

A Comparative Study of Advaita Vedanta's Doctrine of Illusion (Māyāvāda) as the Basis for the Claim That 'I Am Brahman'

Authors : Boran Akin Demir

Abstract : Notions such as 'I', 'self', and 'mind' are typically used synonymously in Western dualist philosophy, in a way that distances itself from the material world. This has rendered it increasingly difficult for the dualist Western philosopher to truly understand the Vedantic claim that all is one, and ultimately that 'I am Brahman'. In Advaita Vedanta, we are introduced to one of the most exhilarating theories of non-dualism through its Doctrine of Illusion. This paper approaches the issue through a comparative study between seemingly unrelated thinkers - namely, Jalaluddin Rumi, Lao Tzu, and Plato. The broadness of this research in such alternative schools of thought aims to show the underlying unity that successfully presents itself through time and space, thus upholding the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta from all corners of the world.

Keywords : Advaita Vedanta, Brahman, Lao Tzu, Plato, Rumi

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