

erated the universe. The first manifestation of Brahman in time and space is known as Hiranyagarbha, Prāna, or Sutrātmā. Literally, these terms mean the "Golden Egg," "Life," and the "Cosmic Soul," or Ātman, which pervades the universe as a thread runs through a garland. Hiranyagarbha produced from its mind the first four created beings, namely Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanātana, and Sanatkumāra. It intended them to participate in the creation. However, endowed from their very birth with self-control, detachment, and the spirit of austerity, they went straightway to the forest and devoted themselves to meditation. Then Hiranyagarbha produced seven sages and four Manus, all from its mind, and ordered them to people the world with animate and inanimate beings. Having been created with a little worldly instinct, they carried out the command of their creator. The seven great rishis, or sages, were the original teachers of spiritual wisdom. The Manus were the rulers of the world and were endowed with lordly powers. Because their thoughts were directed to the Lord, the sages and the Manus were endowed with wisdom and power. The present inhabitants of the world, according to Hindu mythology, have descended from these primeval personages and inherited their wisdom.

*The result of knowing these glories of the Lord:*

7

He who knows in truth this glory and power of Mine acquires unshakable devotion; of this there is no doubt.

Glory—The vast extent of the Lord's being. The knowledge of the Lord is infinite.

Power—The omniscience of the Lord, as also His ability to achieve mighty things. The power and wisdom of the rishis and the Manus, referred to in the previous verse, is only a fraction of the Lord's infinite power and wisdom.

Unshakable devotion—This devotion is often compared

to the anvil in a blacksmith's shop. In spite of repeated hammer-blows the anvil remains unshaken. Likewise, the true devotee of the Lord remains unshaken in his love of God in spite of the occasional doubts inevitable in spiritual life. Such devotion leads to the Knowledge of the Absolute.

*The nature of this unshakable devotion:*

8

I am the origin of all; from Me all things evolve. The wise know this and worship Me with all their heart.

The Supreme Brahman, manifested in the relative world as the Lord Krishna, is the Source and the Ultimate Cause of the whole universe. The moral and physical laws controlling and sustaining the activities in the universe are manifestations of His glory and power. He is the inner Regulator of all beings; hence He alone controls the universe in all its changes, including creation and destruction, action, results, and experiences. In short, He is the power behind the evolution of the cosmos. The universe without the Lord is empty and non-existent, like a mirage without the desert, or a dream without a dreaming mind. Thus realizing the emptiness of the world by itself and knowing the Lord as the Self of all, the Cause of all, the Omniscient Master of all, the wise set themselves to the task of knowing Him alone. The more they know Him, the more they love Him with all their heart. Through love and knowledge, earnestness and reverence, they gradually attain Self-knowledge.

*Worship of the Lord through love:*

9

With their thought fixed on Me, with their life absorbed in Me, enlightening one another about Me,