

A Vedanta Community

Ram (James Swartz)

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/153>

Seeker: Thanks for a great DVD series. I'm watching every day and I'm now at the *Gita* section, number 28.

The humour and the slaughtering of stupid spirituality and crazy ideas is very refreshing. I'm just nodding and smiling through all of that stuff, from your story of shooting rats to killing the stupid emotional inner child, the idiotic superstitions of spiritual people and the need to get into a good fight when appropriate. I've never heard anything like it before, it's music to me. I'm fed up. I've tried everything possible, listened to so much stupid spiritual shit hoping it will solve this endless raging existential suffering.

It's a process just to watch all this stuff. I become aware more and more how incredibly sick our Western society is. Just as an example, there is a big debate going on in Sweden about what they call "child poverty." Basically, they label it poverty when the child is not able to keep up with the materialistic standards, is not able to pick and choose freely with regard to Adidas, iPhones, expensive free time activities and being able to "freely express their chosen identity in clothing" (emo, punk rocker, hip hopper, slacker... or whatever). It's quite funny.

Well, anyway, my own suffering seems to only increase as I'm trying to be a regular family man/breadwinner/small business owner in *samsara*. I get more and more aware of how crazy this brain is: a constant chatter about money, sex, security, doing, doing, doing... Meditation in the form of still reflection, slow walks and watching the DVDs are the only moments of peace nowadays.

Alcoholics Anonymous which as you know I was involved in for many years just feels stupid, and the "spiritual community" that I've seen here is just a bunch of people who are not successful in life and want to live according to grandiose, fluffy superstitions. There seems to be no place of true rest.

James, I have no idea what to do other than trying to do *karma yoga* and pray one day at a time, slowly, slowly. I guess there is no Vedanta community one could hook up with to make the travel easier?

Much love to you, James. I'm so happy and grateful to have found you and Vedanta, thanks so much for the work you do. I will try to contribute with donations as best I can although I'm not rich (yet). ☺

James: Just keep your mind on the self and treat the world as a dream. Take the *karma yoga* attitude, simplify your life and notice the upside of *samsara*. There is a lot of good in this world too. The half-empty glass is also half full. Add value to the world and it will add value to your life.

No, there is no "Vedanta community" to speak of. The path of knowledge is for people who have given up on being people, who no longer look to human beings for answers because they know that human beings are only half awake. My *guru* used to say, "The path to the self is alone, all

alone to the alone.” It is not a depressing message. Alone means “all one.” In fact we are always alone in the midst of the misguided world and when we are enjoying the loving relationships with other inquirers. It is not a sad story. It is a statement of fact. We do not need support. *Bhagavan* in the form of our desire for freedom and the scripture is our best friend. There is no friend like the Lord. It supports us, it feeds our souls, it accompanies us through thick and thin like a faithful dog.

Having said that, ShiningWorld is a kind of Vedanta community. We are thinking about how to satisfy the need for *satsang*. We are about to upgrade the website and we will put up a list of people who would like to contact other Vedanta people.

~ Love, James