

be a rope to hold your projection; without a substratum a delusion can never be. The substratum for the world of plurality is Brahman alone. It serves as the changeless substratum for the entire world of change projected by us because of our lack of discrimination. At the same time, It ever is Its own substratum.

Gross things are perceived by the sense organs and subtle things by the mind and the intellect. Ātman, the Self, is neither perceived by the sense organs nor by the mind and intellect. Hence It is neither gross nor subtle. It is the Consciousness by which one becomes aware of things, gross and subtle.

Consciousness is the subject which illumines both the gross and the subtle experiences of all creatures. It is without any parts. It is the one, all-pervading, homogenous entity.

Incomparable (nirupamāna) – All objects of comparison are absent in the Self because no objects, emotions or thoughts exist in It. Hence It is incomparable. That Brahman thou art. Contemplate upon this great Truth within yourself – with true anxiety, Śaṅkara hastens us.



जन्मवृद्धिपरिणत्यपक्षय-
व्याधिनाशनविहीनमव्ययम् ।
विश्वसृष्ट्यवविघातकारणं
ब्रह्म तत्त्वमसि भावयात्मनि ॥ २५८ ॥

*janmavṛddhipariṇatyapakṣaya-
vyādhināśanavihīnamavyayam,
viśvaśṛṣṭyavavighātakāraṇam
brahma tattvamasi bhāvayātmani. (258)*

258. That which is changeless and so free from birth, growth, development, waste, disease and death; which is indestructible and the cause for the creation, maintenance and dissolution of the universe – ‘That Brahman thou art’ – meditate on this in your mind.