



68. Give up Perceptions (414-418)

छायेव पुंसः परिदृश्यमान -
माभासरूपेण फलानुभूत्या ।
शरीरमाराच्छववन्निरस्तं
पुनर्न संधत्त इदं महात्मा ॥ ४१४ ॥

*chāyeva pūṁsaḥ paridṛśyamāna -
mābhāsarūpeṇa phalānubhūtyā,
śarīramārācchavavannirastam
punarna sandhatta idam mahātmā.* (414)

414. Once the body has been cast off like a corpse, the wise man does not attach himself to it, though, like man's shadow, it is still visible, owing to the effects of past actions.

A Man of Realisation has a mental attitude towards the world and himself which is almost an antithesis of our estimate of the world and our body. We consider that beyond the body we have no existence at all and in this plane of Consciousness we have no field of experience other than the world of OET. So the world and the equipments are the only reality we know. At the moment, the nature of Reality is, to us, most unreal. This is an antithesis of the experience of the Man of Realisation. Śankara brings this into relief in this verse.

This physical body which is apparent (pari-dṛśya-mānam) is negated by the Man of Realisation. He ignores it as he would his own shadow. We do not consider our shadow as anything sacred. What does it matter if it is dragged along on the stones and over ponds? Even if the head of my shadow is in the ditch, I do not feel suffocated, nor do I become dirty. Similarly, my body is something