

The Science of Upanishads - Part 17: Why Did God Create The Universe?

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If Brahman (Paramatman) has no beginning, no end, no form, no shape, no gender, no mind, no ego or none of the qualities and characteristics of any living beings, then why did He (Note: the gender assigned just for the sake of discussion) ever create this universe? What for did He have to put us all through the devastating pains, sufferings, injuries, diseases, and death that are conspicuous characteristics of all living beings of this universe? Is it simply a child's play and fun for Brahman? A cursory glance through the literature via Google search offers numerous answers for this question. But this where Hindu Philosophy distinguishes itself from all other eastern and western philosophies!

What do our Upanishads say on this subject? Upanishads explain the creation and destruction of the universe by giving an example of a spider that projects its web and then later swallows it inside. Upanishads describe the creation of the universe as simply the **dream of Brahman, referred to as Maya**, which is the one responsible for projecting the cosmos. When the dream ends, so does the cosmos. **So, in essence, the Universe does not exist at all! It is all Maya, an illusion!** Therefore, **while Brahman is invisible as Nirguna-Nirvikara (devoid of qualities, shape or form), He is also visible as Saguna in Maya** with the manifested forms, shapes, and three qualities (triguna) including Sattva, Raja, and Tama for the ones who seek Him. **The overall take-home message from Upanishads is: God did not inflict any pains, injuries, diseases sufferings or death did not physically create any universe. The universe is simply His transient dream, called Maya, which is a total illusion but is manifested as a reality. To find or unite with the Brahman, one has to cross the boundaries of Maya!**

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