

ॐ Two passages from Hindu scriptures ¹

From *Kena Upaniṣad*

[Question:] *The real agent in the individual?*

1. By whose command soars forth the mind projected?
By whose wish goes forth the first breathing?
By whom are we caused to utter this speech?
What god enjoins the eye? The ear?

[Answer:] *The all-conditioning, yet inscrutable agent, Brahman*

2. That [*Brahman*] is the hearing of the ear, the thought of the mind,
The voice of speech, as also the breathing of the breath,
And the sight of the eye!... (i.1-2)

Brahman in cosmic and individual phenomena

4. The light of *Brahman* flashes in lightning; the light of *Brahman* flashes in our eyes.
It is the power of *Brahman* that makes the mind to think, desire, and will.
Therefore, use this power to meditate on *Brahman*.
That is the inmost Self of everyone. (iv.4-6)

From *Bhagavad-Gītā*, ch. 13

- 20 Nature [*prakṛti*] is the agent, cause, and effect of every action, but it is the soul [*puruṣa*] that seems to experience pleasure and pain...
27. One who sees the Supreme Ruler abiding equally in all beings, never perishing when they perish—that person, verily, sees...
29. One who sees that all actions are done only by Nature and likewise that the soul is not the doer—such a person verily sees.
30. When that person sees that the manifold state of beings is centered in the One and from which alone they spread out, then the person attains *Brahman*...
33. As the one sun illumines this whole world, so does the Ruler of the field illumine this entire field, O Bhārata.

¹ The passage from the *Kena* is translated by R.E. Hume (1931), *The Thirteen Principle Upanishads*, 2nd edition, Oxford UP—except for iv.4-6, which is the translation from Eknath Easwaran, (2007), *The Upanishads*, 2nd edition. Tomales, CA: Nilgiri Press. The passage from the *Gita* is translated by S. Radhakrishnan (1948), *The Bhagavadgītā*, New York: Harper & Bros. [Small changes were made to improve style, to be gender-inclusive, etc.]