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... Tattva Bodha ...

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### AI Summary – Class 18

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#### Quick recap

The class began with an exploration of the subtle body's composition and distinction from the gross body, emphasizing its unique elements and the influence of past actions on its formation. The conversation then moved to the concept of special causes and its relationship to the design and construction of physical structures, followed by an examination of the philosophical significance of human existence and the importance of this life for studying Vedanta. The final portion focused on the various instruments and tools necessary for interacting with the world, including the five sense organs, mind, intellect, and other components that together form the subtle body or sūkṣma-śarīram.

#### Summary

##### Nature of the Subtle Body

Acharya Tadany discussed the nature of the subtle body, explaining that it is composed of finer matter or energy, which is not visible or perceptible to the senses. He contrasted the subtle body with the gross body, noting that while both are made up of the same five elements—space, air, earth, water, and fire—the subtle body consists of invisible elements. Acharya Tadany emphasized that the subtle body is produced from these elements and is distinct from the gross body due to its composition of invisible matter.

##### Subtle Bodies and Past Actions

Acharya Tadany discussed the concept of subtle bodies, explaining that they are made up of the same five subtle elements (sūkṣma Agnih, sūkṣma Jalām, and others) as the physical body, but each subtle body is unique, similar to how physical bodies differ. He introduced the concept of "Karmapurva," which refers to the influence of past actions and activities on the formation of a



person's subtle body, comparing it to a deposit that determines the current subtle body's characteristics.

### Human Existence and Design Variability

Acharya Tadany discussed the concept of viśeśa-kāraṇam, which represents the blueprint or design for constructing houses, while the raw materials like cement, bricks, and iron remain consistent across different structures. He explained that while the materials are uniform, the layout and design vary significantly from one house to another, with examples such as the placement of puja rooms. Acharya Tadany also explored the philosophical concept of satkarma, explaining that being born as a human being is considered a significant achievement due to the rarity of human existence among millions of species, highlighting the importance of this life for studying Vedanta.

### Business Instruments and Interaction Tools

Acharya Tadany discussed the importance of various instruments and tools for conducting business and interacting with the world, emphasizing the need for a physical office setup with multiple instruments to facilitate transactions and negotiations. He also explained that individuals require both a physical body and a "subtle body" or toolkit containing 17 instruments to interact with the world, which are used for both receiving inputs and sending outputs.

### Instruments for Action and Knowledge

Acharya Tadany discussed the concept of instruments for performing actions, experiencing results, and gaining knowledge. He explained that these instruments are essential for understanding the outcomes of various actions and making informed decisions. Acharya Tadany also highlighted the importance of critical thinking and the ability to discern reliable information, using health awareness programs as an example of the confusion caused by conflicting advice.

### Types of Instruments and Their Significance

Acharya Tadany discussed the importance of various instruments or senses, categorizing them into three types: knowing instruments (pañca jñānendriyāṇi), doing instruments (pañcakarmendriyāṇi), and experiencer instruments. He explained that there are 17 instruments in total, emphasizing the significance of knowledge and action. Acharya Tadany highlighted that while knowing is important, it should be followed by implementation, using the doing instruments to achieve results.

### Mind as Coordinator of Senses

Acharya Tadany discussed the five sense organs and the need for a coordinating instrument, which he identified as the mind and intellect. He explained that these instruments work simultaneously but require selection, and highlighted the importance of focusing on one sense at a time to avoid distractions. Acharya Tadany also shared a personal anecdote about the



challenges of multitasking while eating and watching TV, emphasizing the importance of using the mind as a selector and coordinator for optimal sensory experiences.

## 17 Body Instruments Overview

Acharya Tadany discussed the concept of the 17 instruments of the body, including the five sense organs of knowledge, five sense organs of action, five layers of energy (pañca Prāṇāḥ), mind, and intellect. These instruments work together to allow the body to interact with the world, and when combined, they form the subtle body or sūkṣma-śarīram. Acharya Tadany mentioned that a detailed description of each instrument would be covered in the next class.

### *Detailed Notes - with Acharya Tadany*

## The Subtle Body (sūkṣma-śarīram)

### Nature and Composition

The subtle body (sūkṣma-śarīram) is composed of finer matter or energy that is not visible or perceptible to our senses. While it consists of the same five elements as the gross body (Akasha/space, Vayu/air, Agni/fire, Jalam/water, and Prithvi/earth), these elements exist in their subtle form - sūkṣma Akasha, sūkṣma Vayu, sūkṣma Agni, sūkṣma Jalam, and sūkṣma Prithvi.

### Formation and Uniqueness

Each subtle body is unique despite being made of the same five subtle elements. This uniqueness comes from what Acharya Tadany calls "Karmapurva" - the influence of past actions from previous lives. Similar to how houses are built with the same raw materials (cement, bricks, iron) but have different layouts based on their blueprints, subtle bodies have the same basic components but different configurations based on one's past karma.

The special design or blueprint that makes each subtle body unique is called "viśeṣa-kāraṇam" - comparable to an architectural plan that determines how the common elements are arranged.

### Human Birth as Satkarma

Acharya Tadany emphasizes that being born as a human being is "Satkarma" or "Punya karma" (virtuous action). Among millions of species on this planet, human birth is considered extremely rare and valuable because only humans can study Vedanta and pursue spiritual knowledge.



## The 17 Instruments of the Subtle Body

The subtle body functions as a toolkit containing 17 instruments that allow us to interact with the world. These instruments are categorized into five groups:

### 1. pañca jñānendriyāṇi (Five Sense Organs of Knowledge)

These are the five instruments for receiving input from the external world, allowing us to learn what is beneficial and what is not. They help us understand the "do's and don'ts" for making life meaningful and purposeful.

### 2. pañca karmendriyāṇi (Five Sense Organs of Action)

These are the five instruments for responding to the external world. Acharya Tadany emphasizes that knowledge alone is insufficient - it must be followed by implementation through these organs of action.

### 3. pañca Prāṇāḥ (Five Layers of Energy)

These are the energy systems that power all the sense organs, similar to how fuel powers a vehicle. They process the food we eat and convert it into energy that keeps the body functioning, moving, and interacting.

### 4. Manas (Mind)

The mind serves as a coordinator and selector for the sense organs. It determines which sense to focus on at any given moment. When the mind is not backing up a particular sense organ, we don't properly register the input from that organ.

Acharya Tadany gives the example of eating while watching TV - when the mind is focused on the TV, it doesn't register what we're eating, which is why we might feel hungry again shortly after.

### 5. Buddhi (Intellect)

The intellect works with the mind to coordinate the sense organs and make decisions based on the information received.

## Purpose of the Subtle Body

Acharya Tadany explains that these 17 instruments serve three main purposes:

- For knowing (learning what is beneficial and what is not)
- For doing (implementing knowledge through action)
- For experiencing (reaping the results of our actions)

Just as a physical office requires various equipment (computers, phones, internet) to conduct business and interact with customers, our subtle body requires these 17 instruments to interact



with the world. Without these instruments, we would be like an empty office room - unable to perform any transactions or interactions.

### The Complete Subtle Body

When all 17 instruments are combined, they form the complete subtle body or sūkṣma-śarīram:

pañca jñānendriyāṇi	Five sense organs of knowledge (receiving input)
pañca karmendriyāṇi	Five sense organs of action (responding/output)
pañca Prāṇāḥ	Five layers of energy (powering the organs)
Manas	Mind (coordinator and selector)
Buddhi	Intellect (decision-making faculty)

Acharya Tadany mentioned that a detailed description of each of these 17 instruments would be covered in the next class.