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... Tattva Bodha ...

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AI Summary – Class 20

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Quick recap

Acharya Tadany's class focused on discussing the concept of presiding deities associated with sense and subtle organs, including their roles in work and creation processes. Acharya Tadany explained the relationship between government and individuals, comparing the government to the macro level and individuals to the micro level, while also discussing the traditional practice of offering gifts to obtain blessings from officials. The discussion concluded with an exploration of universal cosmic laws and the 17 subtle sense organs, including their corresponding devatās and the importance of these organs in human life.

Summary

Concept of Presiding Deities (devatās) and Subtle Organs

The Cosmic Government Analogy

Acharya Tadany explains that just as a country has a government with various departments and ministers, the cosmos has a cosmic administrator (Īśvaraḥ) who governs through various departmental heads (devatās). Each devatā presides over specific functions in the universe and within our bodies. This cosmic government ensures that universal laws function properly, maintaining order in creation.

"The universe also functions according to some Universal Law... Without those universal laws, we wouldn't be able to function. The cosmic administrator, that we call Īśvaraḥ, has the cosmic government which is responsible to maintain the laws of creation."



The Micro-Macro Relationship

Acharya Tadany describes the relationship between individuals (micro/vyaṣṭi) and the totality (macro/samaṣṭi). Just as citizens need permits from the government for activities like building a house or starting a business, individuals need the blessing of the cosmic powers to function in the universe. The government represents the totality (samaṣṭi) while individuals represent the micro (vyaṣṭi).

The 17 Subtle Sense Organs

According to Vedic knowledge, there are 17 subtle sense organs, each with its own presiding deity (devatā). These subtle organs are not the physical organs themselves but the power (śakti) behind them that makes them function.

Five Sense Organs of Knowledge (pañcajñānendriyāṇi) and Their devatās

Organ (adhyātmam)	Presiding Deity (adhidaivam)	Field of Operation (adhyakṣanam)
Ears (Shrotram)	Dig (Quarters)	Sound perception (Shabd Grahanam)
Skin (Tvak)	Vayuh (Wind)	Touch perception (Sparśa Grahanam)
Eyes (Chakshu)	Surya (Sun)	Form and color percept (Rūp Grahanam)
Tongue (Rasana)	Varuna (Water)	Taste perception (Rasa Grahanam)
Nose (Ghrana)	Ashwini Kumaras (Twin deities)	Smell perception (Gandha Grahanam)

Five Sense Organs of Action (pañcakarmendriyāṇi) and Their devatās

Organ (adhyātmam)	Presiding Deity (adhidaivamn)	Field of Operation (adhyakṣanam)
Speech (Vak)	Agni (Fire)	Speaking (Bhashanam)
Hands (Pani)	Indra	Grasping objects (Vastu Grahanam)
Feet (Pada)	Vishnu	Movement (Gamanam)
Excretory organs (Payu)	Yama (Death)	Waste removal (Mala Tirodhana)
Reproductive organs (Upastha)	Prajapati (Brahma)	Reproduction (Anandalambana)



Importance of Each Sense Organ

The Power of Speech

Acharya Tadany emphasizes that speech is one of the most important organs, second only to the intellect. It allows humans to convert thoughts into language and communicate with others. Without this ability, each person would be isolated like an island. Through speech and written language, we can preserve knowledge across generations, as evidenced by our ability to study Adi Shankara's works 1,200 years after they were written.

"Without advanced intellect and communication abilities, humans would be isolated. Because of the power of speech, we are able to convert everything we know into thoughts, and our thoughts into language so that we can communicate with other people." (Acharya Tadany)

The Five Senses and Our Experience

Acharya Tadany teaches that each sense organ operates in a unique field that cannot be replaced by others. Acharya Tadany explains that our śāstra divides the universe into 5 segments corresponding to our 5 senses. If we lose one sense, we lose 20% of our experience of the world. If we lose two senses, we lose 40%, and so on. In addition to that, the eyes cannot hear sounds, and the ears cannot see colors - each sense has its specific domain.

Acharya Tadany notes that the eyes account for approximately 80% of the information that enters our brain, making vision particularly important among the senses.

The Subtle vs. Physical Body

An important distinction Acharya Tadany makes is between the physical organs (sthūla śarīram) that science studies and the subtle organs or powers (sūkṣma śarīram) that Vedānta discusses. He explains that in a dead body, all physical organs are present but none function because the subtle powers have departed. This demonstrates that it is the subtle power (śakti) behind each organ that makes it function.

"Science only looks at the physical part. Whatever scientific studies only apply to the sthūla śarīram. But here we are talking about sūkṣma śarīram, the subtle body, the śakti, the power behind every organ." (Acharya Tadany)

Worshipping the devatās

When there are problems with any of the 17 organs, Acharya Tadany explains that one can worship the relevant devatā. For example, when experiencing eyesight problems, one would worship Surya devatā. This is similar to approaching the appropriate government department when facing specific issues in daily life.



The Cosmic Laws and Earth's Habitability

Acharya Tadany points out that the universal laws make Earth habitable for humans. The perfect gravity, atmosphere, water, and food production systems are all governed by cosmic laws.

Without these laws functioning properly, human life would be impossible.

Just as a country's constitutional laws maintain order and stability, cosmic laws ensure the proper functioning of the universe. The cosmic administrator (Īśvaraḥ) oversees these laws through various departments responsible for governing different functions of perception.