



## There Exists One Only

In an ocean, there are innumerable waves of different shapes and sizes, different characteristics and life spans. Each wave has its own separate identity, its own existence. You can observe them dancing and playing. You can distinguish them, identify them, photograph them, you can hear them roaring. Even when you are watching these waves of different individual shapes, sizes and characteristics, do you see anything other than the ocean? What is the origin of these waves? From where they have emerged? Do they have separate individuality? When they broke away, where they went?

Each wave arose from the ocean. When it momentarily existed as a seemingly separate identity, it was always supported by the ocean and always remained a part of the ocean. It never had an existence independent of the ocean. When it subsided, it merged back into the ocean only. Thus ocean is its *adi*, *Madhya* and *antah* – the beginning, middle and the end. The ocean is the only real existence. The apparent multiplicity in the form of waves has no ultimate reality. No other thing besides the ocean ever exists. Like the wave being ever no other than the ocean, the individual soul is no other than That.

There is such a large variety of clothes with different colours and different designs. But beyond all these forms, what exists is only cotton *tattva* – nothing exists other than cotton. If you go to a big pottery store, you find hundreds of different articles of different sizes, and different names and forms – big, small, delicate, artistic, decorative, utilitarian. Even when you are seeing these variegated types of pottery articles you are looking at one thing only the clay. You may give different names to pots, but they are nothing other than clay. There are different ornaments, but Goldsmith sees nothing other than gold.

In spite of so many variegated manifestations of that *Tattva* in different names and forms, beyond all these multifarious names and forms, there is only one Existence. Like the analogies of pot, cloth, etc. “*ghat-pat-adi nyayavat*” – there exists only one *Tattva*, even though seemingly there are so many. Brahman is *ekameva-advitiyam* – the one and the only Existence, without a second. So, your soul is no other than That only.

You are the *Brahma-tattva* only.

■ *Swami Chidananda*