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... Tattva Bodha ...

By Acharya Tadany

AI Summary – Class 52

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Summary

The Nature of Consciousness: Original, Reflecting Medium, and Reflected

Acharya Tadany introduced a crucial framework for understanding consciousness by distinguishing three aspects:

- **Original Consciousness (Caitanya):** The fundamental, unchanging awareness that is the substratum of all existence
- **Reflecting Medium (Upādhi):** The material or subtle substance that serves as a mirror for consciousness
- **Reflected Consciousness (Pratibimba-caitanya):** The consciousness as it appears when associated with a particular reflecting medium

This distinction is essential for understanding the relationship between the individual self (Jīva) and the universal consciousness (Īśvara).

Jīva and Īśvara: Microcosm and Macrocosm

Acharya Tadany explained that the difference between Jīva (the individual soul) and Īśvara (the cosmic Lord) is only apparent, not fundamental:

- **Jīva:** The reflected consciousness in the microcosm—the individual body-mind complex. This is consciousness associated with a limited, finite reflecting medium
- **Īśvara:** The reflected consciousness in the macrocosm—the entire universe. This is consciousness associated with the total, cosmic reflecting medium (Māyā)
- **The Essential Unity:** Both Jīva and Īśvara are reflections of the same original consciousness (Brahman). The difference lies only in the scale and nature of the reflecting medium, not in the consciousness itself



Understanding this removes the sense of fundamental separation between the individual and the divine.

The Common Mistake: Identification with the Body

Acharya Tadany highlighted a critical error that most people make: identifying the Self with the perishable physical body. This misidentification leads to several problems:

- **Fear:** When we believe we are the body, we fear death, loss, and change
- **Insecurity:** Identifying with something finite and vulnerable creates constant anxiety
- **Misconceptions about reality:** We see ourselves as limited, separate beings rather than expressions of infinite consciousness
- **Bondage to saṃsāra:** This false identification perpetuates the cycle of birth, death, and suffering

The teaching emphasizes that our true nature is not the body-mind complex but the unchanging consciousness that illuminates it.

Jñānam: The True Wealth and Path to Freedom

Acharya Tadany emphasized that self-knowledge (Jñānam) is the ultimate wealth and the only true solution to human suffering:

- **Freedom from emotional suffering:** Jñānam liberates us from fear, anxiety, and insecurity by revealing our true, immortal nature
- **Mokṣa (Liberation):** Self-knowledge leads to mokṣa, freedom from the cycle of saṃsāra (the repetitive cycle of birth, death, and rebirth)
- **Beyond material wealth:** Unlike material possessions or worldly achievements, Jñānam provides lasting fulfillment and peace
- **The goal of Vedānta:** The entire teaching of Vedānta aims at this self-knowledge, which reveals that our essential nature is Brahman itself—infinite, eternal, and complete

This knowledge is not merely intellectual understanding but a profound realization that transforms one's entire relationship with existence.

Conclusion and Blessing

The class concluded with Acharya Tadany offering blessings for the students, wishing them a wonderful week ahead. The teaching emphasized the importance of contemplating these profound truths and gradually assimilating them into one's understanding and daily life.



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advaita vedānta

Acharya Tadany
