

प्रकाशक्रियास्थितिशीलं भूतन्द्रियात्मकं भोगापवर्गाथं दृश्यम् ।१८।

II.18 prakāśa kriyā sthiti śīlam
bhūtendriyātmakam bhogāpavargārtham
dṛśyam

<i>prakāśa</i>	brightness, brilliance, clearness, splendour, elucidation, lustre
<i>kriyā</i>	action, study, investigation
<i>sthiti</i>	steadiness, firmness, steadfastness, being
<i>śīlam</i>	disposition, virtue, character, piety
<i>bhūtam</i>	elements
<i>indriya</i>	the eleven senses: mind, five senses of perception, five organs of action
<i>ātmakam</i>	the nature or essence of a thing, being composed of
<i>bhoga</i>	enjoyment of pleasures
<i>apavarga</i>	emancipation, liberation
<i>artham</i>	means, purpose
<i>dṛśyam</i>	knowable, seen

Nature, its three qualities, sattva, rajas and tamas, and its evolutes, the elements, mind, senses of perception and organs of action, exist eternally to serve the seer, for enjoyment or emancipation.

The visible objective world consists of elements of nature and senses of perception comprising three qualities or attributes (*guṇas*), which are illumination, motion or action, and inertia or dormancy. All these exist eternally to serve the seer (the subject) for the purpose of experiencing the pleasures and infatuations (objects) of the world, or for emancipation.

This sūtra describes the characteristics, actions and uses of nature (*prakṛti*).

The three attributes of nature are *sattva*, *rajas* and *tamas*. When one mixes with another, it is subdivided into *sattva* in *sattva* (*sattvo-sattva*), *sattva* in *rajas* (*sattva-rajas*) and *sattva* in *tamas* (*sattva-tamas*). Similarly, *rajas* is divided into *rajo-sattva*, *rajo-rajas* and *rajo-tamas* and *tamas* into *tamo-sattva*, *tamo-rajas* and *tamo-tamas*. According to Patañjali, *sattva*, *rajas* and *tamas* represent *prakāśa*, *kriyā* and *sthiti*. These attributes have their own virtues for example, *prakāśa* or brilliance or splendour is *sattva*; *kriyā* or study, investigation and action is *rajas*; and the essence of the being resting as *sthiti* or dormancy is *tamas*.

All these attributes and virtues are established in the elements of nature, senses, mind, intelligence and ego. Together they function harmoniously in

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the form of illumination, action and inertia, allowing the seer to enjoy the world's pleasures (*bhoga*); or by divesting himself of them, to experience liberation.

The seer is clothed with five sheaths (*kośas*), by the elements of nature: earth, water, fire, air and ether. Earth represents the anatomical, water the physiological, fire the mental, air the intellectual and ether the spiritual sheaths. The organs of action and senses of perception aid the *sādhaka* in purifying the anatomical and physiological sheaths through *yama* and *niyama*. *Āsana*, *prāṇāyāma* and *pratyāhāra* divest the seer of the mental sheath; *dhāraṇā* and *dhyāna* cleanse the intellectual sheath. *Samādhi* brings the seer out through the prison-gates of all the sheaths to experience freedom and beatitude. (See Table 8.)

विशेषाविशेषलिङ्गमात्रालिङ्गानि गुणपर्वणि १९१।

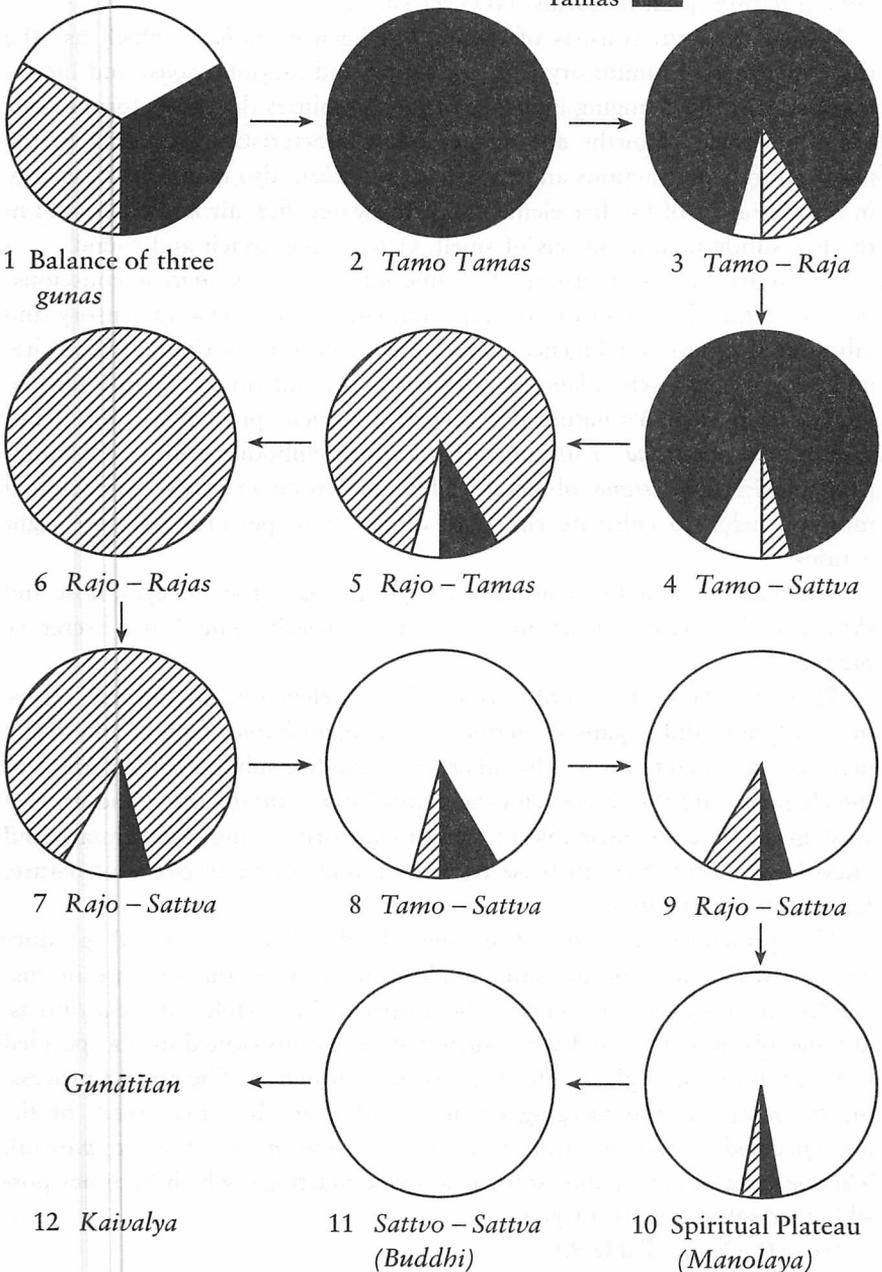
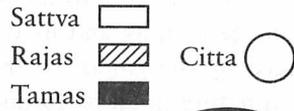
II.19 viśeṣa aviśeṣa liṅgamātra aliṅgāni guṇaparvāṇi

<i>viśeṣa</i>	the art of distinguishing or discriminating, a state of being especial, a mark
<i>aviśeṣa</i>	uniform, alike, without any difference, unspecified state
<i>liṅgamātra</i>	indicator, mark, sign (chief mark or indication of <i>prakṛti</i> , that is, the cosmic intelligence – <i>mahat</i>), phenomenal, directly apprehended, observed
<i>aliṅgāni</i>	without mark, without sign, non-primary matter or unevolved matter, unknown and unknowable substance or thing as it is in itself, the noumenal
<i>guṇaparvāṇi</i>	changes in qualities

The guṇas generate their characteristic divisions and energies in the seer. Their stages are distinguishable and non-distinguishable, differentiable and non-differentiable.

This sūtra analyses nature (*prakṛti*) by identifying the progressive layers of its manifestation, from the most specific and definable up through the non-specific and non-distinguished and back to the undifferentiated or universal.

Table 8: *The evolution of citta*



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To release ourselves from the confines of nature, we have to be familiar with its geography and its divisions, and with how these are affected and changed by the *guṇas*, so that we can understand the internal rules that govern nature in all its forms, however subtle.

Nature (*prakṛti*) consists of cosmic intelligence (*mahat*), which has the three qualities of luminosity (*sattva*), action and motion (*rajas*) and inertia (*tamas*). It is the changing influence of these qualities that gives form to our life in its cycle of births and shapes our characteristics according to the nature of our past actions and experiences. *Prakṛti* also manifests its energy in the character of the five elements: earth, water, fire, air and ether; and in the five subtle manifestations of smell, taste, shape, touch and sound.

The individual counterpart of cosmic intelligence (*mahat*) is consciousness, or *citta*. *Citta* consists of mind (*manas*), which reviews sensory and vibrational stimuli; intelligence (*buddhi*), which is the discriminative faculty; and ego or small self (*ahamkāra*) which is the individual 'I'. In addition, hidden deep in man's nature is a powerful hidden spiritual weapon: 'conscience' (*antaḥkaraṇa* or *dharmendriya*) which embodies ethical and moral principles. *Antaḥkaraṇa* observes right and wrong in one's conduct and motives, helps to cultivate *citta* and directs it to perform only the right actions.

There are also the five senses of perception – ears, tongue, eyes, nose and skin, and five organs of action – legs, arms, speech, genital and excretory organs.

These are the principles of *prakṛti*. The five elements, intelligence, senses of perception and organs of action are distinguishable, that is, physically manifest in concrete form. The other parts, the five subtle manifestations of the elements and the 'I' consciousness (*ahamkāra*, *antaḥkaraṇa* and *asmitā*) exist in a non-distinguishable or vibrational form, being non-primary and unevolved matter. Yet, all these revolve around the three *guṇas* of nature: *tamas*, *rajas* and *sattva*.

The principles (*tattvas*) of distinguishable elements (*viśeṣa*) produce changes which may be pleasant, unpleasant or stuporous (a state of suspended or deadened sensibility). The unspecified principles (*aviśeṣa tattvas*) are unevolved matter, and when such matter is transformed into a specified state, creation takes place. This is called *pravṛttimārga*. The reverse process, *nivṛtti mārga*, is the merging of the specified in the unspecified, of the non-specified in and of nature (see I.45) into the universal spirit (*puruṣa*). The merging of nature into spirit is a divine marriage, which becomes possible through the work of yoga.

(See III.13 and Table 9.)