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6.12.6 Other Schools pointers to Brahmavidya

Explicit statements to this effect by the protagonists of some of the apparently rival philosophical schools are also in evidence Dealing with the case of the rival schools, the $t\bar{t}k\bar{a}$ on the $S\bar{u}tasamhit\bar{a}$ quoted points out how this perspective can be brought to bear in respect of the so-called non-Upanisadic schools as well This may be illustrated by a few examples

(a) Sankhya and Yoga

Taking the case of the Sānkhya and the Pātañjala, it may be noted that liberation according to them is secured by the discriminative knowledge of the purusa (the knower, who is of the nature of Consciousness) from the prakrti in its two states, evolved and causal-व्यक्ताव्यक्तज्ञविज्ञानात् (Sän. Kā 2) In this state of Kawalya, where Atman alone shines, there is neither the experience of any other individual nor of the prakrts in either of its states. Also, they cannot be affirmed to exist, since the existence 1s to be established by a pramana --- मानाधीना मेयसिद्धिः --- and there is no pramāna in that state That 1s, they are jñānamvartya-sublated on the dawn of knowledge leading to Again, what the Yogasūtia (2-22)-कृतार्थ प्रति Kawalya. नष्टमप्यनष्टं तदन्यसाधारणत्वात्- says viz, that though they cease to exist from the standpoint of the liberated, they are

experienced by others, is reminiscent of the rope-snake. Because of these two reasons, the plurality of purusas, and prakrts are illusory, mithya, though not explicitly mentioned so by these two schools; thus Atman which is of the nature of Existence and Consciousness, is one without a second. Again, in the Jaigisavyopäkhyäna in the Yogasūtrabhās ya (3-18) it is stated that, though the happiness resulting from the suddhis is greater than that in ordinary parlance, it is nothing but misery as compared to Kawalya This shows that Kawalya is what is to be sought after in preference to everything else, as being most beneficial. This implies that Atman is of the nature of Bliss as well, though not explicitly spoken of as such. Further, in the spirit of the Sruti असङ्गो हाय पुरुप: (Br U. 4-3-16) [This purusa is indeed non-attached] the Sānkhyakānikā (62) says-

> तस्मान वध्यतेऽद्धा न मुच्यते नापि संसरति कश्चित् । संसरति वध्यते मुच्यते च नानाश्रया प्रकृतिः ॥

which declares that, in reality, there is neither bondage nor transmigration nor liberation for anyone; all such parlance is to be traced to *prakrti* (which has been shown to be illusory). This is reminiscent of the Māndūkyakārikā—

- न निरोधो न चोलत्तिर्न बद्धो नैव साधकः ।
- न मुमुक्षुर्न वै मुक्त इत्येषा परमार्थता ॥

Sarvatantı asvatantra Śrī Śrī Vācaspatimiśra who is at home in all Śāstras, says in his Bhāmati on the Bhās ya on the Sūtra (2-1-2-3) एतेन योग: प्रत्युक्त: | thus---

न चैतानि योगशास्त्राणि प्रधानादिसद्भावप्रतिपादनपराणि, र्कि तु योगखरूपतत्साधनतदवान्तरफलविभूतितत्परमफल्लैवल्यव्युत्पादनपराणि, तच्च यत्किब्विनिमित्तीकृत्य व्युत्पाद्यमिति प्रधानं सविकारं निमित्तीकृत ...

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न तु तद्विवक्षितम् । . . . अत एव योगशास्त्रं व्युत्पादयिताऽऽह स्म भगवान् वार्षगण्यः —

गुणाना परम रूपं न दृष्टिपथमृच्छति ।

. यत्तु दृष्टिपथप्राप्त तन्मायैव सुतुच्छकम् ॥

[The intention of the Yogaiāstra is not in establishing the existence of the pradhāna etc., but in delineating the nature of yoga, the means for it and the siddhis as its subsidiary benefits, and Kawalya as its supreme purport. Since some framework is to be adopted for this purpose, the pradhāna with its products as conceived of in Sānkhya is adopted as offering incidence for this. The intention is not thus in delineating the pradhāna That is why Bhagavān Vārsaganya says in his exposition of Yogasāstra that the substratum of the gunas, the Ātman, is not an 'object' of experience. That which is an 'object' of experience, is indeed illusory; in fact, it does not exist at all]

This points out the slender difference between the *pradhāna* as believed to be conceived of by the *Sānkhyas* and the *avyakta* or *avyākrta* of the Vedānta. The *Bhās ya* on the *Brahmasūtra* (1-4-1-3) तद्धीनत्वादर्थवत्। says—

यदि वय खतन्त्रां काञ्चित्प्रागवस्था जगतः कारणत्वेनाम्युपगच्छेम, प्रसञ्जयेम तदा प्रधानकारणवादम् । परमेश्वराधीना त्वियमस्माभिः प्रागवस्था जगतोऽभ्युपगम्यते । न खतन्त्रा ।

[Should we admit some independent primal state as the cause of the world, we shall be implicitly admitting the theory of *pradhāna* as the cause. What we admit, however, is only a primal state dependent on the Supreme Lord and not an independent one; only then would it be purposeful.]

Again as to how the concepts of mahat and ahankāra of the Sānkhyas can be taken over into the Vedāntic scheme as equivalent to the concepts of iksana and sankalpa has already been referred to.

(b) Nyaya and Vaiseshika

Since, just as in the case of the Sānkhyas etc, even according to the schools of Nyāya, Vaišesika etc., liberation results from knowledge, and from the standpoint of the liberated, the world characterised as non-Self does not exist apart from the individual, they too must necessarily admit, like the Sankhyas etc , the non-duality of Self and the illusory nature of the world. Liberation being coveted as more beneficial than the positions of Biahma, Indra etc, greatest happiness is in liberation though not explicitly stated as such They speak of the non-existence of knowledge as well in liberation, in this sense that there is no knowledge whatsoever of anything that is different from Atman like the mind, senses, body, objects etc, of the world. Consciousness that is Atman is absolutely nirvikalpaka i.e., It has no objective characteristics and hence there is no knowledge categorised as a quality in their system That liberation ensues from right knowledge which dispels the illusory knowledge is expressed by their own sūtras-

तत्त्वज्ञानान्निःश्रेयसाधिगमः । दुःखजन्मप्रवृत्तिदोषमिथ्याज्ञानानामुत्त-रोत्तरापाये तदनन्तरापायादपवर्गः। (1–1–2)

[Liberation results from the removal of the illusory knowledge, which in turn, results in the successive removal of defects (like attachment, repulsion etc.,), activity, birth and misery.]

Srī Udayanācārya, the great logician, when dealing with the Buddhist logicians points out the discrepancy in their sūnyavāda by such statements as—

> न ग्राह्यमेदमवधूय धियोऽस्ति वृत्तिः। तद्वाधके बल्लिनि वेदनये जयश्रीः॥

[Without an external object, there can be no knowledge relating to it Thumping victory crowns only the impregnable Vedāntic set-up which alone shows that the external world is sublated only on the dawn of the knowledge of the Substratum.] and प्रविश वाऽनिर्वचनीयख्यातिकुक्षिम्, तिष्ठ वा मतिकर्दममपहाय ।

[Enter the fold of the anirvacaniyakhyāti of the Vedäntins or remain quiet by cleansing your mind of your untenable speculations.]

That his anxiety is particularly in saving people from atheism and in providing the ground for taking eventually to the Vedāntic discipline, is made clear by the above statements as also by the statement—किमाईक्वणिजो वहित्रचिन्त्या ? [What has a ginger-trader to do with a sea-going vessel ?] when comparing his own system with Vedānta. Even the great logicians Gangeśopādhyāya and Raghunāthabhaṭṭācārya have made clear in the invocations respectively in their compositions that their sole purport is in Brahman of the Vedānta, which, though by Itself transcends the three gunas, appears to be associated with them because of upādhi and which is secondless, impartite Bliss and Consciousness—

गुणातीतोऽपीशस्तिगुणसचिवः । and अखण्डानन्दवोधाय पूर्णाय परमात्मने ॥

Likewise, that the purport of Annambhatta, the author of the Tarkasangrahadi pikā is also in Vedānta, is indicated by his choice of the Mahāvākya 'That thou art' to exemplify the jahadajahallakṣaṇā and his concluding statement in the Dīpikā that the purpose of the Tarkasangraha is in aiding manana i.e., contemplation on what is learnt from Śruti i.e., śravaṇa, as per the Śruti—

> आत्मा वा अरे द्रष्टव्यः श्रोतव्यो मन्तव्यो निदिध्यासितव्यः। (Br. U. 2-4-5)

(c) Purvamimamsa

Śrī Kumārilabhatțapāda, expounder of the Pūrvamīmāmsāśāstra observes in his Ślokavārtika (1-10)---

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प्रायेणैव हि मीमासा लोके लोकायतीकृता ।

तामास्तिकपथे कर्तुमयं यतः कृतो मया॥

[For the most part, in the world the *Mīmāmsā* has been rendered materialistic as it were My effort is to expose its character that is anti-atheistic.]

Again, in the Ślokavārtika (Ātmavāda-148) he observes-

इत्याह नास्तिक्यनिराकरिष्णुरात्मास्तिता भाष्यकृदत्र युक्त्या ।

दृढत्वमेतद्विषयश्च बोधः प्रयाति वेदान्तनिषेवणेन ॥

[Bhās yakāra Śrī Śabarasvāmīpāda has, through reasoning, established the existence of Self, with the intention of refuting the atheistic school. Firm conviction of this knowledge of Self ensues from the study of the Vedānta.]

The real intention behind the refutation of the existence of Isvara in the Slokavārtika, must be deemed to be the refutation of the view that Isvara can be established through inference, and not in the non-acceptance of Isvara, as is seen from the invocatory verse of the Slokavārtika wherein he pays obeisance to Him as adorned by the crescent Moon, with the three Vedas as the divine eyes, the embodiment of Pure Consciousness, the bestower of Bliss—

विशुद्धज्ञानदेहाय त्रिवेदीदिव्यचक्षुषे ।

श्रेयःप्राप्तिनिमित्ताय नमः सोमार्धधारिणे ॥

Also, Śiī Prabhākaramiśrapāda in his commentary Brhatī on Šābarabhās ya says---

यस्तु ब्रह्मविदामेष निश्चयो यदुपछभ्यते न तत्तथ्यमिति, यन्नोपछभ्यते, तत्तथ्यमिति, नमस्तेभ्यः, विदुषा नोत्तरं वाष्यम् । and

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यदुक्तं अहङ्कारममकारौ अनात्मन्यात्माभिमानाविति, मृदितकषायाणा-मेवैतत्कथनीयम्, न कर्मसङ्गिनामित्युपरम्यते । आह च भगवान् द्वैपायनः 'न वुद्धिमेदं जनयेदज्ञाना कर्मसङ्गिनाम्' इति रहस्याधिकारे । तस्मान्न विवृतमत्र भाष्यकारेण भगवतो वचनानुरोधात्, नाज्ञानात् ।

[As regards the conclusion arrived at by the knowers of Brahman—that which is an 'object' of knowledge is not the Reality and that which can never be an 'object' is the Reality we prostrate before them May nothing be said after the wise have expressed themselves.

As regards the statement that the feeling of 'I' and of 'mine' in the non-Self is due to superimposition, it applies only to those whose minds are cleansed of passions, but not to those who are attached to action. So says Bhagavān Dvaipāyana in the *Rahasyādhikāra*—' The wise should not confuse the minds of the ignorant who are devoted to the path of action' Thus it is that Śrī Śabarasvāmipāda in his *Bhāsya* has not gone into the details of this aspect, in accordance with the instruction of the Lord, and not because he was not aware of it.]

Again in the Vyākarana section of the Tantiavārtika, for example, is to be found statements pertaining to liberation, Self, Knowledge and action which are all in accordance with the Vedāntic set-up. In this connection it is seen that often the Mimāmsakas maintain the view—

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यन्न दुःखेन संभिन्न न च प्रस्तमनन्तरम् ।
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अभिलाषोपनीत च तत्सुखं खःपदास्पदम् ॥

[That Bliss which is not mixed with sorrow or eclipsed by any other mental state, which has no cessation and which is available for the mere wish, is heaven.]

which is the viewpoint of Sruti.

Śrī Madhusūdanasarasvatīpāda in his Advaitaiatnaraksanam, in the section showing that the ultimate purport of the Śrutis like 'The aspirant after heaven must perform sacrifice ' is in Advaita alone, impresses on the Mimāmsakas thus—

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तथा च त्वदुपन्यस्तं प्रमाण रुदन्तमपि त्वा द्वैतरागिणमद्वैतमेव बोधयतीति परिभावय।

[Likewise, know well that the *Śrutipramāna* quoted by you yourself teaches you *Advaita* alone in spite of your protests and your attachments to *dvaita*.]

Thus all the great Mimāmsakas have made it abundantly clear, without any speck of doubt, that their purport is in Advaita and that the Mimāmsāśāstra operates keeping in view only the less qualified people who have not overcome attachment.

(d) Dharmasastra

Referring to the Dharmasastra, it is seen by way of example, that the Yajñavalkyasmyti (1~8) says-

इञ्याचारदमाहिंसादानखाध्यायकर्मणाम् ।

अयं तु परमो धर्मों यद्योगेनात्मदर्शनम् ॥

[Of all the *karmas* such as sacrifices, conduct, control of senses, non-violence, gift, learning of one's own branch of Śruti etc, this is the supreme *Dharma* which is seeing Ātman by means of *yoga*.]

Says the Manusmrti-

सर्वेषामपि चैतेषामात्मज्ञान परं स्मृतम् । तद्वचग्र्य सर्वविद्याना प्राप्यते ह्यमृतं ततः ॥ (12–85) सर्वभूतेषु चात्मान सर्वभूतानि चात्मनि । समं पश्यन्नात्मयाजी खाराज्यमधिगच्छति ॥ (12–91) एतदि जन्मसाफल्य ब्राह्मणस्य विशेषतः । प्राप्यैतत्कृतकृत्यो हि द्विजो भवति नान्यथा ॥ (12–93) आत्मैव देवताः सर्वाः सर्वमात्मन्यवस्थितम् । (12–119) [The knowledge of Ātman is considered superior to all these This is the foremost of all disciplines, immortality is secured from it. Seeing himself in all, and all in himself, and seeing Brahman everywhere, the seeker of Self secures the kingdom of Self. This is the fruitfulness of one's life—specially of a *Brāhmana*. He is verily the twice-born who secures this fruit and thus fulfils all his duties in life, and none other All gods are verily Ātman Itself, everything is established in Ātman]

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These illustrations serve to show that the exponents of *Dharmasāstra* have themselves made explicit statements to the effect that the ultimate aim of the practice of *dharma* is in the realisation of Brahman-Ātman

(e) Agamas

That the purport of all $\bar{A}gamas$ delineating various deities and devotional practices is also in *Brahmāvidyā* is seen from their own statements. Sarvaj**n**ānottara, an authority in respect of Savvāgamas says—

> योऽसौ सर्वेषु वेदेषु पठ्यते ह्यज ईश्वरः । अकायो निर्गुणो ह्यात्मा सोऽहमस्मि न संशयः ॥ अहमात्मा शिवो ह्यन्यः परमात्मेति यः स्मृतः । एवं यो भावयेन्मोहान्न शिवत्वमवामुयात् ॥

[I am indeed He who is spoken of in all the Vedas as the unborn Lord, Ātman Himself, devoid of body and qualities. There is no doubt about this.

He who, out of delusion, thinks that he is Self and that Siva the Supreme Lord is indeed different from him, will not attain Sivahood.]

The Suprabhedāgama says---यथा जल्न जले क्षिप्त क्षीरे क्षीरं घृते घृतम् । अविशेष भवेत्तद्वदात्माऽपि परमात्मनि ॥ 6.12

[As water poured in water, milk in milk or ghee in ghee, so also jīva merging in Šiva becomes non-different.]

In the Pañcarātrāgama are found statements such as-अय प्रपन्नो मिथ्यैव सत्य ब्रह्माहमद्वयम् । तत्र प्रमाणं वेदान्ता गुरुः स्नानुभवस्तया ॥ (Nāradapāñcarātra) द्वैत नास्तीति वोधेन मनसो द्वैतनाशनम् । एतदन्तो हि संसारो ब्रह्मनेव विचारय ॥ सगुणोपासनं तावत्साधनं निर्गुणस्य तु । ब्रह्मविद्भवति ब्रह्म इत्येषा च परा श्रतिः ॥ (Brahmasamhtā)

[This world is only illusory, the truth is that I am the secondless Brahman The Vedāntas, the Guru as also one's own experience are the *pramānas* in this respect.

On the dawn of the realisation that there is no duality, the duality of the mind is destroyed. This is the end of samsāra O Brāhmana ! enquire on these lines

Meditation on the qualified leads to the one that is devoid of qualities The knower of Brahman is Brahman The great Śruti also declares this]

(f) Saktatantra

Those who follow the $S\bar{a}kta$ school also hold Advatta as the ultimate truth All the seed-letters end in bindu, the material cause of all principles. The $S\bar{a}ktatantra$ texts also say—

मिथ्याजगदधिष्ठाना, ब्रह्मात्मैक्यखरूपिणी, निर्भेदा, भेदनाशिनी, अहमित्येव विभावयेन्महेशीम् etc.

[She who is the Substratum of the illusory world, whose svarūpa is Brahman-Ātman, the One without distinction, the one who destroys differences, the Supreme Goddess should be meditated upon thus alone · 'I am She'.]

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(g) Vyakarana

Again, the subject of grammar which has been known to occupy itself with the correct usage of words, has also a philosophical development as is seen from the works of the great grammarians, Pānini, Vararuci, Patañjali, Bhartrhari etc A few examples may be considered Says Bhartrhari—

> अनादिनिधन ब्रह्म शब्दतत्त्व यदक्षरम् । विवर्ततेऽर्थभावेन प्रक्रिया जगतो यतः ॥

[The immutable Brahman without beginning or end is the sum and substance of all sound The world of objects denoted by words is an apparent transfiguration of this Brahman]

> सम्बन्धिमेदात् सत्तैव भिद्यमाना गवादिषु । जातिरित्युच्यते तस्या सर्वे शब्दा व्यवस्थिताः ॥ ता प्रातिपदिकार्थ च धात्वर्थ च प्रचक्षते । सा नित्या सा महानात्मा तामाह्रस्त्वतळादयः ॥

[Existence which differs from animal to animal as in cows by virtue of the difference in its association is called genus $(j\bar{a}ti)$, all words are based upon it This alone is referred to as the meaning of the stem and verbal root That is the eternal and Supreme Self The suffixes 'tva', 'tal' etc, pertain to It]

The above statement of Bhartrhari is from the viewpoint of Śrī Śrī Vyājapyāyahācārya who accepts genus $(j\bar{a}ti)$ as what is denoted by a word.

Bhartrharı agaın gives expression to the viewpoint of Śrī Vyādı who accepts the individual as what is denoted by a word—

> सत्य वस्तु तदाकारैरसत्यैरवधार्यते । असत्योपाधिभिः शब्दै[.] सत्यमेवाभिधीयते ॥

अधुवेण निमित्तेन देवदत्तगृह यथा । गृहीतं गृहशब्देन शुद्धमेवाभिधीयते ॥

[The real object is made known through unreal ones which have the appearance of the Real. By words which act as the unreal adjuncts, the Real alone is expressed. Just as the house of Devadatta is made known by an incidental entity—*upalaksana* serving as a pointer (eg, a crow), the word 'house' e.g., indicates the Pure Brahman Itself.]

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Śrī Vıdyāranyacarana says ın the Sarvadaršanasangraha (13-234)—

भाष्यकारेणापि 'सिद्धे शब्दार्थसम्बन्धे ' इत्येतद्वार्तिकव्याख्यानावसरे ' द्रव्य हि नित्यम् ' इत्यनेन प्रन्थेनासत्योपाध्यवच्छिन्न ब्रह्मतत्त्व द्रव्यशब्द-वाच्य सर्वशब्दार्थ इति निरूपितम् ।

[Commenting on the Vārtika ' word, its meaning, and the relation between them being eternal ' Bhagavān Patañjali states----'The meaning of a word is the individual itself which is eternal' by which he implies (as Śrī Kaiyata clarifies) that it is Brahman Itself as delimited by an unreal adjunct that is the connotation of every word]

6.12.7 Different Expositions due to Adhikaribheda; Each has an in-built secret exit leading to Brahmavidya

In respect of this variety of exposition, says the Sūtasamhitā (Yajñavaibhavakhanda 22-22 to 26)—

अतोऽधिकारिभेदेन मार्गा मानं न संशयः ॥

ईश्वरस्य खरूपे च बन्धहेतौ तथैव च । जगतः कारणे मुक्तौ ज्ञानादौ च तथैव च ॥ मार्गाणां ये विरुद्धाशा वेदान्तेन विचक्षणाः । तेऽपि मन्दमतीना हि महामोहावृतात्मनाम् । बाञ्छामात्रान्ग्रण्येन प्रवृत्ता न यथार्थतः ॥

दर्शयित्वा तृण मर्ल्शो धावन्तीं गा यथाऽग्रहीत् ॥ दर्शयित्वा तथा क्षुद्रमिष्ट पूर्वं महेश्वरः । पश्चात्पाकानुगुण्येन ददाति ज्ञानमुत्तमम् ॥

[Therefore all paths are valid because of the difference in the competency of the seekers, there is no doubt about this As regards the aspects of these systems that are contradictory to Vedānta such as the real nature of Īśvara, cause of bondage, cause of the world, liberation, knowledge etc, they are meant for those of less intellectual and mental calibre, steeped in great illusion But these contradictions are not real Like a man who can control a running cow by showing grass, the Supreme Lord shows some trivial object of desire (to those ignorant men) and confers upon them the highest knowledge later, according to their maturity.]

From all this it is clear that the principal purport of all the systems mentioned is in Brahman-Ātman of the Vedānta The differences in expositions are because of the differences in the equipment of the seekers Their intention in not revealing their main purport as such is in conformity with the dictum given expression to by Bhagavān Vasistha—

अज्ञस्यार्धप्रवुद्धस्य सर्व ब्रह्मेति यो वटेत् ।

महानिरयजालेषु स तेन विनियोजितः ॥

[He who preaches to the ignorant and the half-learned that everything is Brahman, verily entangles him in a mesh of horrible hells]

The concepts and the method of instruction have been designed carefully in each case, to provide for a path leading eventually to *Brahmavidyā* in the manner of the secret exit provided by Vidura enabling the Pāndavas to escape from the house of wax wherein if they had remained, they would have been burnt up By way of

example may be cited the Nyāyavaišesika concepts ofsamavāya as being one only, atyantābhāva (absolute nor existence), differences in one and the same entity due t upādhis like the organs of hearing in different livin beings as associated with one and the same ākāša, dvyaņuk as arising from the untenable imaginary contact of tw partless paramānus—

> कणादः पारिमाण्डल्यसंयोगाद्द्वचणुककमात् । जगदुरप्रेक्षयन् मायावादसादरमानसः ॥

The Sānkhya concept of prakrts, the pradhāna th unmanifest state of the manifest world, is virtually th same as the concept of Māyā except for this differenc that prakrts is not spoken of by them as the power c Isvara and it is not said to be sublated by knowledge This shows the close proximity of Sānkhya to Vedānta So also the notion of Purusa of the nature of Conscious ness. Again it may be recalled that all the systems spea of jñāna as the means for liberation which is hardl distinguishable from that according to Vedānta Again Śrī Appayyadīksitapāda says in the Nyāyarakṣāmani in connection with the Brahmasūtra (1-3-3-12)—

स्फोट चेतनमपि केचिदम्युपगच्छन्ति शब्दब्रह्माद्वैतवादिनः, तन्मतानु सारेण प्रशासनमपि स्फोटस्योपपद्यत इत्याशङ्कचाह—अन्यभावव्यावृत्तेश्व एव चेत् ब्रह्म स्फोट इति नाममात्रे मेदः स्यात्, न वस्तुनि, मुक्त्यन्वयि सकळ्जीवामेद जडप्रपश्चराहित्य चानम्युपगम्य स्फोटाद्वैतोपपादनायोगात्

[Some of those who teach the non-dual Śabda-Brahman, accep a sphota that is sentient According to them, it is reasonable to attribute even the mighty rule to the sphota. If that be so, the difference between Brahman and sphota is only in respect o nomenclature, not in substance, as those who establish by reason

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the non-duality of *sphota* have perforce to accept non-difference of jivas and the negation of the insentient world in final emancipation]

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