SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE PAST

THE NET OF BRAHMĀ

Brahmajāla Sutta (Dīgha Nikāya 1)

ETERNALISM	he thereby recalls [up to 100,000] past lives.	1			
Here a certain ascetic or brahmin has by means of effort, exertion, application, earnestness and right attention attained to such a state of mental concentration that	he thereby recalls [up to 10] periods of [world] contraction and expansion.	2	And he says: The self and the world are eternal, barren like a mountain- peak,* set firmly as a post. These		
	he thereby recalls [up to 40] periods of [world] contraction and expansion.		beings rush round, circulate, pass away and re-arise, but this remains eternally. How do I know? I have [experienced		
Here a certain ascetic or brahmin is a by reason, following his own line of t	logician, a reasoner. Hammering it out hought, he argues:	4	it myself]. * i.e., incapable of producing anything really new		
PARTIAL ETERNALISM Here a certain ascetic or brahmin			That Brahma [who arose first in this world period] iseternal But we who were created [by him] are impermanent.		
has by means of effort, exertion, application, earnestness and right attention attained to such a state of mental concentration that	he thereby recalls his last existence, but recalls none before that. And he thinks:	6	Some devas [not corrupted by pleasure] areeternalbut we are impermanent		
			Some devas [not corrupted by envy] areeternalbut we are impermanent		
Here a certain ascetic or brahmin is a logician, a reasoner. Hammering it out by reason, following his own line of thought, he argues:		8	Whatever isbodyis impermanent But what ismindthat iseternal.		
EXTENSIONISM Here a certain ascetic or brahmin has by means of effort, exertion, application, earnestness and right attention attained to such a state of mental concentration that	he dwells perceiving the world as finite. He thinks:	9	This world is finite and bounded by a circle.		
	he dwells perceiving the world as infinite. He thinks:	10	This world is infinite and unbounded. Those who say [otherwise] are wrong.		
	he dwells perceiving the world as finite up- and-down, and infinite across. He thinks:	11	This world is both finite and infinite. Those who say [otherwise] are wrong.		
Here a certain ascetic or brahmin is a logician, a reasoner. Hammering it out by reason, following his own line of thought, he argues:		12	This world is neither finite nor infinite. Those who say [otherwise] are wrong.		
Here an ascetic or brahmin does not in truth know whether a thing is good or bad. He thinks: I might declare "That is good" or "That is bad"	and that might be a lieThus fearing to lie, abhorring to lie	13			
	and I might feel desire or lust or hatred or aversionThus fearing attachment, abhorring attachment	14	he resorts to evasive statements and wriggles like an eel: "I don't say this, I		
	but I might be questionedand I might not be able to reply Thus fearing debate, abhorring debate	15	don't say that. I don't say it is otherwise, I don't say it is not. I don't not say it is not."		
Here an ascetic or brahmin is dull and stupidity, when he is questioned	d stupid. Because of his dullness and	16			
FORTUITOUS ORIGINATION There are certain devas called Unconsand arises in this world. He recalls his	sciouswhen a being falls from that realm s last existence, but none before that.	17	He thinks: The self and the world		
Here a certain ascetic or brahmin is a logician, a reasoner. Hammering it out by reason, following his own line of thought, he argues:		18	have arisen by chance.		

SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE

62 FLAVORS OF WRONG VIEW

They declare that the self after death is healthy and conscious and	material	19	of uniform perception	27	
	immaterial	20	of varied perception	28	
	both material and immaterial	21	of limited perception	29	
	neither material nor immaterial	22	of unlimited perception	30	
	finite	23	wholly happy	31	
	infinite	24	wholly miserable	32	
	both finite and infinite	25	both happy and miserable	33	
	neither finite nor infinite	26	neither happy nor miserable	34	
(1227)	material	35	material	43	
They declare that the self after death is healthy and unconsious and	immaterial	36	immaterial	4	
	both material and immaterial	37	both material and immaterial	45	
	neither material nor immaterial	38	neither material nor immaterial	4	
(35-42)	finite	39	finite	4	
They declare the self after death is healthy and neither conscious nor unconscious and (43-50)	infinite	40	infinite	4	
	both finite and infinite	41	both finite and infinite	4	
	neither finite nor infinite	42	neither finite nor infinite	5	
ANNIHILATIONISM Here a certain ascetic or brahmin declares and holds the view:	Since the self is material, composed of the four great elements, the product of mother and father	51	at the breaking-up of the body it is annihilated and perishes, and does not exist after death.		
Another says to him: Sir, there is such a self as you say. I don't deny it. But that self is not wholly annihilated. For there is another self	divine, material, belonging to the sense-sphere, fed on real food.	52	It is this self that at the breaking-up of the body is annihilated and perishes, and does not exist after death.		
	divine, material, mind-made, complete with all its parts, not defective in any sense-organ.	53			
	which has realised the Sphere of Infinite Space.	54			
	which has realised the Sphere of Infinite Consciousness	- 55			
	which has realised the Sphere of No-Thingness.	56			
	which has realised the Sphere of Neither-Perception-No Non-Perception.	^{r-} 57			
NIBBANA HERE AND NOW Here a certain ascetic or brahmin declares and holds the view:	In as far as this self, being furnished and endowed with the fivefold sense-pleasures, indulges in them, then	58			
Another says to him: Sir, there is such a self as you say. I don't deny it. But that is not where the self realises the highest Nibbana here and now.	But when this self enters and abides in the first jhana	59that is when the self			
	But when this self enters and abides in the second jhana.	. 60			
	But when this self enters and abides in the third jhana	61			
	But when this self enters and abides in the fourth jhana.	. 62			