

# Metaphysical Nature of 'Prajāpati' as Depicted in The Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa

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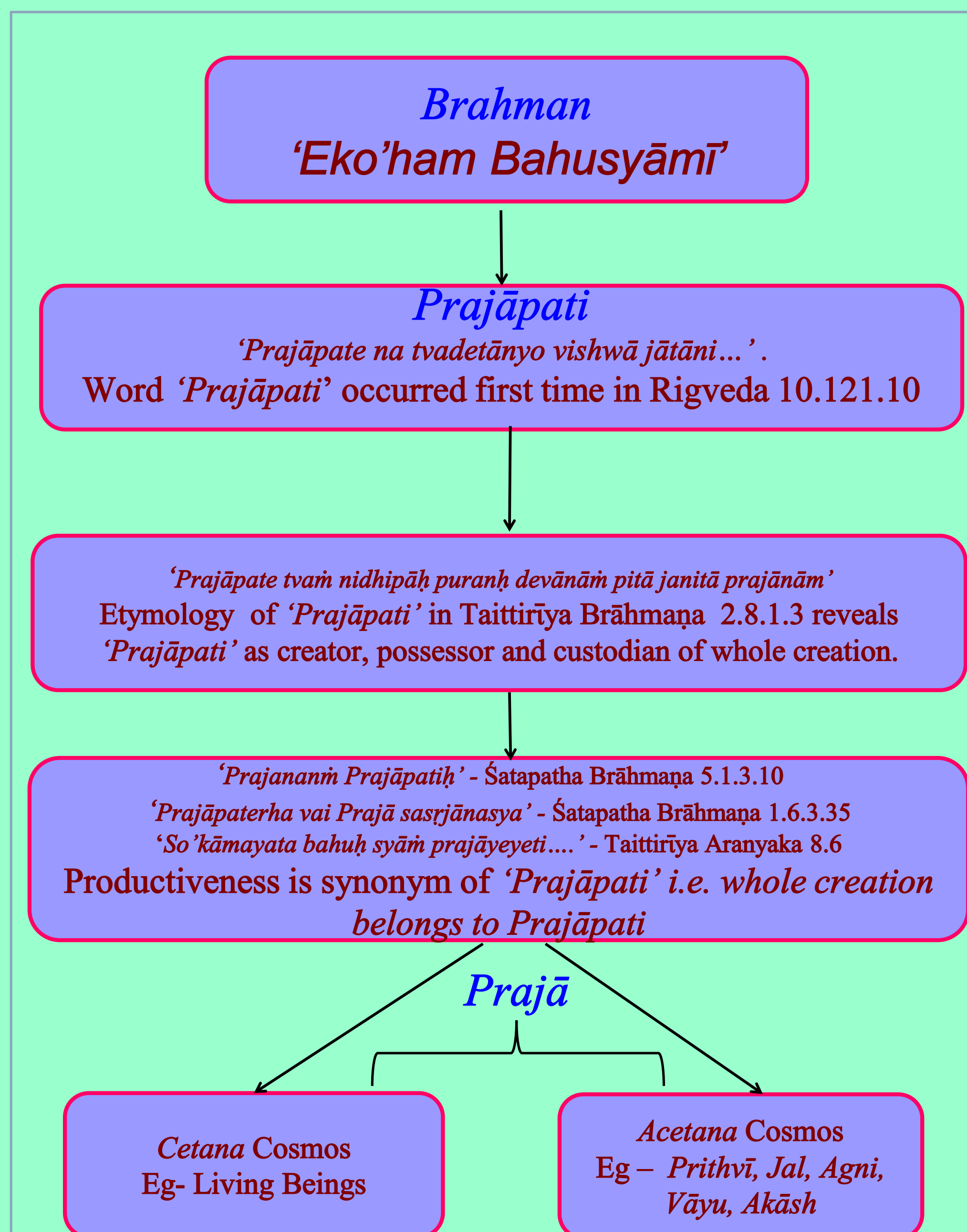
## ABSTRACT

The conception of a supreme, primordial being referred by Vedic poets as *Viśvakarman*, *Hiraṇyagarbhaḥ*, *Puruṣa*, *Prajāpati*, etc. suggests that the word *Prajāpati* is of the Vedic origin. In Vedic hymns, usually *Prajāpati* regarded as the first cause of creation. The concept of *Prajāpati* got much elaborated in the *Brāhmaṇa* text of Śukla Yajurveda i.e. *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*. The *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* deals in the nature of *Prajāpati* and develops the doctrines implicit in identifications. As spiritual sciences and material sciences together known as Vedic science. Hence, in this presentation, an attempt is to identify *Prajāpati* with Year, Agni, Food, Creation, *Brāhman*, Sacrifice etc and explore its cosmic-scientific representations. Thus in *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* the nature of *Prajāpati* has examined by exemplifying its various features.

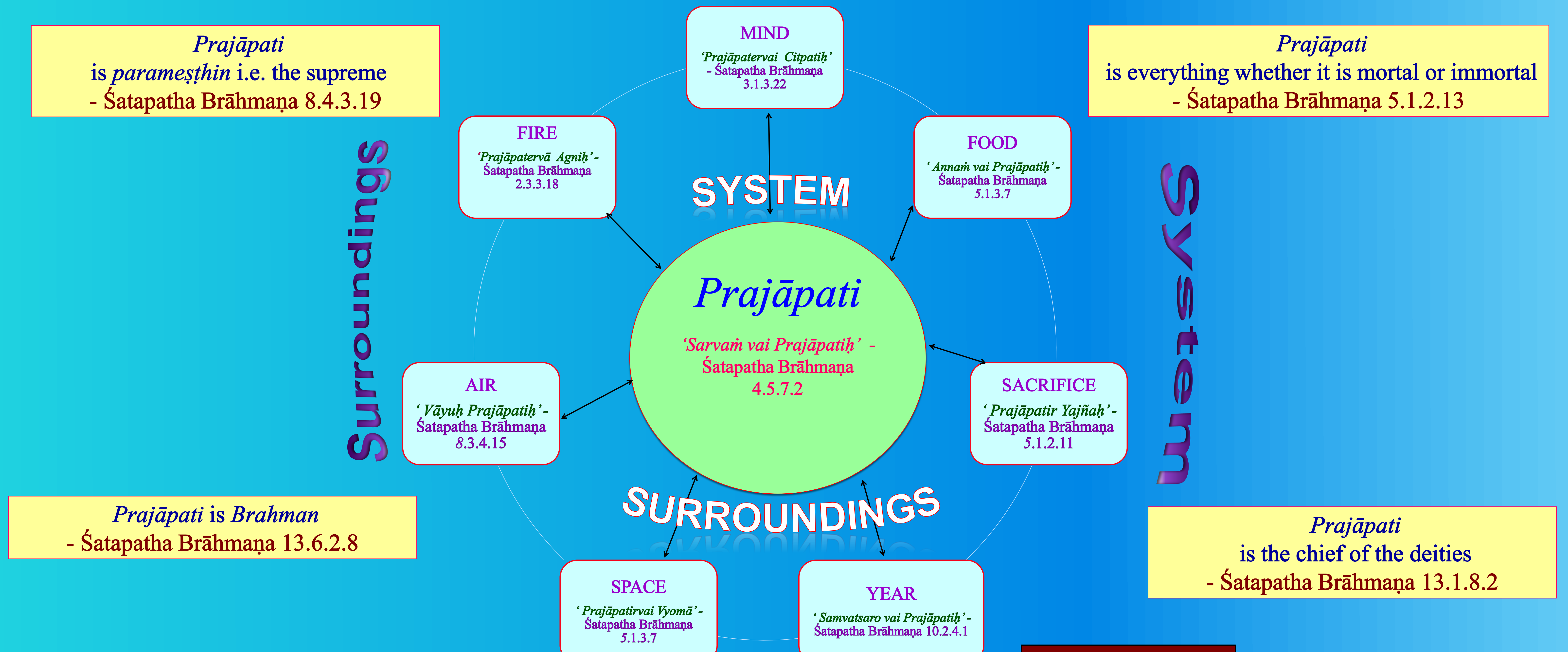
## INTRODUCTION

Derived from the Sanskrit root 'vid' i.e. Veda means to know, to see or to cognize. In other words, one can say Vedas are those 'Vidyas' that are ways to knowledge. Today every one of us is curious to know about the cause of creation whether we are scientist, philosopher or a layman. Process of creation mesmerized Vedic seers as well. They recognized the concept of *Brahman* (ब्रह्मन्/ब्रह्म). *Brahman* is an eternal power from where all other elements such as *Viśvakarman*, *Hiraṇyagarbhaḥ*, *Puruṣa*, *Prajāpati*, *Virāt* manifested. *Prajāpati* is known as 'god of creation' in Vedas that developed as '*Brahmā*' (ब्रह्मा) in Puranic literature. Mythological notion of Vedic Sages such as identification of *Prajāpati* with Year, Agni, Food, Creation, Sacrifice etc are the basis of scientific knowledge. It highlights philosophical concept of 'Monism' i.e. unity of origin of all things and scientific concept of 'Thermo Dynamics' i.e. the relation of system and surroundings.

## ANALYSIS



## OBSERVATIONS



## CONCLUSIONS

The Vedas are repository of knowledge and *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* is the key to the meaning of the Vedas. This poster discussed Metaphysical Nature of '*Prajāpati*'. This philosophical topic can be viewed through scientific perspective. Whatever is created is '*Prajāpati*', so the process of creation can be called as '*Prajāpati*'. Thus, '*Prajāpati*' is mentioned as 'lord of creatures' by Vedic sages. In science we have theories of Big Bang and Thermo Dynamics which can relate to the Vedic explanation of '*Prajāpati*'. The Big Bang Theory talks about the expansion of universe from small singularity. *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* gives numerous references where it is mentioned that during the creation-process every time the '*Prajāpati*' saw himself alone and was willing to reproduce. He toiled (*shrama*) and performed acts of penance (*tapah* i.e. meditation). In thermodynamics, the system is the part of the universe being studied, while the surroundings are the rest of the universe that interacts with the system. Anything can be defined as a system, and everything else would then be the surroundings. As seen in this poster, we can consider '*Prajāpati*' as system and its *Prajā* as surroundings or visa versa. This whole creation (surroundings) exist within '*Prajāpati*' (system) and '*Prajāpati*' (surroundings) exist within whole creation (system). Likewise, Vedic seers indentified '*Prajāpati*' as biggest unit of time 'year' etc. As year is complete with its seasons, months, days, hours so as '*Prajāpati*' is complete for the reason that year itself included in '*Prajāpati*'. Thus, whole universe is inter-related and inter-dependent. In modern era, if this Vedic-scientific concept of '*Prajāpati*' applied in society and all beings consider equal & same as each other. Then there will be harmony everywhere, that is the message of Vedic poet.

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