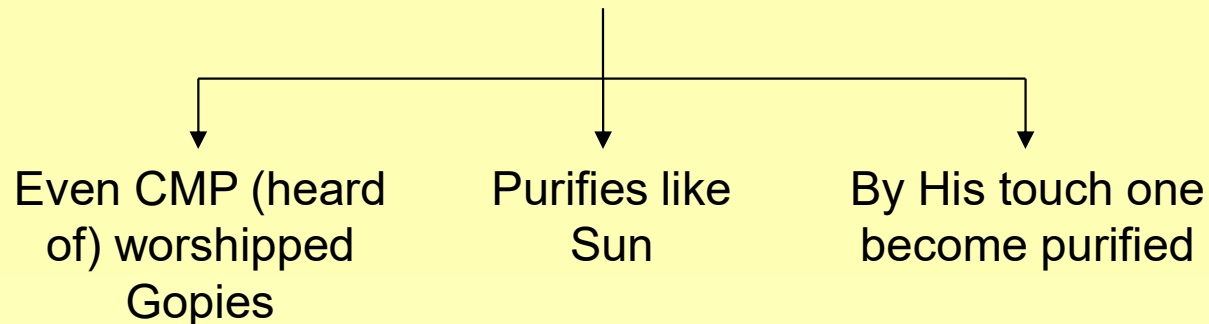
Greatest of all



Self-sufficient



Antiseptic



Prophylactic

Power of association
(even su-duracara)

Sin can't touch Him

Who can't appreciate them?

Fallen, forgetful
living entity's

Poorly
informed, less
intelligent

Influenced by
material nature

Mantra - 9

Connection:

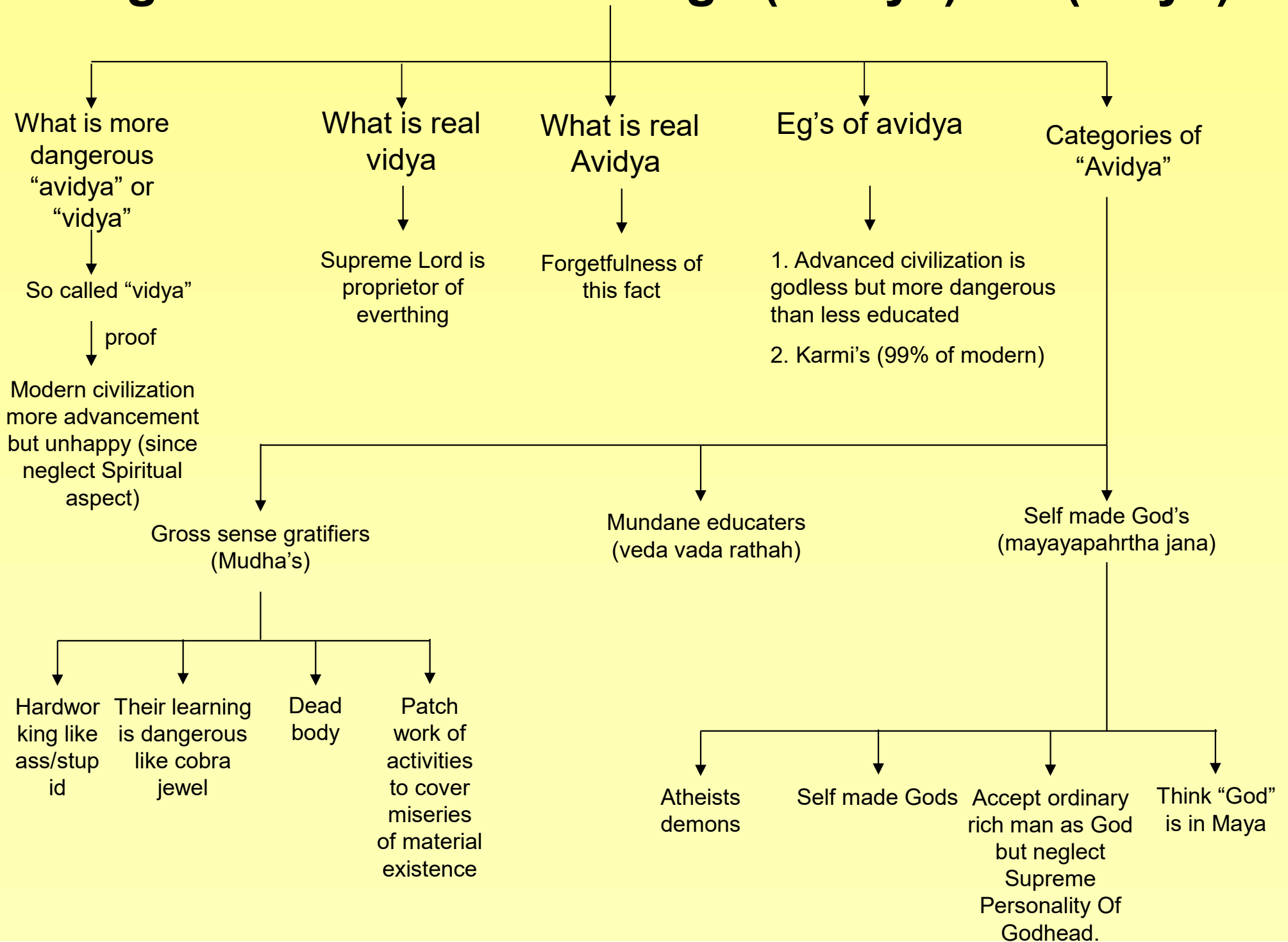
Describes the fate of those who do not know or falsely claim to possess the knowledge of Lord presented in Mantra – 8

Verses 9 -11: The culture of knowledge & nescience.

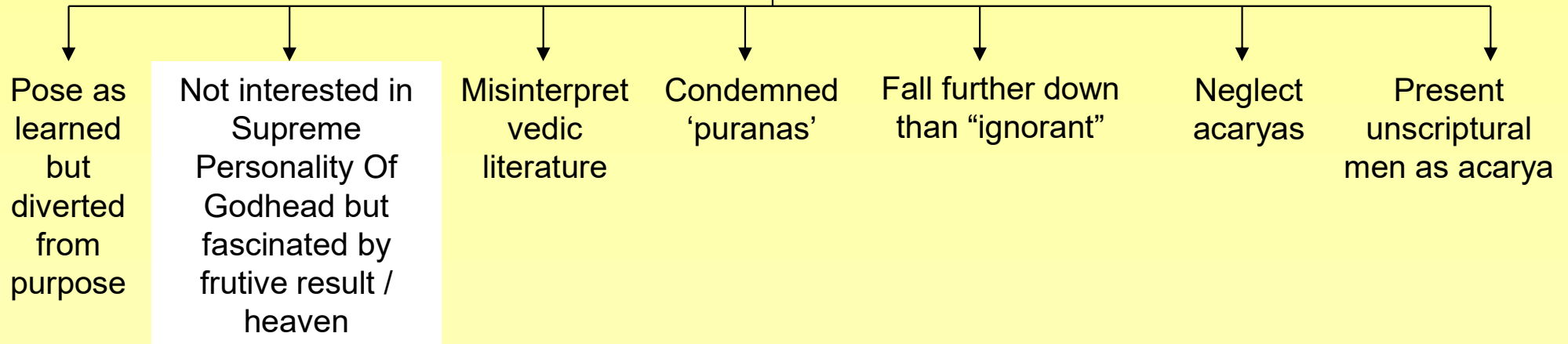
Main Theme:

Worse than ignorance & materialist's is the pseudo spiritualists who misled others with misguided knowledge.

Ignorance v/s Knowledge (avidya) v/s (vidya)



Mundane educators (veda vada rathah)



Mantra - 10

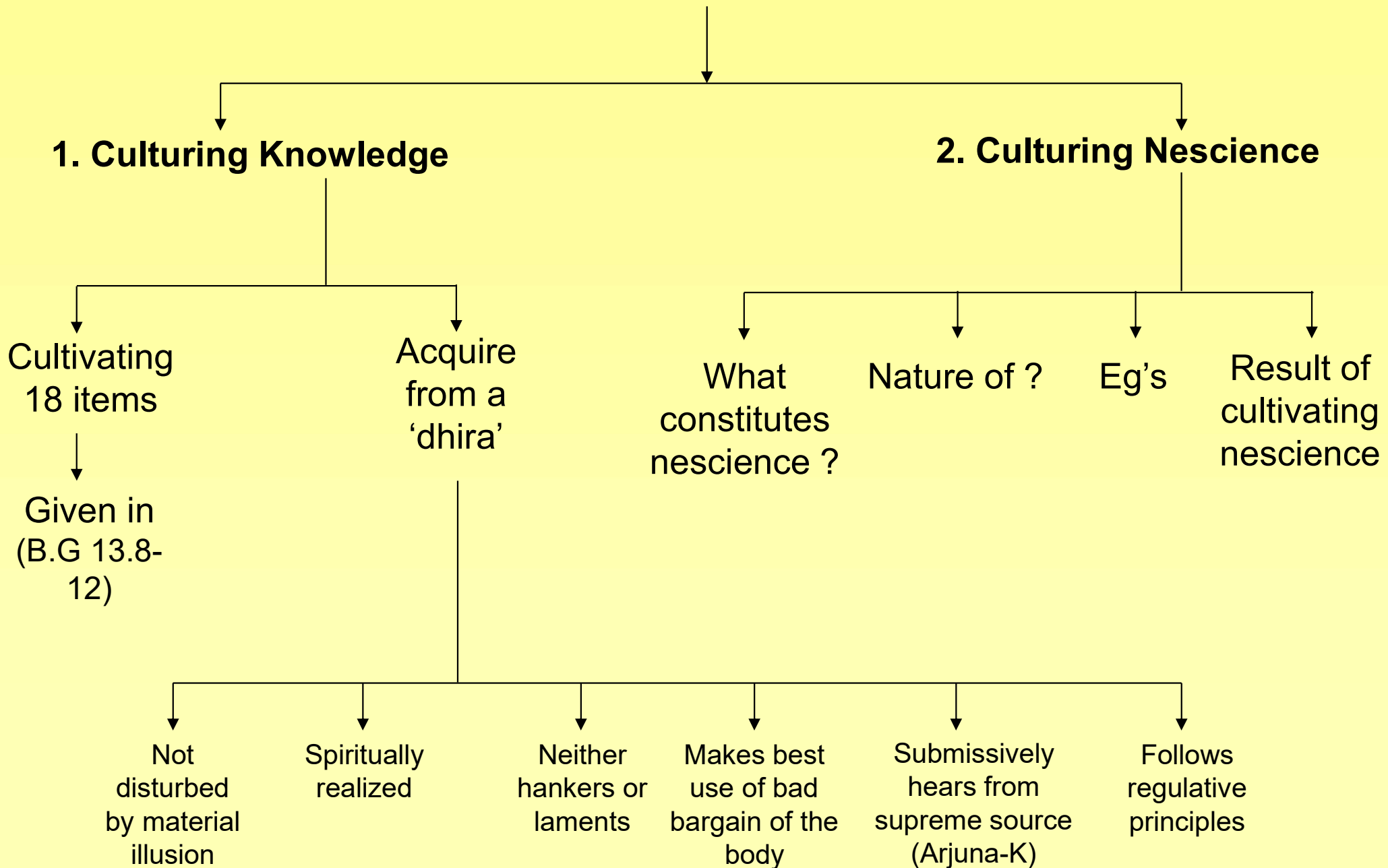
Connection:

Mantra – 9 describes the result of cultivating ignorance & false knowledge. Mantra – 10 explains that cultivating true knowledge brings a different result.

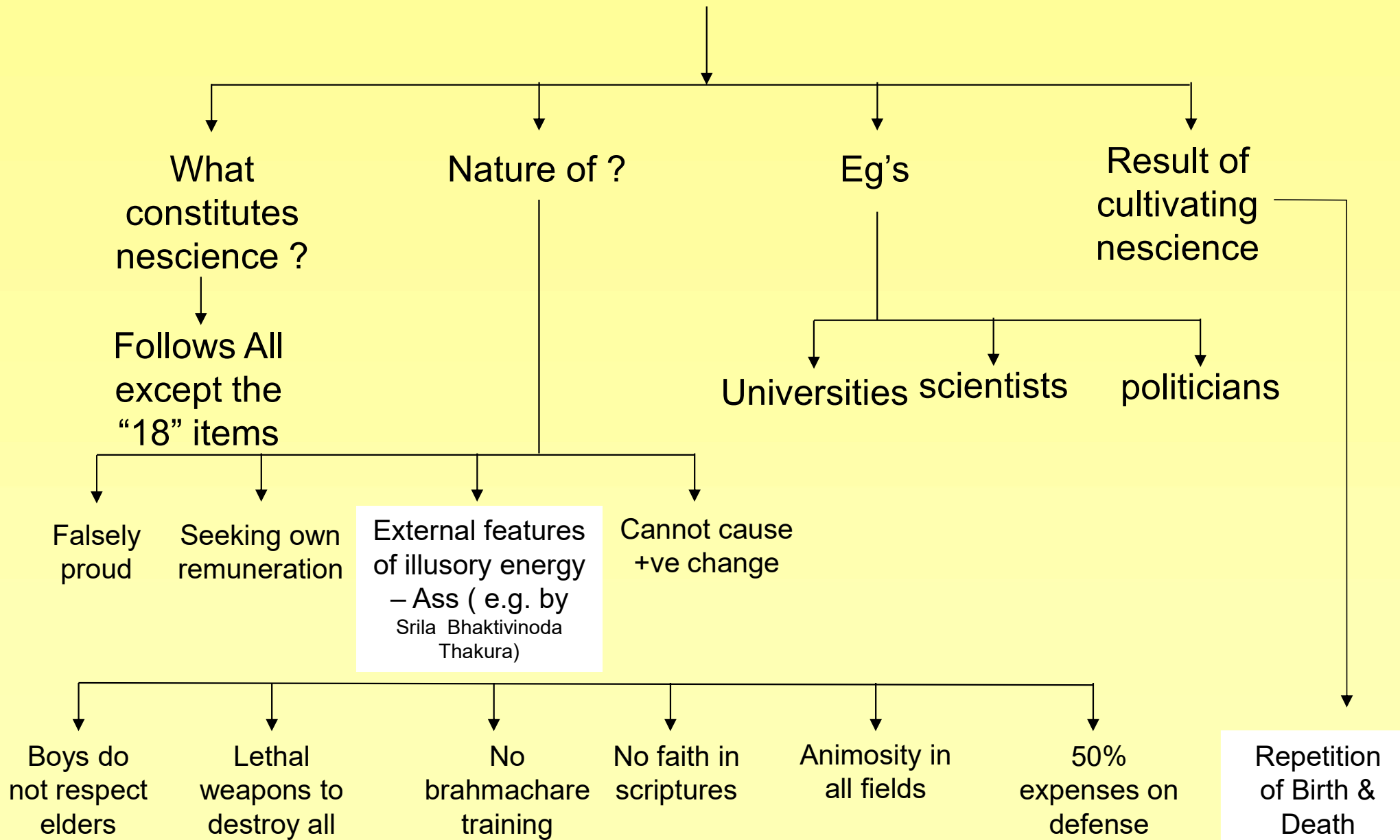
Main Theme:

Real knowledge means following of a process to realize one's true spiritual nature & this must be obtained from perfectly realized dhira. Anything which inhibits such realization is nescience.

CULTURING KNOWLEDGE & NESCIENCE



CULTURING NESCIENCE



Mantra - 11

Connection:

Mantra – 10 explains that the culture of knowledge has a different result than the culture of ignorance. Mantra – 11 declares what that result is – full blessings of immortality.

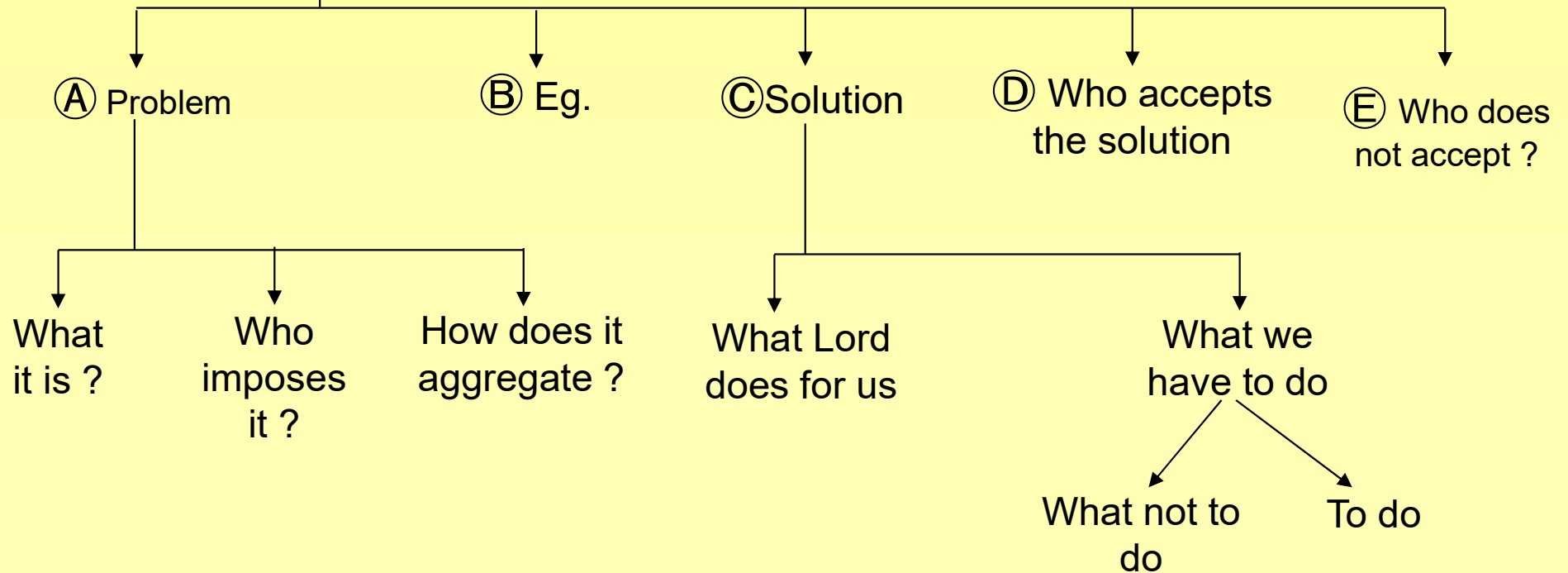
Main Theme:

The problem of repeated birth & death can't be solved by advanced of material knowledge (avidya) but only by the culture of transcendental knowledge (vidya).

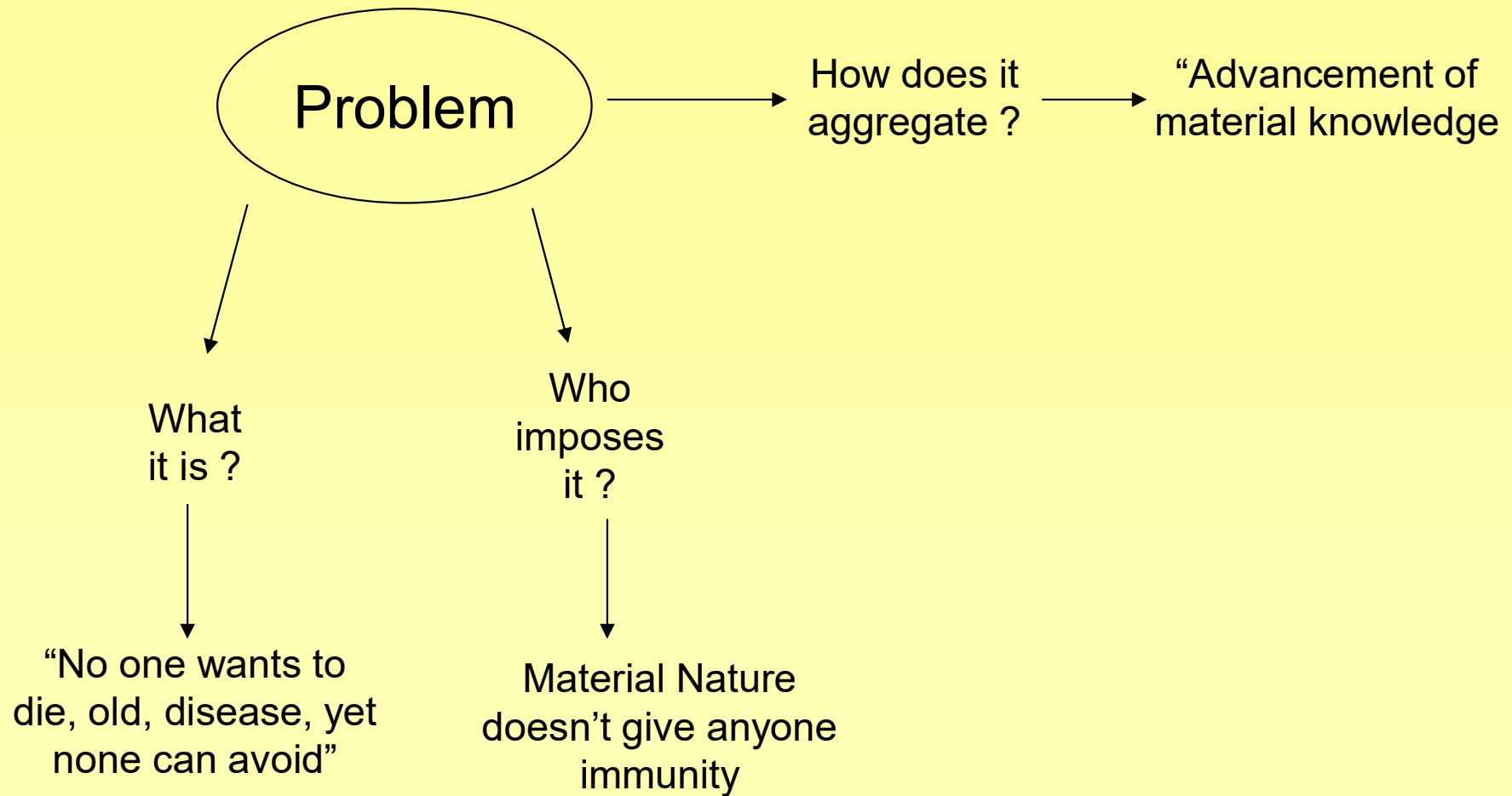
Transcending Birth & Death (Attaining permanent life)

I. Problem / Solution

II. Role of Vidya/ Avidya in this problem



A



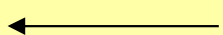
B

Eg.

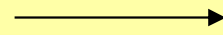


Hiranyakashipu

Meaning
(gold & bed)



Killed by
Narasimha Dev



Pleased
Brahma



Cunning
gentleman



C

Solution

What Lord
does ?

Gives
scriptures to
remind the
forgetful
living entity

Sends
bonafide
servants

Himself
comes

What we have
to do ?

What not to
do ?

“one sided
attempt”

What to do ?

Prepare to go
Back To
Godhead.

Study
scriptures
(BG, SB)

D

Who accepts Solution ?



“Intelligent
being in
human life”

E

Who does not
accept the Solution?



“Naradhama
(lowest of
human being)

II.

Role of Avidya / Vidya

Avidya

Vidya

What it is

Who undertakes
it ?

Why they
pursue it ?

Result

Hope for them ?

“Advancement of
material knowledge
for sense
gratification & it is a
path of repeated
Birth & Death”

“Foolish human
beings absorb
in this cruel
process”

“Enamored by
illusory energy,
they repeatedly
refuse to learn
lessons”

Material fever
increases
(105 ° to 107 °)

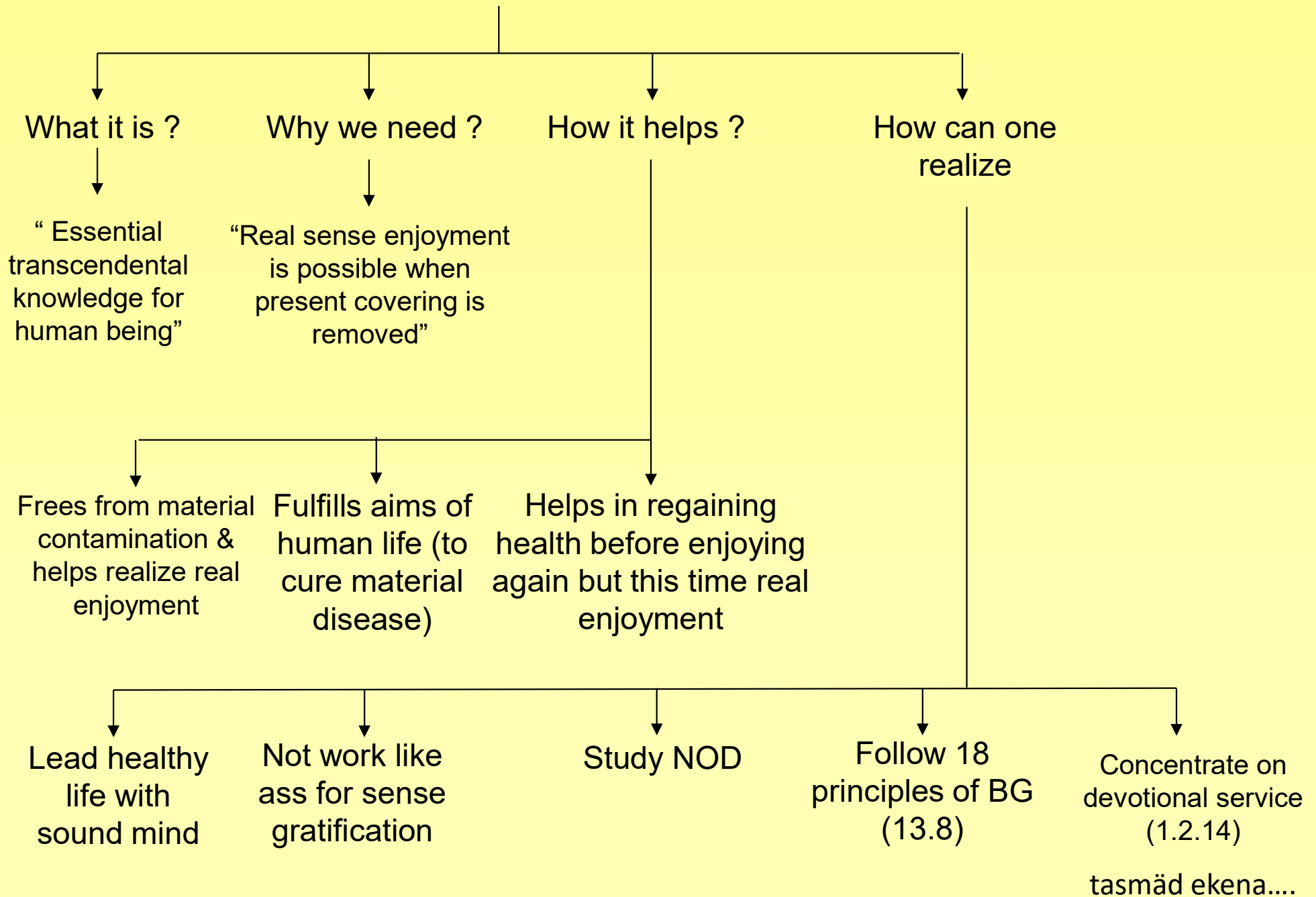
“Best use of bad
bargain how ?

From sense gratification-
salvation -Self-realization

Don't a) Practice religion for
economic development. b) Misuse
human intelligence for diseased
sense gratification.

Reduce temp to
98.6 ° C by
balanced progress
of spiritual &
material
knowledge

Vidya



Mantra - 12

Mantra 12-14: worship of demigods, the impersonal & personal supreme.

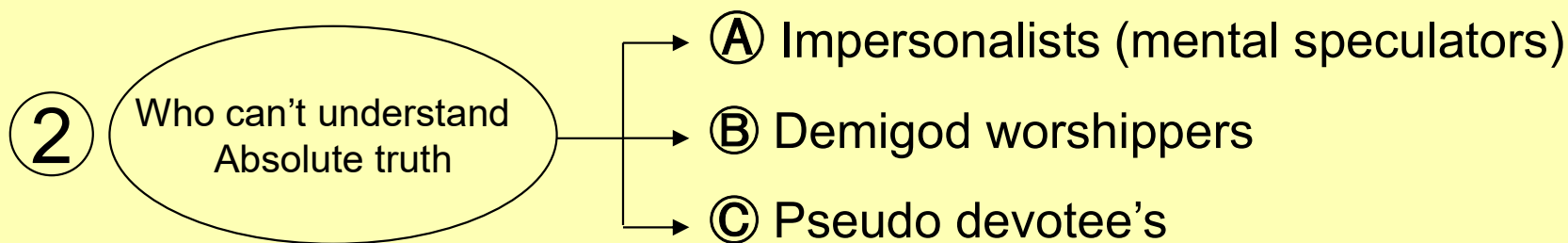
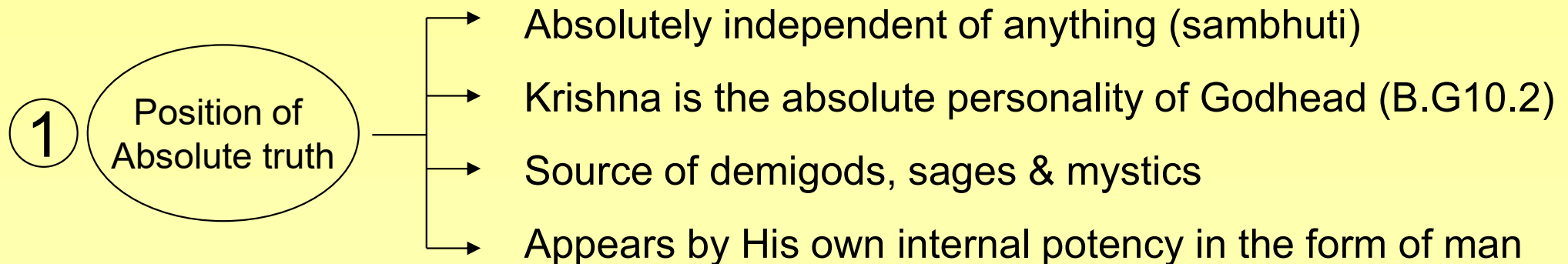
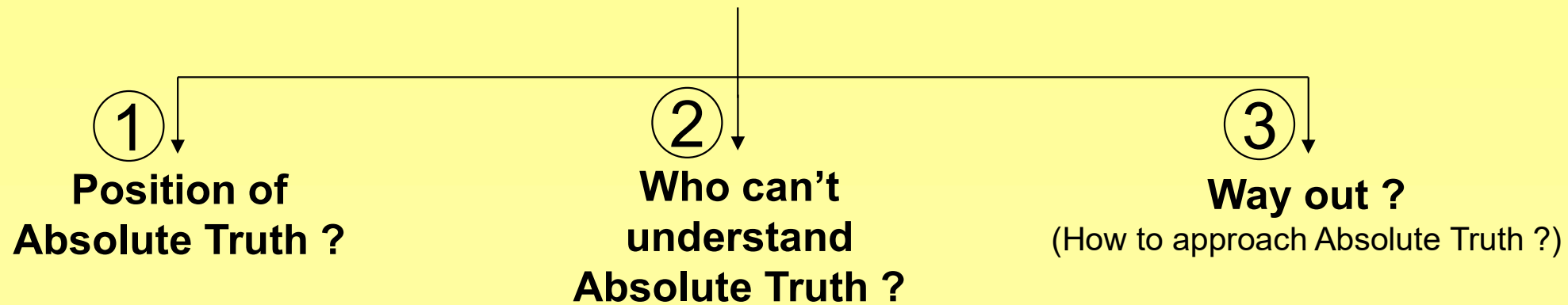
Connection:

Mantra – 11 describes that one must obtain knowledge while understanding nescience to transcend material conception. Mantra – 12 describes 2 kinds of peoples who can not do this, as well as their fate.

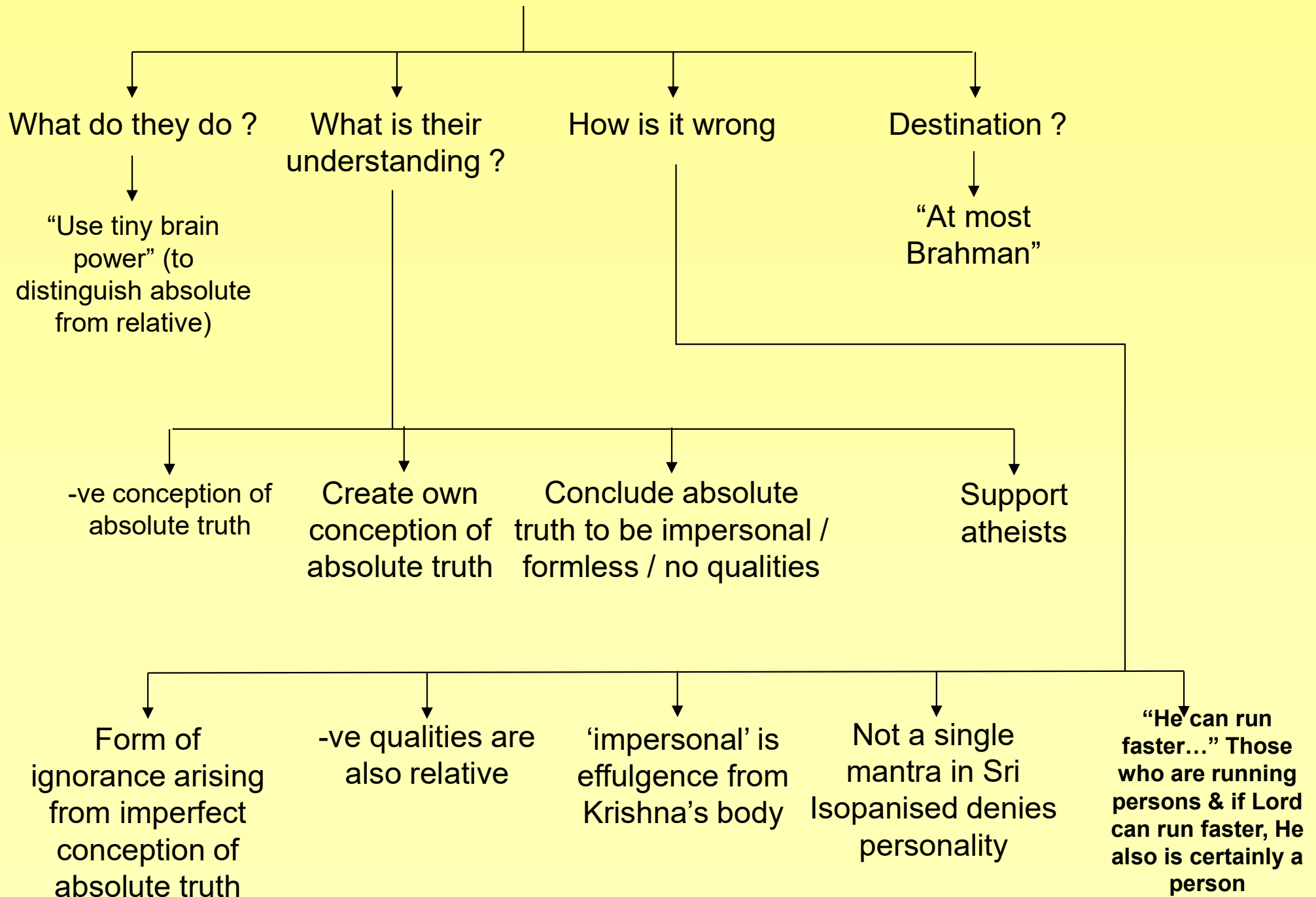
Main Theme:

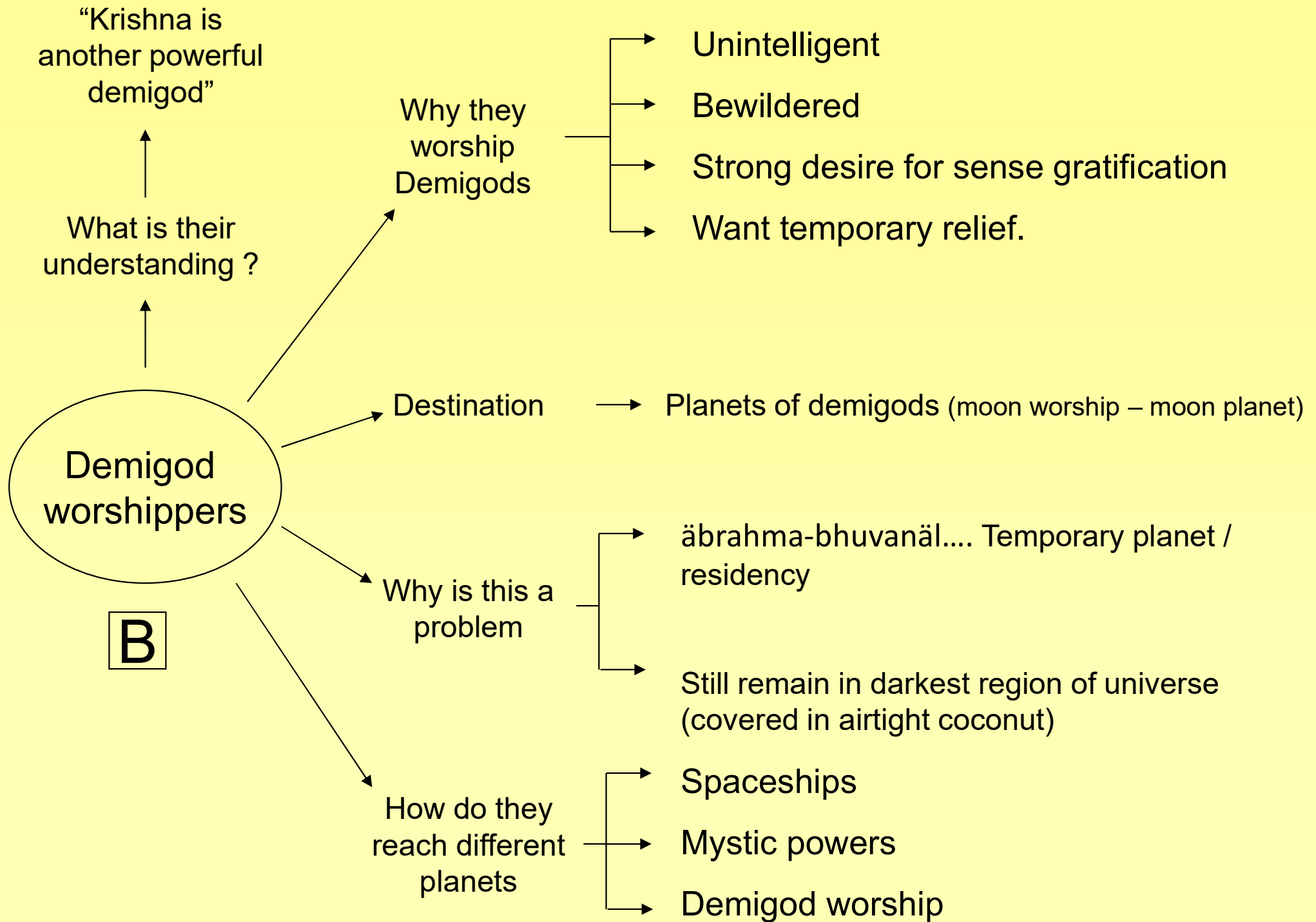
Impersonalists with their tiny brain power & the unintelligent demigod worshippers can't understand the absolute truth.

INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND ABSOLUTE TRUTH



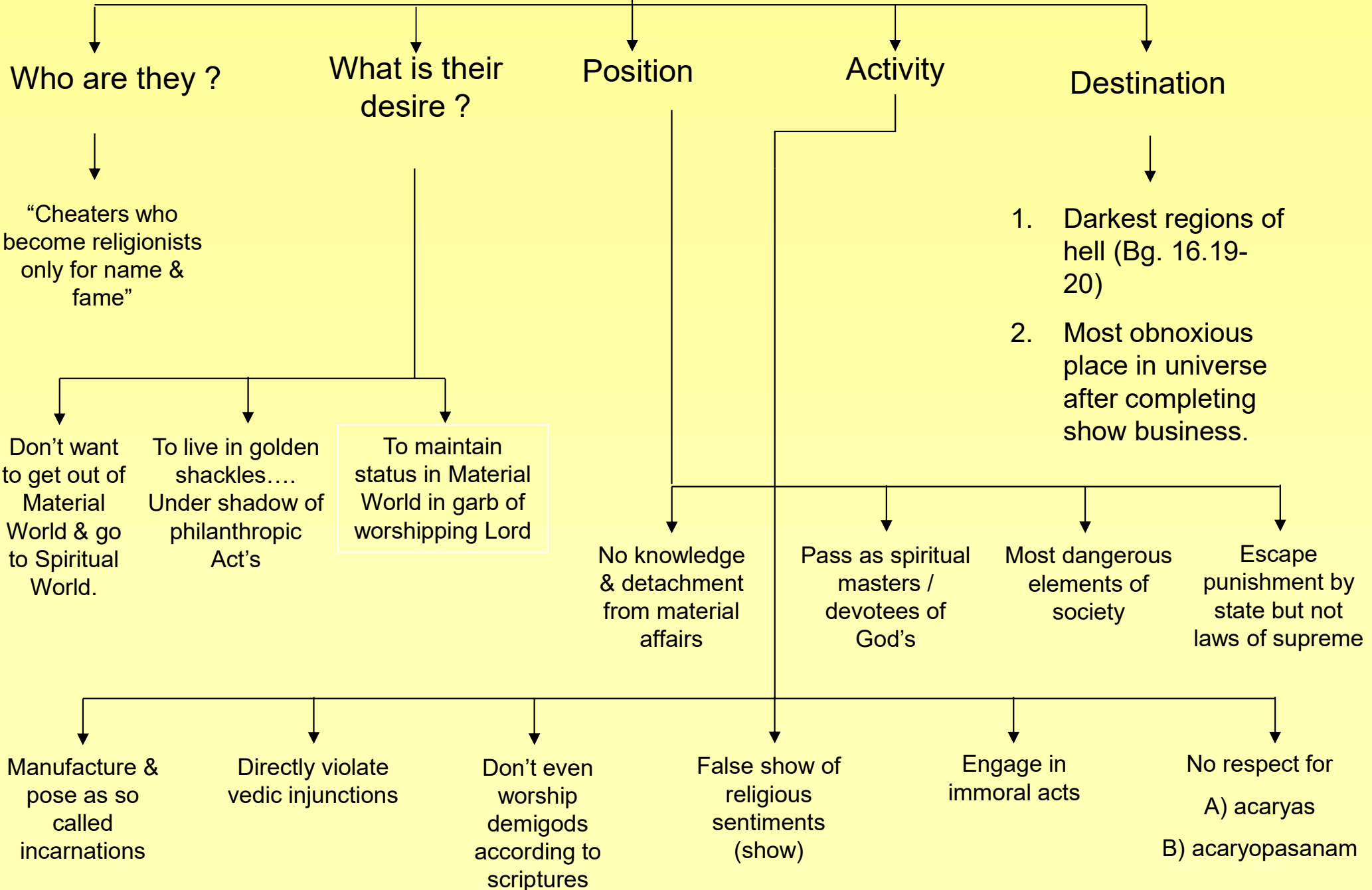
A IMPERSONALISTS (Mental Speculators)





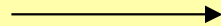
C

PSUEDO - WORSHIPPERS

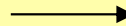


3

Way out



Only way to
approach
Supreme
Personality
Of Godhead.



Devotees shelter

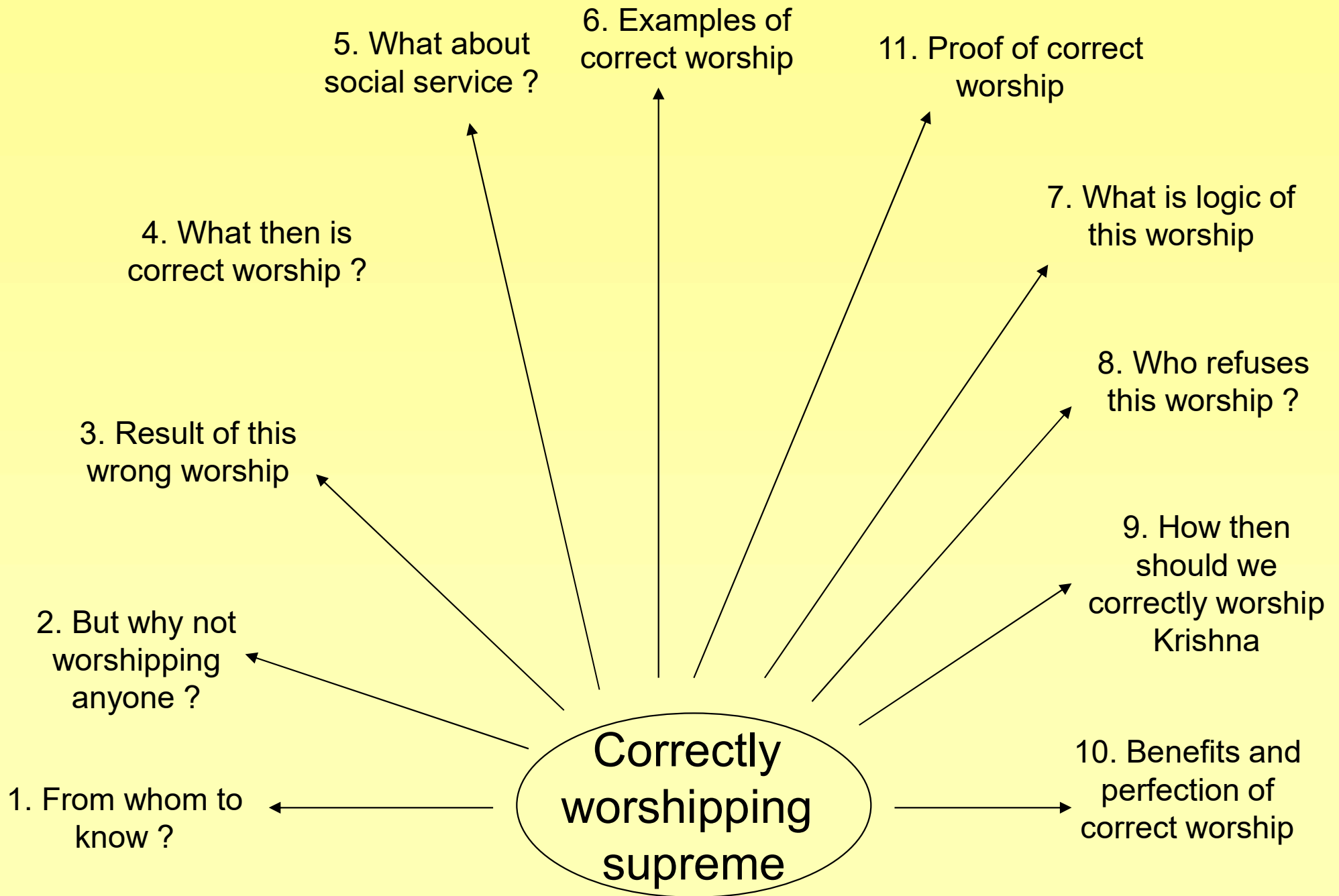
Mantra - 13

Connection:

Mantra – 12 describes the fare of those who do not correctly worship the supreme cause of all. Mantra – 13 explains another fate awaits those who do worship correctly & are guided by a dhira.

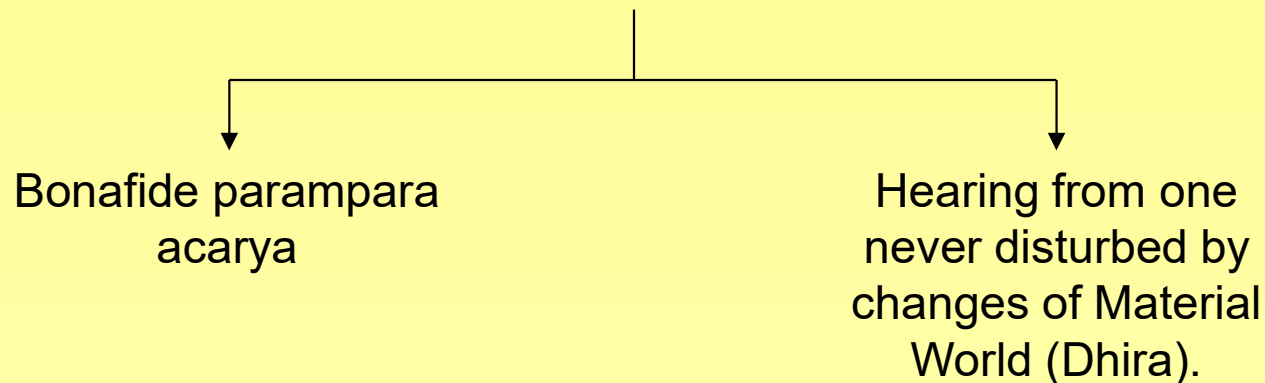
Main Theme:

Sri Krishna, the supreme cause of all causes (sambhavat) can be known & worshipped only by approaching a true spiritual master, a dhira and not by any other path.

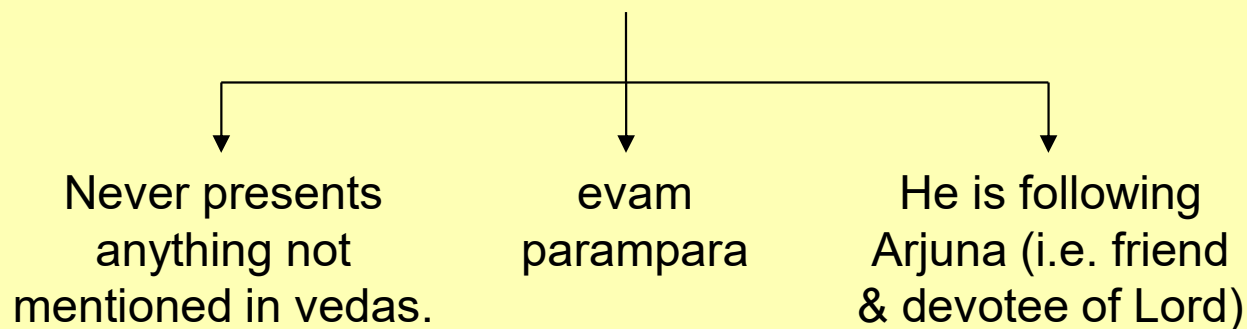


1

a) From whom to know

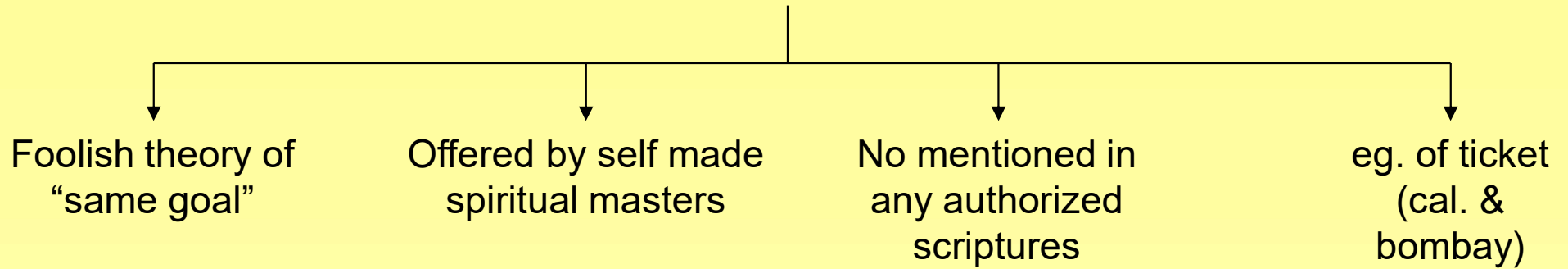


b) Why only from him



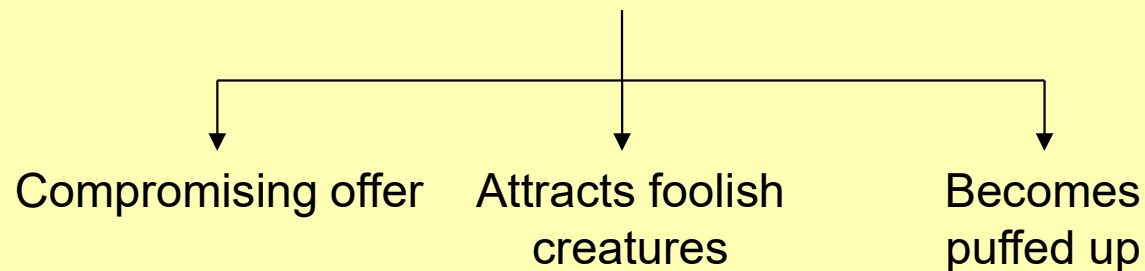
2

Why not worship anyone ?



3

Result of this wrong worship



4

What then
is correct
worship

→ “sambhavat” →

“Worship of
supreme cause,
Krishna”

5

What about
social service

Contradiction

(serve humans but kill animals in slaughter houses)

Krishna Himself come & taught us real
surrender is to Him (18.66)

11

Proof of
correct worship

BG (10.8) – aham sarvasya.....

Atharva veda (Gopal T. upa – 1.24)

Narayana Upa-1

Narayana Upa-4

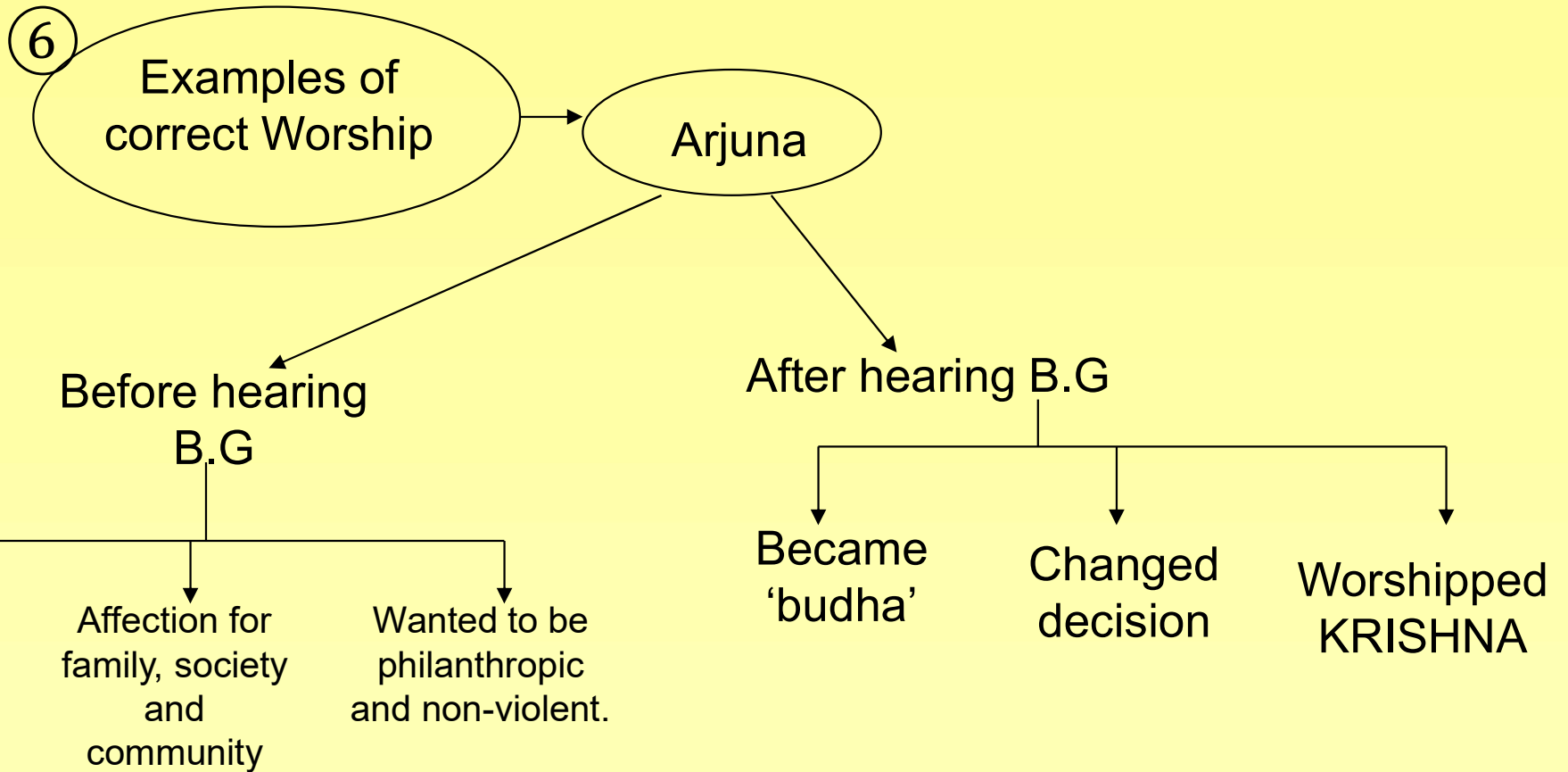
Atharva veda (Maha. Upa – 1)

Brahma
samhita

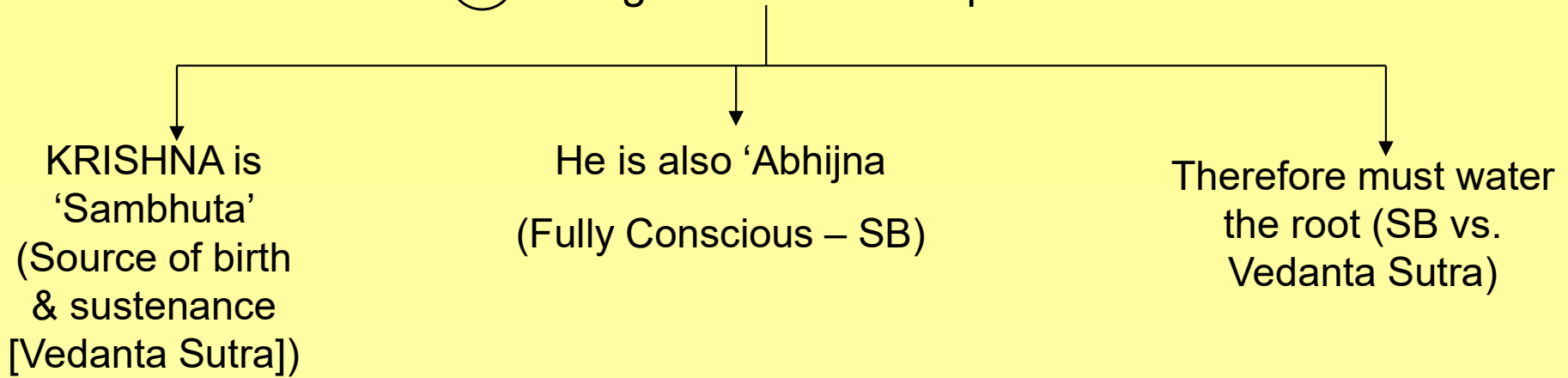
Varaha
purana

Moksa
dharma

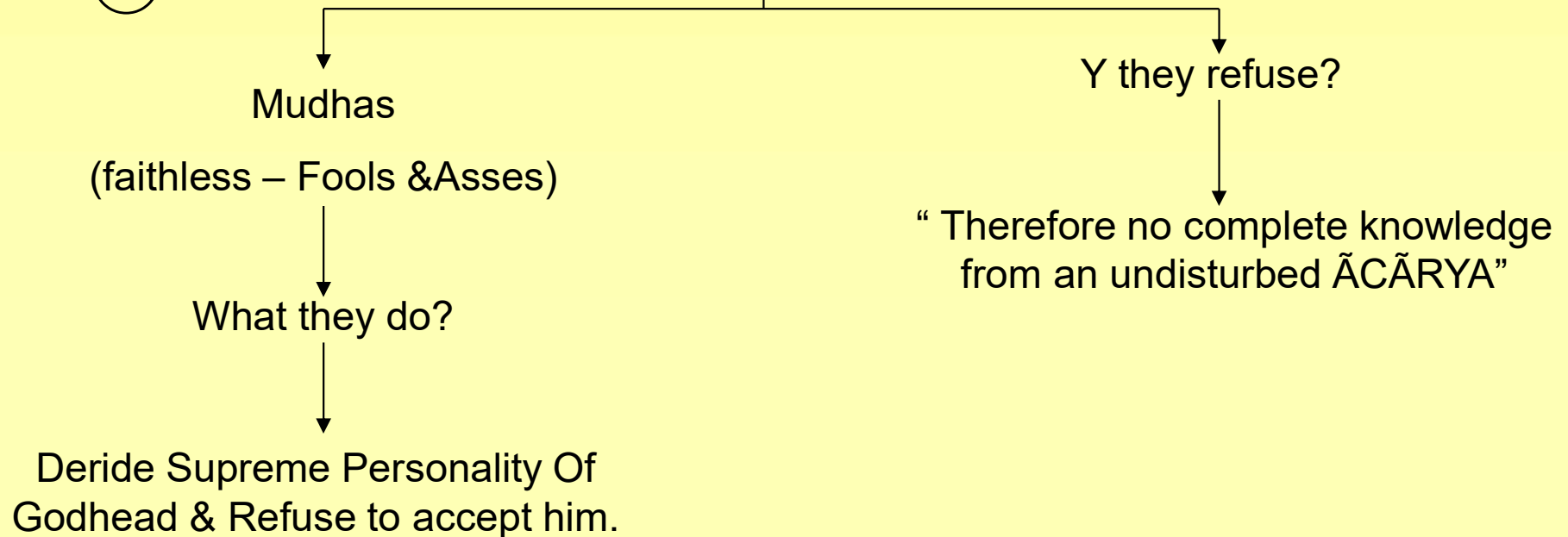
“ One who decides to worship Krishna is called ‘budha’”

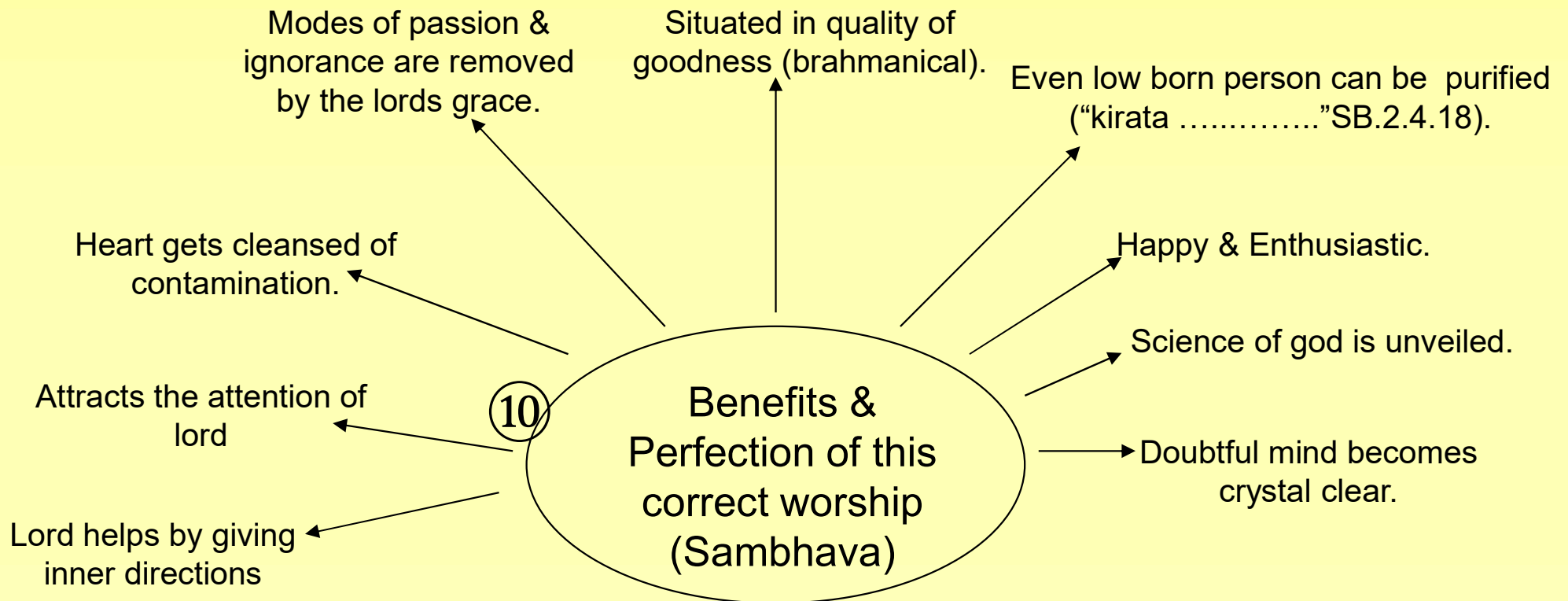
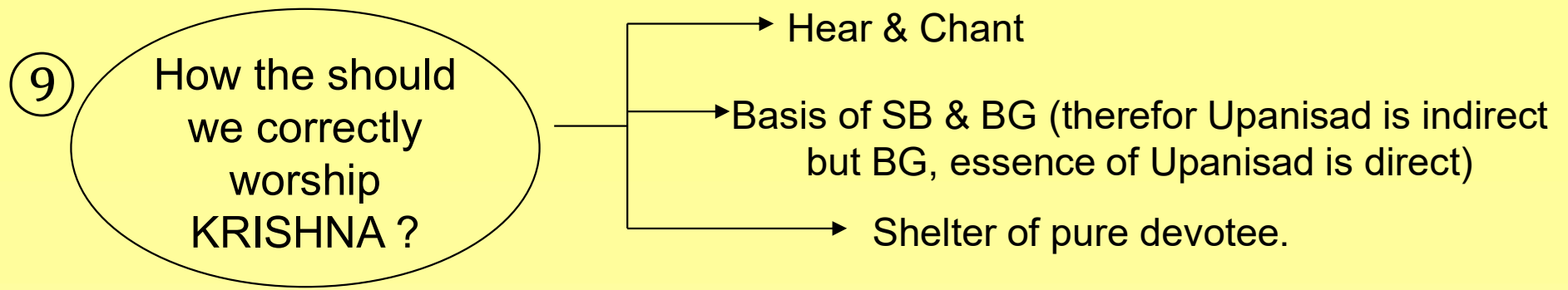


⑦ Logic of this Worship



⑧ Who refuses this Worship?





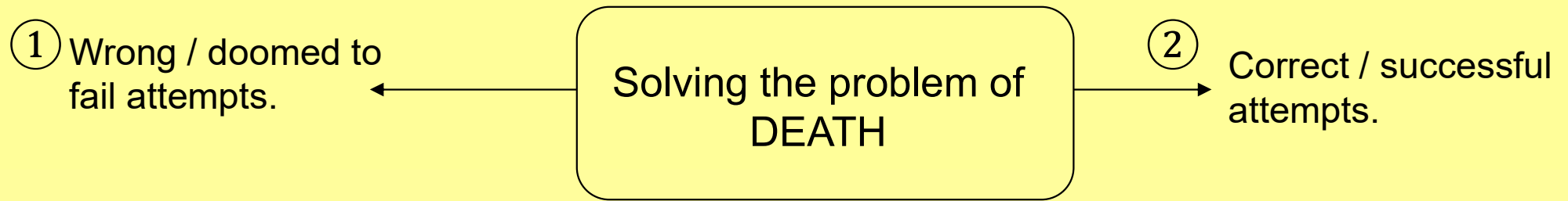
Mantra - 14

Connection:

Mantra 13 explains that one can attain a different result than the karmis & jnanis if he correctly worships the supreme cause of all causes. Mantra 14 describes the result of this proper understanding of spiritual life.

Main Theme:

The only way to a life of deathlessness is by devotional service and not by any scientific attempts or temporary relief work.



①

Failure Attempts

Who undertakes these attempts ?

How they try to solve ?

Why they attempt ?

Why it fails ?

Scientists

Temporary relief / social workers

Scientists

Temporary relief / social workers.

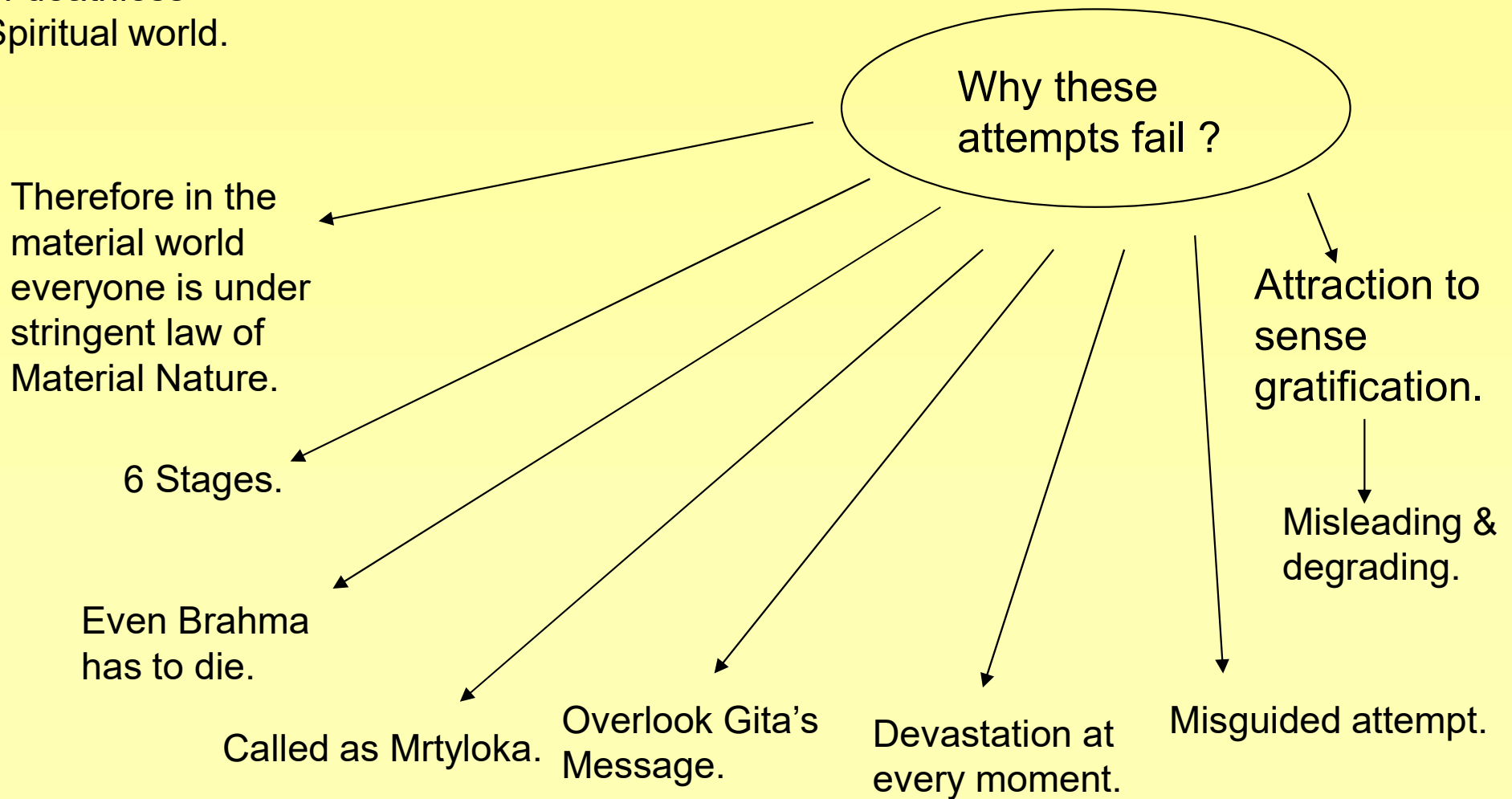
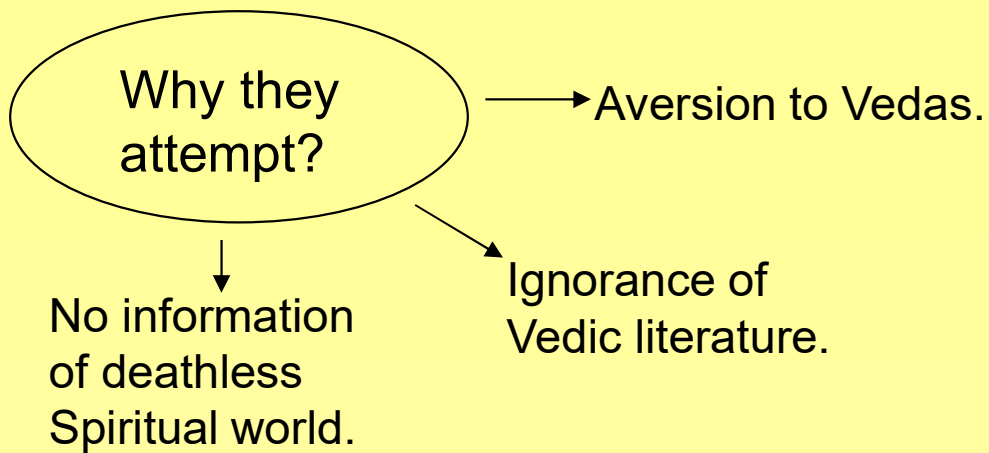
Advancement of knowledge.

Creates spaceships, atomic energy.

'Clever replies' (future, we will solve)

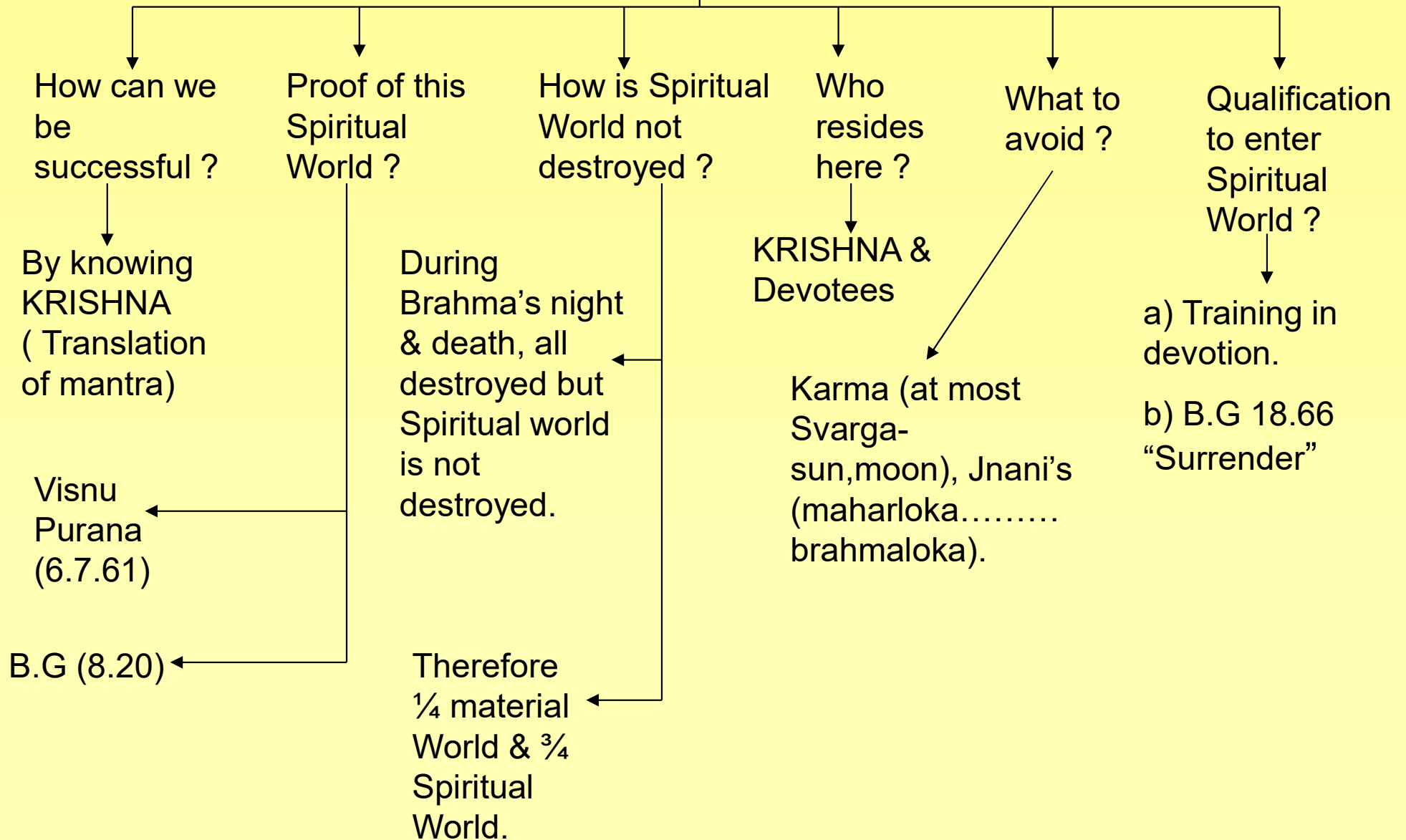
Open hospitals but don't educate on devotional service.

Start public & semi government institutions to tackle problems.



②

Successful attempt



Mantra - 15

Mantras 15-16:- Prayers to the lord to show his form

Connection:

Mantra 14 states that one must perfectly know the supreme lord to attain perfection. Mantra 15 explains that this can be done when one goes beyond the impersonal brahmajyoti to attain bhagavan realization.

Main Theme:

Lord Krsna is the ultimate source & maintainer of all spiritual & material manifestation and he engages in variegated relationships with his devotees.

Impersonal form vs. Krishna's personal form

```
graph TD; A([Impersonal form vs. Krishna's personal form]) --> B[1 Krishna's Position]; A --> C[2 How can we see this position of Krishna?]; A --> D[3 Proof of how personal form is highest realization?];
```

① Krishna's
Position

② How can we see
this position of
Krishna?

③ Proof of how
personal form is
highest realization ?

① Krishna's Position

Source of impersonal brahman

- B.G 14.27
- B.G 7.7
- B.G 10.42

Filled with transcendental bliss

Relationship with devotees

5 rasas
(santa,dasya,etc.,)

If enjoys, how he maintains creation ?

As Paramatma
(B.G 13.14-18)

Conclusion: "Krishna is the PUSAN, ultimate maintainer"

Killed demons
(pleasure exlursions)

Enjoyed with family & friends

Enjoying done for pleasure of associates
(ittham_ _ _)

Naughty butter thief

Why so many pastimes ?

To attract dry speculators & acrobats of hatha yoga.

②

How can we see
this full position
of Krishna ?

Succeeds

Fails

Sankhya

24 elements, no
information of
Purusa.

Impersonal
transcendent
alist

Bewildered
by effulgence

Only one who
penetrates 24
elements....

(Translation of verse)

i.e. approaches
**PERSONAL
FORM**

③

Proof of how
personal form is
highest realization ?

B.G 14.27

(brahmano....)

B.S 5.40

Yasya
prabhha...

Mundaka
Upanisad

(2.2.10-12)

Comparative
analysis
(B.G 6.46-
47)

Conclusion: Krishna is root of
brahman realization.

Realized by studying B.G & S.B

Mantra - 16

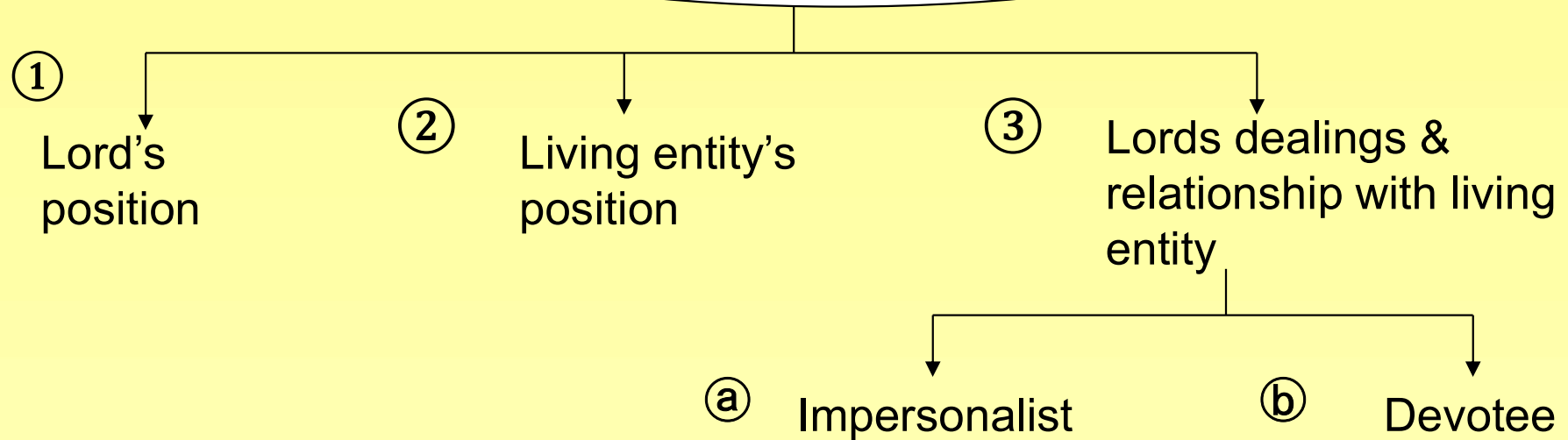
Connection:

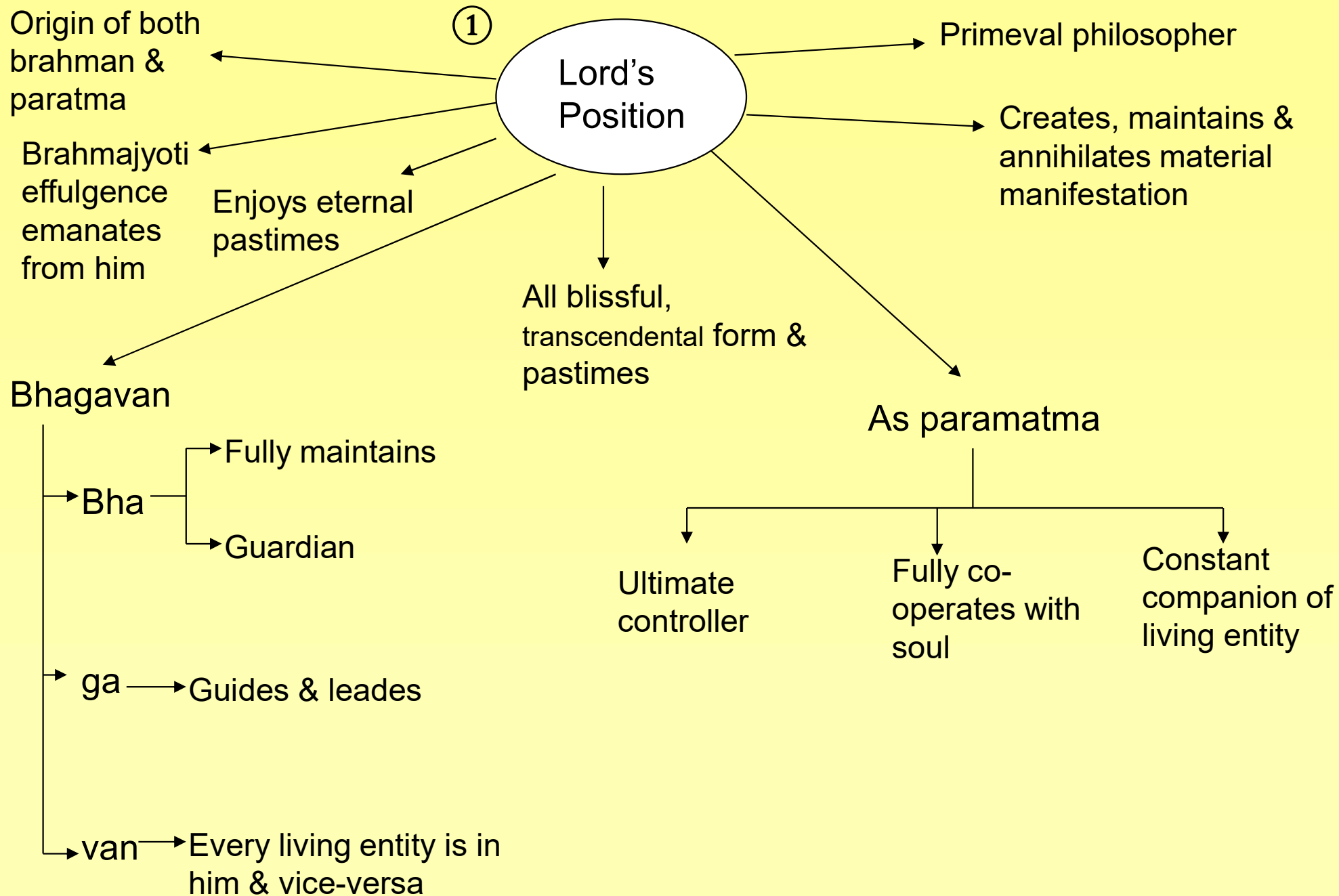
Continuation of the prayers of the devotees in mantra 15.

Main Theme:

The lord & jivas are one and different simultaneously and the lord maintains all, especially his devotees.

Relationship of lord & devotees





②

Living entity's
position

Desires to be & imitate the lord

Stirs the material world into action &
reaction

Same in
quality as
lord

Sun ray
molecule

Differentiated expansion
of supreme lord

③

a

Dealings with
Impersonalist

Blinded by dazzling brahmajyoti

Limited by poor knowledge

Can't see KRISHNA'S form

Can't imagine lord's favor on
devotees

Depends on own strength

Experiences auspicious
aspects of KRISHNA

Can't appreciate pure
devotees activities

③ ⑥

Dealings with Devotee

```
graph TD; A([Dealings with Devotee]) --> B[Lord maintains]; A --> C[Well wishing guide]; A --> D[Awards results (therefore leader)]; A --> E[As creator bestows necessary qualification]; A --> F[Devotees are fully attached to him]; A --> G[Experiences most auspicious feature]; A --> H[Always glorifies lord]; A --> I[As special favor, lord dispels ignorance];
```

Lord maintains

Well wishing guide

Awards results
(therefore leader)

As creator bestows
necessary qualification

Devotees are fully attached to him

Experiences most auspicious
feature

Always glorifies lord

As special favor,
lord dispels
ignorance

Mantra - 17

Mantra 17-18:- Prayers by the sincere devotees for the lord's protection

Connection:

In the further continuation of his prayers, the devotee having taken shelter of the personal aspect of supreme lord & desiring to see this form(mantra-16), now in mantra 17 prays to the lord to remember him.

Main Theme:

While the body is made up of material substance, the spirit soul is eternally an individual and thru the process of devotional service can re-establish his spiritual relationship with KRISHNA.

Transcending bodily death



```
graph TD; A([Transcending bodily death]) --> B[① Giving up material body]; A --> C[② Accepting spiritual body]; A --> D[③ Relationship with supreme spirit (Supreme Personality Of Godhead)];
```

① Giving up material body

② Accepting spiritual body

③ Relationship with supreme spirit (Supreme Personality Of Godhead)

①

Giving up material body

How is material body created ?

According to propensities for sense gratification.

E.g.: hog = stool

tiger = flesh

What happens after death of body ?

Living entity not annihilated

Doesn't become formless

Continues to exist

How does living entity change different body ?

Why so much change ?

Different desires for sense gratification

Controls air movement of the body

Raise to brahma randhra

Transfer to another planet

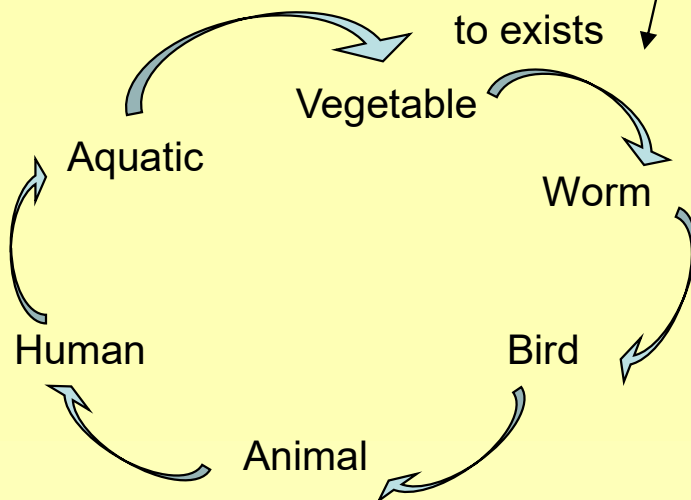
How does yogi change ?

Develops spiritual body

enters into spiritual atmosphere

When will this stop ?

When Living entity



②

Accepting spiritual body

How does living
entity gets Spiritual
body ?

When he doesn't get
Spiritual body ?

Desire for
lordship

Desire to be one with
brahmajyoti

Under rules of material
nature

Perfection
of spiritual
service

Surrender
to Vasudev

Accept living
entity as part, not
whole

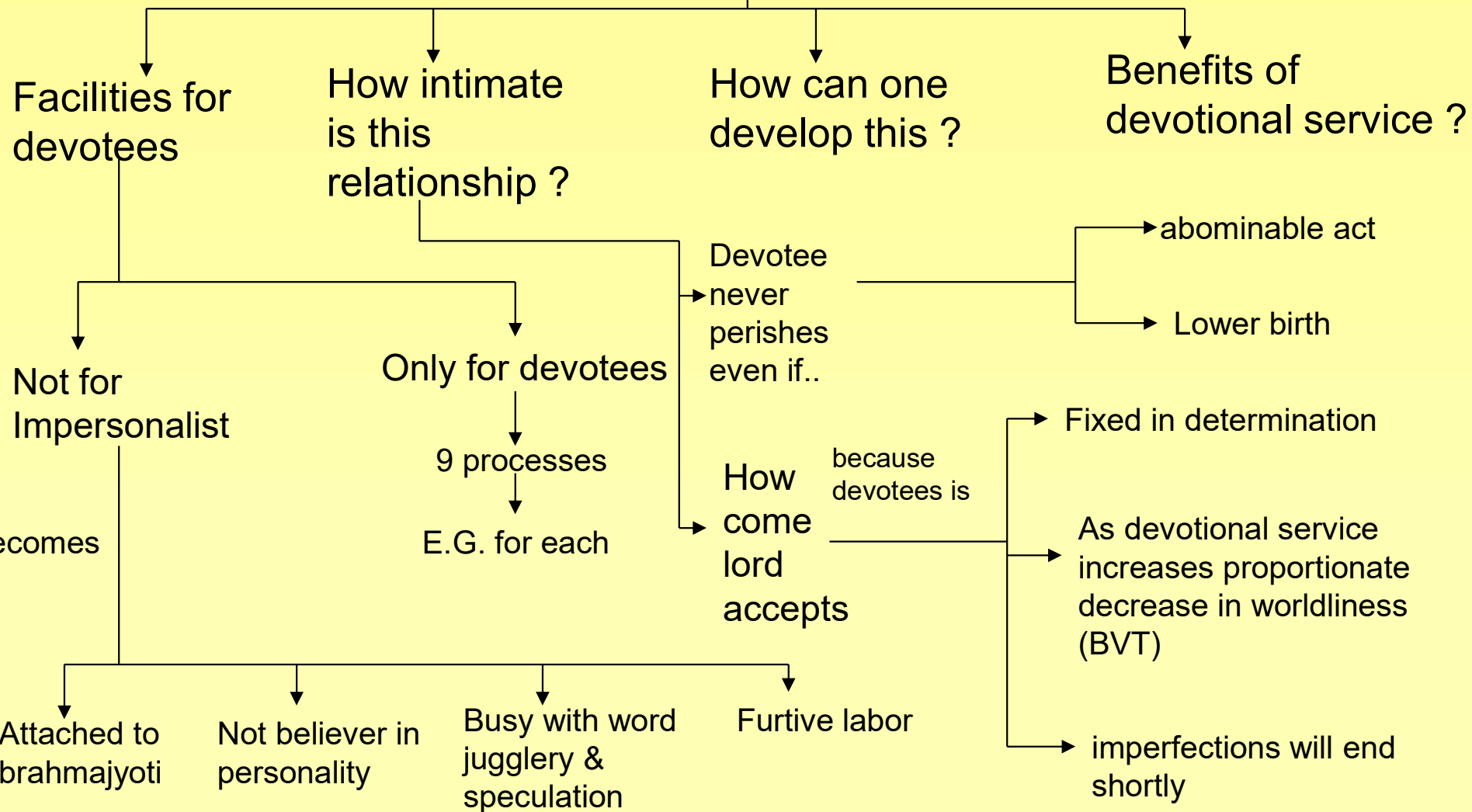
Prays for lord to
remember his
service

Remember lord
at death
(yamyam...)

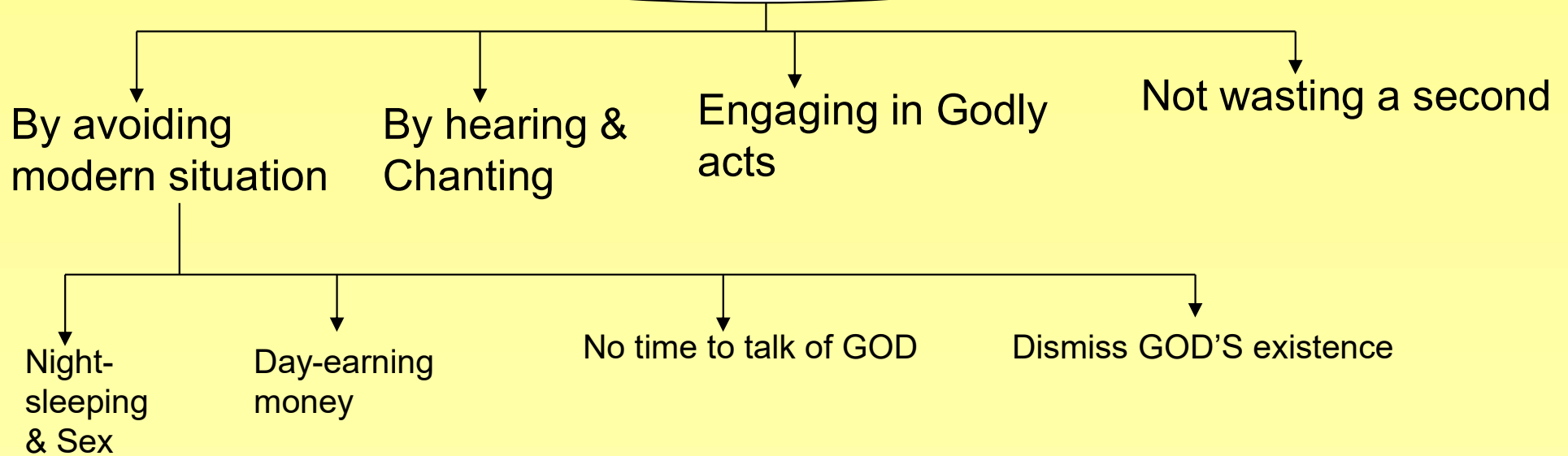
Lord doesn't
forget (even if
living entity
forgets)

③

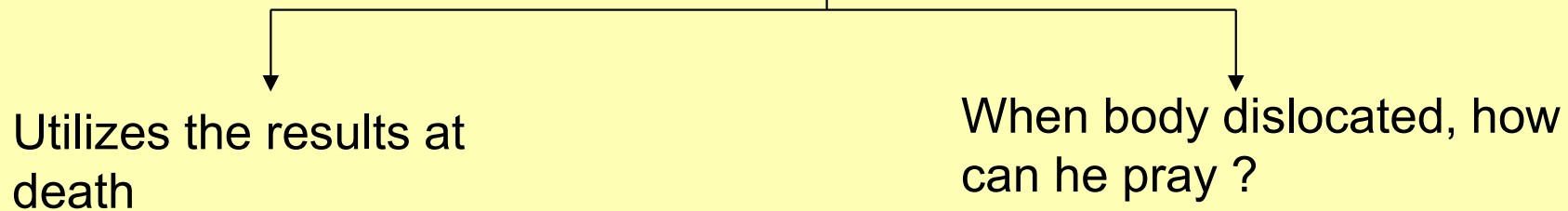
Relationship with supreme spirit (Supreme Personality Of Godhead)



How can one develop this ?



Benefits of devotional service



Mantra - 18

Connection:

The devotee is praying to transcend bodily death & wanting the lord to remember him (mantra-17). For this journey back to Godhead, he is now requesting (in mantra-18) the lord to direct him on proper path and free him from reactions to past sins and protect him so that he can go without hindrance.

Main Theme:

The lord purifies the conditioned souls of sinful reactions in order to allow them to advance in self-realization. Lord also provides directions to those who are aspiring to realize him.

Path of Self-realization

```
graph TD; A([Path of Self-realization]) --> B[① Progress]; A --> C[② Fall down]; A --> D[③ BEST Path];
```

①
Progress

②
Fall down

③
BEST Path

①

Progress

When is it possible ?

Human Form

Brahmanical culture

How to progress ?

Surrender to Lord

Praying for his causeless mercy

Hindrance

Deviation from regulative principles of Vedas

Vikarma (acts against the interest of actors)

Why does one do it ?

For Sense Gratification

②

Fall Down

When does he fall down ?

Pride of birth

Neglects to acquire qualification

Hope after fall down ?

Birth (B.G 6.41-42)

Good bramana family

Rich merchants

Surrender to lord

Acting in his directions

Shelter of devotees & spiritual master

Follow scriptures

Remedial measure after fall down ?

③

Devotional Service is the BEST PATH

How is devotional service the best & superior to all other paths of self-realization ?

Special offer for sincere devotees

Directions from within the heart

Protects from wrong act

Rectifies mistakes

Surrender right in beginning, not gradually

Surpasses all preliminary stages

Lord takes charge

Free from sinful reactions (B.G 18.66)

Gets all good qualifications of lord himself

Even dog eater can be qualified as brahmanas