

# Language

Mira Mehta

## THE CONQUEROR'S CAUSEWAY

Thought, that ingenious device  
By which all boundaries are set at nought,  
Commanded by the Thinker  
To span the struts of days and distance,  
Constructs bridges of brush strokes  
And promenades with words for cobblestones,  
Lanterning them with meaning:

Thus is time paved  
And space bestridden  
By Mind the Conqueror.

We should marvel for a moment at the power of language and thought in our lives. This conceptualisation - internal or expressed - of our intentions, fancies and feelings is unique to human beings.

According to Yoga philosophy, the ability to conceptualise is one of five faculties of mind, the others being the ability to know the truth, to be wrong, to sleep and to remember.<sup>1</sup>

Conceptualisation is a purely mental activity; tied to language, it has no basis in reality.<sup>2</sup> Yet it underpins all human endeavours and dealings.

As with the other faculties of mind, it can be misused and lead a person towards confusion and misery or it can be used judiciously, for enlightenment.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>11</sup> YS 1.6

<sup>22</sup> YS 1.9

<sup>33</sup> YS 1.5

---

The poem is taken from Mira Mehta's book *Cascade of Stars*, published by Shephard-Walwyn ([www.shephard-walwyn.co.uk](http://www.shephard-walwyn.co.uk)). For information about her classes and other publications visit [www.yogicpath.com](http://www.yogicpath.com).