

Sri Aurobindo's Interpretation of *Bhagavad Gītā* 8.3-4

Adhiyajñah=Aham (Krishna)=Puruṣottama (15.17) as “Lord of works & sacrifice”

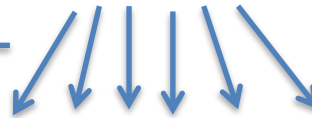
Tadbrahma=Paramam Akṣaram
=“immutable self-existence”
=impersonal Brahman (292)
=Akṣaraḥ Puruṣaḥ (15.16)

Parā Prakṛtiḥ=“higher spiritual
Shakti” of Puruṣottama (293)

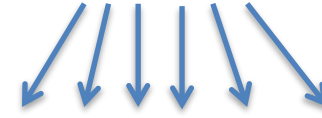


Adhyātmam=svabhāvaḥ=jīvabhūta-parā-prakṛtiḥ (7.5)
=“the spiritual nature of the Jiva” (293)=aṁśa of Puruṣottama (15.7)

Karma=Bhūtabhāvodbhavakaraḥ visargaḥ
=“creative energy” of Śakti
(293) based on law of
karma (294)



Adhibhūtam=Kṣaraḥ
bhāvaḥ=Aparā Prakṛtiḥ
(physical elements, mind,
buddhi, ahaṅkāra, etc.)



Adhidaivam=Puruṣa in
Kṣara=“soul in Nature”=
“the enjoying and observing
Deity in Nature” (293)



Kṣaraḥ Puruṣaḥ (15.16)

Traditional and Modern Interpretations of *Bhagavad Gītā* 8.3–4

Term	Śaṅkara	Rāmānuja	Sw. Tapasyananda	Sri Aurobindo
1. Tadbrahma	Paramātmā	Essential form of self separate from Prakṛti (jīva=kṣetrajña)	“Supreme as the Impersonal Being” (228); Akṣara, the Supreme Immutable Being (217)	Immutable self-existence, impersonal Brahman (Akṣara Puruṣa of BG 15)
2. Adhyātma	Indwelling of Supreme Brahman in every body	Body & mind (Prakṛtiḥ)	Jīva, the transmigrating self (217), a spark of the Divine Fire (229); “Indwelling Spirit” (215)	Svabhāva, the Jiva in its essential spiritual nature; the “soul in the Supreme Nature”
3. Karma	Sacrificial offerings to devatās	Seminal discharge for purposes of reproduction	1. Creative will of God 2. Sexual intercourse (R.) 3. Vedic sacrifice (Ś.)	Creative impulse and energy of Parā Prakṛtiḥ
4. Adhibhūta	All perishable things in the physical plane	Perishable existences	Aparā Prakṛtiḥ (changeable nature): “My perishable manifestation” (215)	All the result of mutable becoming=Aparā Prakṛtiḥ
5. Adhidaiva	Hiraṇyagarbha	Collectivity of all jīvas	1. Hiraṇyagarbha (Ś.) or “cosmic soul” (218) or 2. Collectivity of all individual spirits (R.)	Puruṣa, the soul in nature who observes and enjoys mutable becoming (Puruṣa in Kṣara)
6. Adhiyajña	Entity existing in sacrifices, which is Vishnu [“Yajño vai viṣṇuḥ”]	Devatās propitiated in sacrifices—Indra etc.—who form body of Krishna	Supreme Being, the Deity to Whom all sacrifices are offered	Puruṣottama, the Lord of works and sacrifice