

Knowledge Illustrated Through Metaphors

[Maharajji used to employ myriad metaphors as part of his teachings. We attempt to present some of these to our readers. Kindly try to incorporate these teachings in your life. But remember that these metaphors should not be spun to legitimize any prohibited actions. So with these thoughts let us read some metaphors provided by Maharajji.]

1. Just as objects made out of sand by children continue to be sand in essence and merge back into sand upon being destroyed, so is the nature of this (illusory) world that originates from Brahman, exists as Brahman and merges back into Brahman.

2. Just as the essence of ornaments made out of gold continues to be gold and these ornaments melt back into gold upon destruction, so are all animate as well as inanimate beings in this world as they are made from Brahman and merge back into Brahman upon destruction.

3. Just as earthen vessels merge back into the earth, so are all animate and inanimate beings made from Brahman and merge back into the Brahman.

4. Just as ice, fog and snowfall are different form of water, and just as all these forms merge back into water, so is this world a transformed state of Brahman. Brahman manifests itself in myriad forms in this world and upon its end this world merges back into Brahman.

5. Toys made out of sugar and khand (a sweet dish prepared during deepavali) appear to have the form of animals like elephant, horse, cow etc. Just as this form is merely an illusion and their reality continues to be sugar, so are all animate and inanimate beings as well as objects in this illusory world & the only reality is Brahman. Brahman is the only entity that truly exists and from which this entire universe has arisen.

6. Just as there isn't any difference in the reflection cast by the Sun in ganga-jal (water from the holy Ganges) or in a demon's water, so does not exist any difference in the atman present in different human beings.

7. Just as the sky (air) in a golden as well as in an earthen vessel is identical, so does not exist any difference in the atman present in different human beings.

8. Just as the sun's reflection can be clearly observed in a dirty mirror upon cleaning its dirt, so is God's reflection clearly observed in atman when its dirt in the form of ignorance is cleared.

9. Just as a rope can be mistaken for a snake due to lack of knowledge and just as the existence of the rope can be observed upon removal of this ignorance, so

is the knowledge that Brahman is the true existent entity in this world revealed upon the removal of ignorance.

10. Just as waves in an ocean appear different but all constitute of the same body of water, so are different human beings just waves in the ocean of Brahman. Similarly, just as the waves are untrue (asat) while the ocean is the true existent entity (sat), so are the variety of things that are observed in this world merely waves in the ocean of Brahman. As a result they are untrue (asat), while Brahman is the true existent entity (sat).

Hail Sachidanand Sanatan Brahman with love