



ORIGIN OF JIVATMA

By Richard S. Brown

The spiritual realm of Krishna (Godhead aka Vasudeva) is internal and the product of a potency of the Lord, known as *Antaranga* or *Yogamaya shakti*; and you are a soul belonging to a potency of Krishna, called *Jiva Shakti*, which lies in-between the spiritual and material potencies. You reside in the all-blissful Realm of the Lord or in the material ocean of misery according to the correct or wrong use of your God-given free will.

So THREE specific points have been determined in the concept of Reality:

- 1. The eternal, all blissful, spiritual universe, which is the playground of the Lord and lies within.**
- 2. The temporary changeable, material universe, the endless ocean of birth and death, which lies without.**

3. All living beings seen or unseen who belong to the Jiva (soul) potency which is all spiritual and blissful by nature and lies in between the external and internal worlds.

You and all beings, as completely different from the temporary changeable material mind and bodies, are souls who belong to the jiva potency that is all-conscious and composed of spiritually pure light (Chetan).....In the beginning God said "let there be light and there was light" (Bible). The jivas were created by the Lord out of a divine Particle of His Own Self.... In the beginning He was all-alone. So out of infinite love and with a desire to sport He became many and yet Himself remained unchanged (Upanishad).

Jivas are possessed of free will, and all souls have the choice to go to the spiritual Realm of God on one side and experience eternal bliss in the loving service of the Lord, their normal condition, or they can choose the material universe with the desire to be the enjoyer and taste temporary enjoyments, which are really sufferings in disguise.

Then, putting on the ever-changing material gross and subtle bodies they enter into this endless ocean of misery passing through 84 lakhs varieties of material bodies from the atom (anu) , to one-celled, creatures, plants, insects, and animals, to man, rising and falling, until by the mercy of the glorious FIVE they experience devotion to the Lord again.

By Their Grace all can once again enter the spiritual all-conscious Realm to engage their pure spiritual mind and body of soul in His loving service, never to return to this material ocean of birth and death again. Although the jiva shakti lies in-between the spiritual and material Realms still the souls are always engaged in one or the other and do not reside in the middle but only emanate from that position on the whole. The jivas are placed into the Maha maya potency by Sarva-karana-

karanam Sri Krishna Himself. It is the purpose of the Jiva to pass through Maya.

There is a complete difference between the jivatma's making the material choice as opposed to the mundane idea that Jivas can fall (down) from Goloka-dham after already being liberated, which goes against Lord Krishna's promise to Arjuna. The Jivas are a potency of Krishna, Who has injected them into His Mahamaya potency. It is simply a matter of ignorance in the beginning and certainly not a fall down from the eternal attainment of svarupa siddhi.

So, Reality is (also) called KRISHNA! He has three main points: (1) Maya (2) Yoga Maya (3) Jivas (souls), which are His potencies and rest in Him but are not He. All are souls belonging to the Jiva shakti and are His eternal servants, but having turned away from their Lord from time immemorial all are now groping in the dense darkness of this world of misery, trying to find a drop of the happiness which can only be found in the all-blissful Realm of God. All souls can be classified into two groups: (1) the deluded and disloyal atheists who are called badha jivas (those in bondage), and (2) the loyal and enlightened souls who are called mukta jivas or those who are freed.