

Hi James,

Thanks for your prompt answers as always. Sorry to persist in this questioning about the God notion, but it's still not clear. You said: "Awareness plus *sattva* is *Isvara*, pure intelligence, the creator. The creation is very intelligently designed so we know by inference that the designer, *Isvara* or God is intelligent..."

David: Just to be sure that I really get what you're saying : Everything is Awareness, i.e. the self. Within the self, *Isvara* (awareness plus *sattva*...) exists as a separate entity, creating our known universe. Is that it?

Ram: Think of it this way. Awareness assumes the role of creator. In this role it is called *Isvara* or God. Creation is just a power in awareness. *Isvara* is apparently separate from awareness. It is not an individual, although it is commonly conceived of as a 'big' individual for the purposes of worship.

David: The way I understood it, *Isvara* (God) was part of the apparent reality (*Maya*) which I think I have correct.

Ram: Yes.

David: But I took this as God not really existing, just some concept cooked up by humans to feed their sense of fear and insecurity.

Ram: Humans personify it to make it easier to worship. Everyone sees the creation...which is *Isvara*...but they do not see that it is only an image appearing in awareness.

David: Now what I think you're saying is that in this apparent reality (*Maya*), *Isvara* has as much a place and reality as David, James and Matthew do (in the apparent reality...hierarchy or scheme of things). God is not just a notion, concept or idea like Alice in wonderland or Puff the magic dragon. Hence, the importance of following dharma (as part of your last message on intention implied). How am I doing?

Ram: As befits my number one disciple. Right on.

David: As well, thanks for sending me towards *Atma Bodh*. You don't seem to have a translation among your texts (unless I'm not looking properly), But there is one from Chinmaya on the web...which I imagine will do. Thanks for your amazing patience... a teaching in itself.

Ram: Yes, I do. It is on the publications page. It is called Self Knowledge.

Love,

David

