

imperfect' – you will have to remove all these imperfections around you to understand this statement. The Spark of Consciousness that is behind the thoughts in you is the same Consciousness that is functioning through God. In order to make us understand this, an example is given.

'This is that Devadatta' – 'That' and 'This' are the pronouns indicating two different things. If the pronoun 'that' indicates a thing far off, then 'this' indicates a thing which is relatively near. 'That John is this man', when we say, we mean, 'that John' at a different period of time and existing in a different place and 'this man' seen right now, today, at the present time and place, are one and the same person. The time and the place have changed but the individual has remained the same.

Here, we remove the contradictory conditionings (*viruddha dharmāḥ*) and understand correctly that 'this' individual and 'that' individual are the same.

When we say, 'Man is God', we do not mean that the size of man is the size of God or that the shape of man is the shape of God or that the imperfections of man are the imperfections of God. We only mean that in man there is a godly essence.

Just as in the example, 'That Devadatta is this man', in the 'Tat tvam asi' declaration also when the contradictory conditionings are removed, what remains is the same infinite Self.

Man is subject to birth, God is unborn; man is limited, God is unlimited; man is a perishable being, God is imperishable; man is mortal, God is immortal; remove all these qualities; then what remains is pure Consciousness.

Wise men having understood the one essence both in man and God, say that the essential core in God is the essential core in man. Thus hundreds of great declarations indicate and glorify the great oneness of Brahman and Ātman.

When I look out through the body I become conscious of objects. When I transcend the body, the world of objects is eliminated, when I transcend the mind, the emotions are eliminated and when I go beyond the intellect the thought disturbances are also eliminated. What remains in me at that time is only Consciousness. With that Consciousness when I look out without the body, the mind and the intellect, I see in the world no objects, no emotions and no thoughts because they were all interpretations of my BMI only. Where the equipments are removed, the objects that I perceive through the equipments are also removed. At that time, what I see is nothing but Consciousness within and without, everywhere. In this sense, the scriptures say that the Ātman, the Self, in you is Brahman, the Reality behind the whole universe.

