

# The 36 Tattvas: Categories of Existence

*Atattva*: Paraśiva (Śivaliṅga, Absolute Reality), beyond all categories

## 5 ŚUDDHA TATTVAS

### Actinic or Pure Spiritual Energy

- 1) *Śiva tattva*: Parāśakti-Nāda (Satchidānanda, pure consciousness)
- 2) *Śakti tattva*: Parameśvara-Bindu (Naṭarāja, Personal God), energy, light and love
- 3) *Sadāśiva tattva*: the power of revealment (Sadāśiva)
- 4) *Īśvara tattva*: the power of concealment (Maheśvara)
- 5) *Śuddhavidyā tattva*: *dharma*, pure knowing, the powers of dissolution (Rudra), preservation (Viṣṇu) and creation (Brahmā)

## 7 ŚUDDHĀŚUDDHA TATTVAS

### Actinodic or Spiritual-Magnetic Energy

- 6) *māyā tattva*: mirific energy
- 7) *kāla tattva*: time
- 8) *niyati tattva*: *karma*
- 9) *kalā tattva*: creativity, aptitude
- 10) *vidyā tattva*: knowledge
- 11) *rāga tattva*: attachment, desire
- 12) *puruṣa tattva*: the soul shrouded by the above five *tattvas*

## 24 AŚUDDHA TATTVAS

### Odic or Gross-Magnetic Energy

- 13) *prakṛiti tattva*: primal nature
- 14) *buddhi tattva*: intellect
- 15) *ahamkāra tattva*: external ego
- 16) *manas tattva*: instinctive mind
- 17) *śrotra tattva*: hearing (ears)
- 18) *tvak tattva*: touching (skin)
- 19) *chakṣu tattva*: seeing (eyes)
- 20) *rasanā tattva*: tasting (tongue)
- 21) *ghrāṇa tattva*: smelling (nose)
- 22) *vāk tattva*: speech (voice)
- 23) *pāṇi tattva*: grasping (hands)
- 24) *pāda tattva*: walking (feet)
- 25) *pāyu tattva*: excretion (anus)
- 26) *upastha tattva*: procreation (genitals)
- 27) *śabdha tattva*: sound
- 28) *sparśa tattva*: feel/palpation
- 29) *rūpa tattva*: form
- 30) *rasa tattva*: taste
- 31) *gandha tattva*: odor
- 32) *ākāśa tattva*: ether
- 33) *vāyu tattva*: air
- 34) *tejas tattva*: fire
- 35) *āpas tattva*: water
- 36) *prithivī tattva*: earth