

Ekashloki

Kim Jyotis-tava Bhanuman-ahani-me-ratrau Pradip-adikam,

Sya-devam Ravi Dipa Darshana Vidhau Kim Jyoti-rakhyahime !

Cakshus-tasya Nimilanadi Samame Kim Dhirdhiyo Darshane,

Kim Tatra-ham-ato Bhavan-paramakam-jyotis-tadasmī Prabho !!

This **Ekashloki** is a dialogue between a Guru and a Disciple. In this conversation, as the Guru asks questions, the disciple reflects deeply to provide answers. Through this, the truth of "Who am I?" is realized.

The Dialogue: Guru and Disciple

Guru: "O Disciple, what provides you light during the day?"

Disciple: "Master, the Sun gives light during the day, and lamps provide light at night."

Here, the disciple speaks of external, physical light. This is a common, worldly observation.

Guru: "But, what is the light that perceives the Sun and the lamps?"

The Guru asks the disciple to look inward. He shifts focus from the "Object" (the Sun) to the "Subject" (the Witness).

Disciple: "It is my eye that sees that light." *The disciple is still at the physical level.*

Guru: "Good. But when the eyes are closed, or when there is no eyesight, what is it that sees?" *This question pushes the disciple deeper. Even with closed eyes, we see dreams and thoughts. What perceives them?*

Disciple: "When the eyes are closed, my **Buddhi** (Intellect/Mind) sees."

Now the disciple has transcended the physical body and reached the level of the mind. But even this is not the final answer, as the intellect is also just an instrument.

Guru: "What is it that perceives even the Intellect?" *With this ultimate question, the disciple's thoughts come to a standstill. He realizes there is a power that observes even the thoughts.*

Disciple: "That which perceives even the intellect is 'I'. **I am that Supreme, True Light.**"

Here, the disciple realizes that "I" is the Consciousness—the Witness of everything. Finally, he experiences: "I am that Supreme Radiance."

Explanation through Advaita

This dialogue explains the Advaita philosophy very simply:

- **From Duality to Unity:** The disciple initially sees different objects—Sun, lamps, eye, and intellect. This is the sense of duality (**Dvaita**).
- **Oneness:** Finally, he understands that the power perceiving all these diverse things is One, and that power is "I". He realizes that the Jiva (the seeker) and the Paramatma (the Supreme Light) are one.
- **From Ego to Consciousness:** Realizing that "I" does not refer to the ego, but to the Ultimate Consciousness.

In this manner, through this single shloka, the Guru transmits the experience of the **Mahavakya**—"I am that Supreme Light"—to the disciple. It is believed that Adi Sankaracharya used this to simplify complex knowledge for his students.

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