

# A Dog Chasing His Tail

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**Sean:** Hi, James. Mini-Me is experiencing confusion over the fact that in terms of the self, nothing ever happened in the past. How does one contrast this with the build-up of the *vasanas*, which are said to build up over time and become one's conditioning? This build-up of *vasanas* apparently over time, while there is no time in respect to the self, has this dog chasing his tail in *maya*. Thanks.

**Sundari:** You have answered your own question with the word "apparently." There is a build-up if you think of yourself as a *jiva*. There is no build-up if you are the self. When you know you are the self and there is no time-bound Mini-Me really. ☺ From that perspective, nothing ever happened. There are no *vasanas*, no time, no conditioning and no dog with or without a tail. As Sean, a *jiva* seeking *moksa* who wants to enjoy his life in the apparent reality, time seems to exist. But there is no real Sean; he is only a notion in you, awareness, which has always been present and always will be. *Maya* is eternal because the self is eternal, so *Isvara's* creation seems to exist, as does the *jiva* in time, both of which are just objects in you, awareness. *Maya* is governed eternally by the *gunas*, which govern the creation of the *vasanas*, which take the form of subtle bodies that we give a name and a history to. On and on, ad infinitum!

~ *Om* and *prem*, Sundari