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... Tattva Bodha ...

By Acharya Tadany

## AI Summary – Class 48

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### Summary

## The Three Levels of Consciousness

Acharya Tadany introduced a fundamental framework using specific terminology:

- **OC (Original Consciousness)** - The eternal, immortal consciousness that pervades everything
- **Reflected Consciousness at Micro Level (jīvātman)** - Individual consciousness with three layers:
  - RC1: sthūla śarīram (Physical body)
  - RC2: sūkṣma śarīram (Subtle body)
  - RC3: kāraṇa śarīram (Causal body)
- **Reflected Consciousness at Macro Level (Īśvarātman)** - Universal consciousness with three layers:
  - RC4: sthūla Prapancha (Physical universe)
  - RC5: sūkṣma Prapancha (Subtle universe)
  - RC6: kāraṇa Prapancha (Causal universe)

## The Universe as Cosmos, Not Chaos

Acharya Tadany emphasized that the world operates as a **cosmos** - a perfectly ordered system governed by laws and principles, not random chaos. This includes:

- **Cosmic Natural Laws** - Physical principles governing planetary motion, gravity, and all natural phenomena that allow scientists to predict eclipses, tides, and other events



- **Cosmic Moral Laws** - Universal ethical principles where every action generates results based on invisible motives and thought patterns, accumulating as *Punya* (merit) or *Papa* (demerit)

**Key Insight:** In Vedānta, there are no accidents - only incidents where we don't know all the variables. Everything operates according to universal laws. (Acharya Tadany)

## The Organizing Intelligence

The entire universe functions as a cosmic organism under a perfectly organized intelligence - the reflection of Original Consciousness at the macro level (*Īśvara*). This intelligence:

- Maintains harmony and predictability throughout the universe
- Governs both natural physical laws and moral/ethical laws
- Determines not only events in current life but also future births (*Punarapi jananam*, *Punarapi maranam* - again birth, again death)

Acharya Tadany used the beautiful Vedic imagery of the universe as Bhagavan's cosmic body, where Earth is the feet, sky is the navel, wind and space are the nose, and sun and moon are the eyes.

## Individual vs. Universal Perspective

### Limitations at the Individual Level (*jīva*)

At the micro level, humans are characterized by severe limitations:

- **Alpaśakti** (Limited Power) - Cannot even lift one ton; eventually, as one ages, may not be able to lift our own bodies
- **Alpajñana** (Limited Knowledge) - What we don't know far exceeds what we know
- Limited memory - Difficulty remembering even yesterday's lunch
- Limited emotional capacity
- Limited economic resources

### Totality at the Universal Level (*Īśvara*)

At the macro level, the reflected consciousness represents:

- **Sarvajñana** (All Knowledge) - Complete knowledge available in the universe
- **Sarvaśakti** (All Power) - Total power of the cosmos

Acharya Tadany used the analogy of a president or prime minister signing agreements - they carry the power of the entire nation, representing total sovereignty.



## The Vedic Tradition of Deities

Acharya Tadany explained why the Vedic tradition has multiple deities - each represents the totality of certain aspects:

- **Saraswati** - Represents total power of knowing, knowledge, creativity, and art. We pray to her before classes to receive a portion of this total knowledge
- Each deity embodies a complete aspect of universal power, from which individuals receive limited portions

### The Fundamental Question: Are jīva and Īśvara Different?

Acharya Tadany posed the crucial question: Is there any difference between jīvah (individual consciousness) and Īśvarah (universal consciousness)?

The answer depends on perspective:

### From the Perspective of Reflecting Medium

- They are **completely different** and opposite
- Individual physical body vs. entire physical universe
- Limited power vs. total power
- Limited knowledge vs. all knowledge
- This difference is crystal clear and evident

### From the Perspective of Original Consciousness

- They are **one and the same**
- The very same Original Consciousness manifests in individuals and the entire universe
- This Original Consciousness is eternal and immortal
- It is the same in your body, my body, anyone's body, and the whole universe

**Critical Understanding:** The reflected consciousness is only an appearance of the Original Consciousness. From the standpoint of OC, jīva and Īśvara are identical. (Acharya Tadany)

The Root of All Human Problems



## The Sense of Insecurity

Acharya Tadany identified that all human problems stem from one source: **insecurity caused by the sense of mortality**. From birth onwards, humans experience a pervasive sense of insecurity:

- As children - Clinging to mother's or father's clothes
- As students - Anxiety about best education and degrees for financial security
- As adults - Worries about old age, pension, savings, insurance
- Throughout life - Fear of threats from external factors

## The FEDERAL Problem of Old Age

Swami Paramarthananda's acronym describing four main problems that knock at everyone's door in old age:

<b>FE</b>	<b>Fear</b> - As one grows old, the world seems bigger and bigger while we become smaller, more fragile, and more dependent
<b>DE</b>	<b>Depression</b> - Many health problems that come with old age cannot be solved; the body is in accelerated decay, impacting people emotionally
<b>RE</b>	<b>Regrets</b> - Consuming time and energy with thoughts like "I should have done this," "I wish I didn't do that," constantly haunted by past choices
<b>L</b>	<b>Loneliness</b> - Feeling that everyone has left, nobody has time anymore. Parents lamenting that children they raised with love and resources rarely call or visit

This FEDERAL problem represents the ongoing insecurity issue called **Samsara** - the cycle of suffering that persists as long as we identify with the mortal physical body.

## The Nature of Mortality and Immortality

### What Cannot Be Immortal

- **Reflecting Medium** - Made of matter, subject to arrival and departure, temporary by nature (like a lightning bolt from womb to tomb)
- **Reflected Consciousness** - Dependent on the reflecting medium, disappears when the medium shatters (like a face in a mirror)



- **Transacting I** - The identity that performs actions through the physical body, becomes non-transacting when the body dies

## What Is Immortal

- **Original Consciousness** - Eternal, not subject to time-space limitations
- All-pervading
- Sat-Cit-Ananda ātmā (Existence-Consciousness-Bliss Self)

## The Sacred Prayer for Liberation

Acharya Tadanu explained the profound meaning of the traditional Vedic prayer:

### **Asato Ma Sat Gamaya**

From untruth (Asat) lead me to truth (Sat)

### **Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya**

From darkness (Tamas) lead me to light (Jyoti) - the light of knowledge

### **Mrityor Ma Amritam Gamaya**

From mortality (Mrityu) lead me to immortality (Amrita) - discovering essential immortality

This prayer is not about physical immortality, but about discovering one's true immortal nature through Vedāntic knowledge. (Acharya Tadanu)

## The Solution: Discovering Original Consciousness

### **The Path to Freedom**

Acharya Tadanu emphasized that the only way to solve the Samsara problem is to:

1. Accept the nature of matter - Allow the body to undergo changes, transformation, decay, and disease without protesting, lamenting, or complaining
2. Recognize that the reflecting medium cannot be your real "I" - It is subject to arrival and departure
3. Discover the Original Consciousness before physical death - While the body is healthy and memory intact



4. Understand that anything you can objectify is not your true nature - If it's an object of experience, it's subject to coming, staying, and going

## The Importance of Timing

Acharya Tadany noted it's unfortunate that people often come to Vedānta only in old age, though he acknowledged that at least they come. The teaching emphasizes studying while:

- The body is still healthy
- Memory is still intact
- Mental faculties are sharp

## The Role of Vedāntic Meditation

Ultimately, Vedāntic meditation (Nididhyasana) is essential because only through this practice can we:

- Remove old habitual thinking patterns
- Transcend identification with temporary reflecting media
- Realize our true nature as Original Consciousness

**Core Message:** The reflecting medium (body-mind complex) and reflected consciousness (individual awareness) are temporary and mortal. Before death, we must discover the Original Consciousness - our true immortal nature - which is one and the same in all beings and the entire universe. This discovery alone solves the fundamental problem of human insecurity and suffering (Samsara). (Acharya Tadany)

## Practical Implications

- All experiences in life are determined by universal laws (natural and moral), not accidents
- Individual differences arise from varying reflecting media based on karmic inheritances
- The sense of insecurity persists throughout life as long as we identify with the mortal body
- Liberation requires discovering the immortal Original Consciousness through Vedāntic study and meditation
- The goal is not to achieve physical immortality but to realize our essential immortal nature

## Connection to Previous Teachings

Acharya Tadany referenced the Bhagavad Gita teaching about the unchanging Self through life stages:

*"Dehino'smin yatha dehe kaumaram yauvanam jara"*



Just as the embodied Self passes through childhood, youth, and old age in this body, the "I" remains the same throughout all transformations.

This reinforces that while the body (reflecting medium) undergoes constant change, the Original Consciousness remains eternal and unchanging.



### Questions after the class

#### Sophie's Questions

**Q1: What determines whether we come back as a divine being or an animal?**

A: This is determined by the Law of Karma, which will be covered in detail later. The next birth is entirely out of your own making - based on accumulated puṇya and pāpam from actions and their underlying motives.

**Q2: If we all share the same consciousness, how come we're all so different?**

A: We don't "share" consciousness - there is only ONE consciousness (like one sun), not split or divided. What differs is the **reflecting medium** (like different mirrors reflecting the same sun). Each person has a different reflecting medium based on karmic inheritances. The mirror can be:

- Bright and clean
- Dull and muddy
- Broken or cracked
- Clear or distorted

These differences in reflecting media are based on the Law of Karma and create the appearance of different individuals, but the underlying consciousness is one and the same.

#### Sandra's Question

**Q: Does Vedānta believe you can talk to consciousness not in a physical body?**

A: The Karma kāṇḍaḥ (ritual) part of the Vedas discusses this, including healing through colors, lights, sounds, and Akashic records. Everything is possible and found in the Vedas. However, Vedānta (jñāna kāṇḍaḥ) doesn't dwell much on these topics because:

- Such experiences won't reveal your true nature
- They involve sūkṣma śarīram (subtle body) phenomena
- Vedānta focuses on mokṣa (liberation), not Artha or kāma (worldly pursuits)

Interesting Tangent: The Rarest Thing in the Universe



Acharya Tadany shared a fascinating fact from a documentary: The rarest thing in our known universe is not diamonds or gold (which exist abundantly on other planets), but **wood**. As far as science knows, no other planet can grow trees. This makes wood one of the rarest materials in our universe.

Acharya Tadany humorously noted: "If we knew that, we wouldn't burn it. We would trade it for diamonds. There would be smuggling of trees!"

### Key Vedāntic Terms Introduced

<b>prakriyā</b>	Methodology of unfolding knowledge
<b>mokṣa</b>	Liberation, the ultimate goal of human life
<b>Artha</b>	Wealth, material prosperity
<b>kāma</b>	Desires, pleasures
<b>Dharma</b>	Righteous living, moral duty
<b>puṇyam</b>	Merit from benevolent, constructive actions
<b>pāpam</b>	Demerit from negative, destructive actions
<b>Samsara</b>	The cycle of birth, death, and suffering
<b>Sannyāsa</b>	Renunciation, withdrawal from worldly life
<b>Niddidhyāsana</b>	Vedāntic meditation