

A Dog on a Short Leash

Sundari (Isabella Viglietti)

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Grace: Hello, Sundari and Ram.

This is just a little note of gratitude for all you have both done for me on my road to *moksa*. I do make my donations to express gratitude, but I thought a little note felt about right.

I spend enormous amounts of time at your website, so have no questions per se that have not already been answered and expect you to answer the same questions, as it relates to this particular *jiva* seems rather indulgent.

So let me instead offer you a small gift in the form of a somewhat amusing anecdote.

About eight years ago I decided to get a Labrador and named her Maya, to remind me whenever I see her or call her that this is all just a play and not to take whatever is currently happening so seriously. Well, she's now a middle-aged Labrador and quite set in her ways. I have a habit of waking up at 5:00 a.m. to spend an hour by myself for quiet Vedanta study before the children and dogs wake at 6:00 a.m. Currently, I am getting to grips with *nididhyasana*, applying Vedanta to every aspect of my *jiva's* daily life on a moment-to-moment basis. So this morning at 5:58 a.m. Maya rouses herself and announces to me she wants to be fed, with immediate effect: "No, Maya, I'm busy studying important things, you can wait." Well, of course what Maya wants, Maya gets.

I drag my mind back to the study of applying Vedanta moment to moment... Maya nudges me again...

Of course, who am I to say no to Maya? By 6:00 a.m. she is fed and happily sniffing in the garden, and I have had my morning's lesson from Maya in doing what needs to be done, at the appropriate time, with the appropriate attitude.

The moral of the story? It's futile trying to negotiate with Maya – if you do what *maya* wants, when *maya* wants it, life goes a lot more smoothly!

~ Much love, and enjoy your view and much-needed rest, Grace

Sundari: Hello, Grace. Lovely to hear from you and what a sweet story, it made us both chuckle!

You are so right. Let *Isvara* do your life for you, respond appropriately to the natural laws that run the *dharma* field, clean up your *karma* as it arises and life for the *jiva* does go smoothly. It seems so simple, yet so hard to maintain consistently, unless self-knowledge is firm. *Nididhyasana* is the last stage on the road to *moksa* if *moksa* is to be truly *moksa*. Freedom is just not that free unless the *jiva* has been fully understood and its conditioning dissolved in the light of self-knowledge.

When you have the "system down to a T" and apply the knowledge without thinking about it, the *jiva's karma* is like a dog on a very short leash, always at your heels. No *karmic* drag, no unresolved issues of any kind for the *jiva*. Life happens and it passes right through you. No

resistance.

It is the only sane way to live, and ignorance makes it so difficult to achieve. Well done to you for your *mumukshutva*. That's what it takes for the *jiva* to be free of the *jiva* and to live free as the *jiva*, 100% dedication to self-inquiry.

We hope that the knowledge continues to unfold your life with grace and humour!

~ Much love from us, Sundari