

Themes of Yoga Philosophy

8. Incidental achievements of Yoga

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Prelude to miraculous powers

Patanjali explains modifications of mind changing in respect of properties, time and states as a prelude to the topic of miraculous powers, concluding in everything partaking of the nature of every other thing. [9-15] Such powers, though considered achievements in worldly life, are obstacles in the development of meditation. [37] Detachment from these powers and ignoring of the temptations from divine beings leads to the annihilation of *kleśas* and eventually to *kaivalya* (liberation). [50-51]

Enumeration of miraculous powers

<i>Subject focused on</i>	<i>Power accessed</i>
Threefold modification	Knowledge of the past and the future [16]
Mutual distinction between the aspects of language	Understanding of the speech of all animals [17]
Impressions of the past lives	Knowledge of the past lives [18]
Other's mind	Knowledge of another man's mind. [19-20]
Perceptible form of body	Disappearance at will [21]
Past action	Prior knowledge of death & impending dangers [22]
Outlook of friendship etc (<i>maitrī, karuṣā, muditā</i> , I.33)	Strength of making others happy etc [23]
Strength of elephant etc	Strength of elephant etc [24]
Mode of light of the mind	Knowledge of subtle, hidden and distant objects[25]
Sun	Knowledge of the entire world [26] (Ancient map of the world)
Moon	System of stars [27]
North star	Movements of stars [28]
Navel depression	System of the body [29]
Pipe of the throat	Cessation of hunger and thirst [30]
Turtle vein/artery	Firmness [31]
Light of the skull	Vision of the divine beings [32]
Pre-final vision	Omniscience [33]
Heart	Knowledge of mind [34]
Subjective cognition	Understanding of Puru TM a [35]
	Perception of divine sound, touch etc [36]
Loosening of bond of mind, Veins/arteries, stationing of The mind out irrespective of the body	Ability to enter others' bodies [38, 43]
Udāna breath	Walking over the ground [39]

Samâna breath	Burning/inflaming [40]
Contact of the space and ears	Divine ability of hearing [41]
Contact of the space & the body	Lightness: moving in the sky, on water..[42]
Elements in five aspects	Control over the elements [44], Powers such as becoming atomic, light(8 super powers); immunity from the normal effects of the elements, physical excellences [45]; excellences defined [46], movement of the body with the speed of mind, unrestricted operations of the organs [47], control over the entire domain of the Prak-ti [48]
Vision of the distinction of the Intellect and the Puru TM a Moment and its sequence	Ability of unrestricted knowledge and action [49] Omniscience [52], its characteristics [53-54]. Omniscience is untainted by genus, characteristics position [53]; it is therefore, spontaneous all-covering, all-time, unsequential. [54] It Discriminatory knowledge results in the total purity of the Puru TM a and consequently in liberation [55], irrespective of whether or not the Yogin has omniscience (Vyâsa).