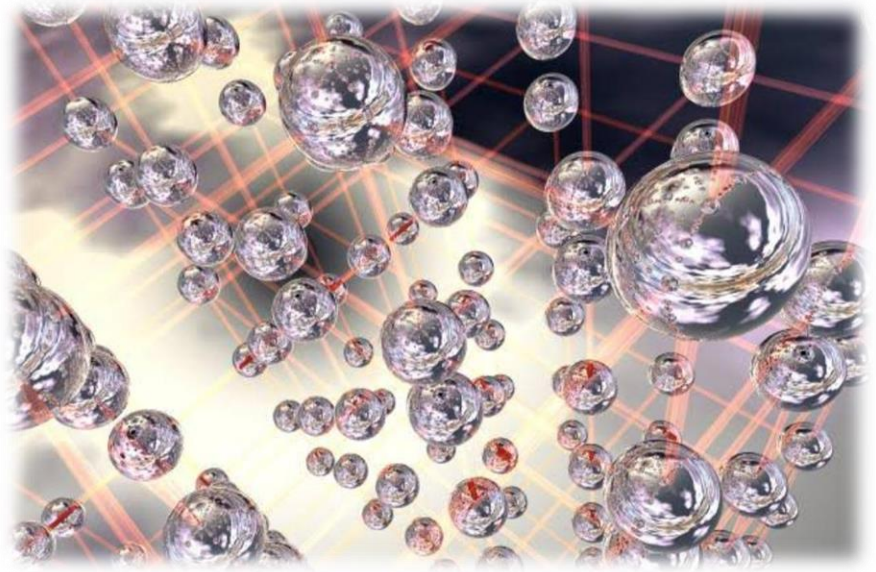


INDRA'S NET

(excerpt from Francis Harold Cook)

Far away in the heavenly abode of the great god Indra. In this parable, he is the king of heaven and of all other deities. He is the king of lightning, thunder, storms, and rain.

Indra has a palace on Mount Meru. This mountain in the center of the universe Hindu theology. Mount Meru is kind of similar to Mount Olympus in Greek mythology, it is the center around which everything in existence is focused (*this is called the Axis Mundi.*)



At his behest, an artisan hangs a spectacular net above his palace in such a manner that it stretches out infinitely in all directions. In accordance with the extravagant tastes of deities, the artisan has hung a single glittering jewel in each "eye" of the net, and since the net itself is infinite in dimension, the jewels are infinite in number.

There hang the jewels, glittering "like" stars in the first magnitude, a wonderful sight to behold.

If we arbitrarily select one of these jewels and look closely at it, we will discover that in its polished surface there are reflected all the other jewels in the net, infinite in number.

Not only that, but each of the jewels reflected in this one jewel is also reflecting all the other jewels, so that there is an infinite reflecting process occurring.

Indra's Net symbolizes the universe as a web of connections and interdependences. It is a metaphor for the profound cosmology that permeates the teachings of Sanatana Dharma—the Eternal Way.