

## The Wholeness of You by Swamini Saralananda

*This is the fifteenth part of the serial article, continuation from July 2022 newsletter.*

### **Micro and Macro Are Both Brahman ;**

If we look at the micro-macro relationship in terms of what we saw in the last chapter, they are both one, as Brahman. The purpose of the previous chapter was to clarify the three expressions, the Is-ness of everything, (Sat), the Consciousness-known-ness and knowing-ness in and through everything, (Chit) and Fullness, the limitless Whole (Ananda). Formless Brahman, (just as water does) allows that names and forms appear in it, creating only seeming divisions that are not real i.e. not in any way lasting. The macro and micro are one of those seeming divisions that are not real.

Yet that happens in the same way that the man was able to imagine and superimpose a snake on a rope simply because there was an inexplicable, 'magical' possibility for him to do that. So, Brahman is the ultimate reality because of which the whole universe of all names and forms can appear. Only because water is formless the two names and forms of a wave and the ocean can come into being, they can appear. All the names and forms of the macro and micro universe, can and get imagined to be real by 'borrowing' the formless existence- reality of Brahman. But they have no substantial reality of their own. It is no different than your dream creation or the rope-snake or the lost tenth man.

In my essence, I am Brahman, that One facet-less reality. Both micro and macro are only ephemeral conditionings that Brahman can 'magically sport' without being at all changed or affected. The ocean is the macro, the wave is micro. Just as water is not changed by those, in an absolute understanding, 'Brahman,' is never affected. It is a magic that a rope seems to become a snake. Like even, when I don't know the magician's trick, he makes things look as though real.

### **We Will Always Long For What Is Lasting**

Our macro-micro universe is a three-dimensional dream. Consciously or unconsciously, what we want is, whatever is real and lasting...infinitely full... but it will never be found in this world of ever-changing appearances of names and forms. And it's not that I have to give them up, it's impossible. But in the same way that I can enjoy some of my dreams and enjoy the entertainment of a magicians' trick, I can know the truth behind the magic

show, see life as a game, a magical drama and enjoy it that much more. Life will no longer hold me hostage and I can really “have a life to enjoy”.

### **Discovering God Without Faith**

To get something out of this chapter, one needs to make a sincere effort to put on hold, all the old conditionings about ‘God’. The greatest majority who believe in god usually think of some kind of a personage and that too a ‘he’. And our collective unconscious and conscious minds are laden with deeply imbedded ideations of what that god is like, for example, a father figure. To put those ideations on hold is easier said than done, because so much of it is still in the unconscious even if consciously rejected. This chapter will only be useful, when read by a mind which is totally and openly curious. The word ‘god’ here will be described and discussed in a very radically and yet factually different way.

Carl Jung spoke of a human’s “archetypal need for a religious function within the psyche.” In more simple terms, man has a natural longing to have a higher power to look to, something or someone greater than himself. He feels a need to be in relationship with a divinely powerful being(s) who he can take to be a creator -because he is painfully aware of his own helplessness as a creature and feels small and insignificant. There are those to say that man creates god in his own image, which religious history does confirm. This would be obviously because if he wants to relate to that higher-power-source-being it is easier to relate to a form that is familiar. This is how ‘god as father’ becomes a popular form.

Most believers would say that god is all powerful and infinite, but if a god is created in mans’ image it contradicts an infinite nature for god. And if god has been conceived and ‘fashioned’ by man, then the creature creates the creator? And the second flaw of logic comes when that god is placed somewhere outside the creation, in some divine other-worldly realm like heaven. This means, more or less that god is ‘banished’ from his own creation. Again, the ‘creature’ decides where god should live. The irony is this: a human needs an all-powerful god to look up to, but then he becomes more powerful than god because he assigns god a given form and place. This is a non-sensible, phantasmagorical image of god. Not to mention, that poor god is a single parent, at least if we look at the Christian model.

### **The Vision Of The Ancient Vedas**

Totally opposite of that, is another way to envision god which comes from the Vedas (the oldest of the worlds’ scriptures). It is a far more comprehensive way of understanding (rather than believing in god.) The creator, ‘god’, is not taken as outside the creation nor

separate from the individual. An example: The ocean is what creates all the ocean waves. You cannot say that the ocean can exist somewhere outside and apart from all ocean waves. The Vedas hold and reveal the vision of “I and god are One”. The ancient “seers” to whom we attribute the Vedas, (and they are not insisted to be traceable historic persons), taught that the creator was to be understood in and through the creation itself. There is a law of logic, that an effect is not separate from its cause. The cause is always found in the effect, they are never two essential separate things. The material cause of a clay pot will always be clay.

Thus, the seers looked carefully at the creation that revealed itself before them. And as we had introduced in the previous chapter, first they saw that there were five great elements that made up the creation, Space, Air, Fire, Water and Earth. They discerned these to be the material cause of the creation. But the elements by themselves cannot ‘stand up’ and make themselves into a created something. So, again by observation they named three primary energies: creativity, sustenance and destruction. We can further explain these as, respectively, the energy of knowing, the energy of dynamic activity, and the energy which is inertia. We can see throughout the entire universe, things coming into being, growing and being sustained for some time, and finally going into dissolution. Everything has a beginning, middle and end, it is a logical, perfect cycle.

These three primary energies need further explanation. First, the creative energy: to create anything, knowledge has to be there first. The know-how must precede any meaningful creation, that is to say anything that is intelligently put together. Knowledge is power. (I will consistently use the word ‘power’ as synonymous with energy.) So, a potter needs to know how to make a pot before he makes it. In this way, knowledge is a creative power in potential. If this creation of a universe has a creator then that creator must have the total knowledge of it even before the creation comes into being. We can cite from the Bible: “First there was the word and the word was with god and the word was god”.

### **Knowledge Always Precedes A Creation**

What can this possibly mean? When we utter a ‘word’ or just even think it, a word is equal to knowledge. The word ‘car’ is not a meaningless sound to you like ‘loop’; you know what is ‘car’ the word is the label for what you know the car to be. So, if there is a “Total knowledge” that has to be there before the Total creation is brought into being, it cannot be an ‘unconscious knowledge’. There has to be Conscious Being to which we can attribute this All-knowledge. And thus, the word, the knowledge, was with god and not something separate from god. Poeti-

cally put let's say 'The Universal Creative Consciousness-intelligence'. Please note that no 'personage' is being at all implied here.

We can accept that knowledge is necessary to create, but still it is not enough. A second energy needs to come into the picture. There has to be dynamic energy of actual 'doing' to be able to use that knowledge to create something. The second primary energy is called 'dynamic activity'. This is the energy because of which being, becomes manifest, whereas knowledge is something unmanifest. This energy also is that which makes for things to grow and be sustained. It is the power to obtain and put resources to use.

Then, nothing is sustained forever so we see a form of destructive energy that plays its part. A flower withers away for a fruit to come, the fruit is destroyed for a seed to come and the seed disintegrates, to later become a tree. Science tells us that nothing is really destroyed, matter and energy just keep changing form. What looks to us like death as an end, is only part of this efficient cycle of change operating in the universe, born, exists, grows then as though dies.

*To be continued...*

### **Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Coimbatore**

#### **Sponsorship Invited for the students of the 3 months Vedanta course in Tamil**

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam is happy to announce that we have started 3-months Vedanta course in Tamil on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and ending on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. About 60 students have joined the Course.

The course is offered to the students free of cost. Generous donors are invited to sponsor the students to meet the expenses for conducting the course. Donors can choose any of the following options –

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Donations can be made by cheque or Demand Draft in favour of "Sruti Seva Trust" or by bank transfer (details as given below).

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