

Hari Om

Sri Adisankara's Advaita Vedanta

Sri Adi Sankaracharya's famous Mahavakya

Brahma Sathyam -Jagan Mithya - Jivo Brahmaiva Naparah ||

tells us that this world is an illusion and unreal, only Brahman or Pure Consciousness (choice-less Awareness or causeless Auspiciousness) is the Reality. In essence the Jivatma is identical to the Ishwara qualitatively.

This may be prima-facie unacceptable to worldly and intellectual driven people, but when we analyse using the intellect with discriminative power we can establish Acharya's statements as True expressions.

Let us first examine the first statement Jagan Mithya -'World is illusion'

What may appear to be true many times when profoundly analysed may seem to be non-existent or falsely interpreted.

People assumed that the Earth to be Flat, Sky to be a curvy roof based on appearances later on Science disproved them and established Earth as spherical and Sky has no existence as a curvy roof.

When we stand before a mirror we see our reflection as real image inside the mirror. It appears as though the image in the mirror does on its own whatever we do. Once you remove the mirror in front of us the illusion goes and the image disappears.

Similarly we say Sun Rises in the East and sets in the West whereas in reality Sun does not move at All and only it is Earth which moves westwardly to create illusory Sunrise and Sunset.

From the above three examples we conclude that whatever appearing or perceived to be real may not be always really appearing so and may be just an illusion caused by our wrong knowledge or ignorance (Avidhya)

In the similar manner World does not have existence on its own and it exists because of the Awareness objectifying it. This pure Awareness being is a constant changeless, motionless entity called Brahman is the substratum to all these changing names and forms which is world, like there is a motionless screen remaining as a substratum in a cinema Hall on which all changing scenes of various movies projected from time to time.

In Vedanta this is explained by another famous Snake and Rope theory.

A villager who is walking in the night in an area which is not illumined properly gets scared of a rope lying (appearing as a snake) on his way and thinking it as a snake. Another person who

carried a torch with him lighted up and clarified that the snake was really a rope and no need to worry about rope being snake anymore. This also gives another insight to us that as long as the illusion (Avidya) of rope being perceived as snake continues, the fear and anxiety also continue till the new and right knowledge of snake is actually a rope dawns in our minds.

The world is real (Transactional Reality) only for transactional purposes and the Absolute Reality is only the Brahman , the Pure Awareness or absolute Consciousness.

Let us meditate on the Brahman.

GF Blessings. Om Tat Sat.



Guruji Dr. KV