

# After Enlightenment, Big Bucks

Ram (James Swartz)

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**Pierre:** Ram! Hello. How are you? Basking in success and such? Still in Europe or back in the good ol' US of A? Either way, I hope you enjoyed your travels and that you handed out many enlightenment certificates.

**Ram:** I am just fine. Not exactly basking, to tell the truth. Success is a pain in the ass. You have no time for yourself. Wealth is better. No, I am in England. I have shifted here. I have a room in a friend's house in Southsea. As for the enlightenment certificates, where do you want me to send yours? ☺

**Pierre:** I have a question, or a set of ideas I'd like to throw your way. I realised today that I was always afraid of pushing myself academically because of fear of failure. Now, thanks to self-knowledge, this fear is nearly all gone, apart from the odd twinge which will disappear in due time. Instead of work, I would lie around and enjoy large quantities of *sattva*. Now I've come to realise that although *sattva* is good and great, I've achieved (or rather realised) self-knowledge, and I can now use this great knowledge to explode onto the world and become largely successful. The *rajasic* ambition I felt was quite a shock, largely due to the fact I've just been focused on myself for so long and could not care less about the outer world. I realise that lying around peacefully, living a quiet, simple life would be great, but I also think it would be a waste of time. Life is a playground, and I can play to my heart's delight, so why not try to achieve success in the material world, as the spiritual work is pretty much sorted (although it's something I still have to think about quite a bit to remind myself of who I am).

I know it may be shallow, but why not? I don't really feel like becoming a *guru*, and honestly, with the amounts of *sattva* I was experiencing, any other profession seemed absolutely ludicrous.

So. Ambition. Yea or nay? I mean, I feel the only way I am going to pass this degree is if I have some kind of drive to do it, and before today it was very near zero.

~ Looking forward to hear from you, Pierre

**Ram:** Well, if you don't mind shallow, will not suffer the fear of failure, follow *dharma* and are inspired to succeed in the world (and will give 10% of the obscene profits you expect to reap to your number-one spiritual mentor cum advisor cum the most amazing enlightened being you know, have ever know or will ever know – your good self included), then I will sign off on this project. ☺ Enlightenment is the easy part. Being a proper *guru* takes forever and is nearly as much work as making millions, so I suggest you go for it. After all, if you are enlightened it will not matter if *Bhagavan* sees fit to make you unsuccessful, right? You can blame me if it doesn't work, okay?

~ Love, Ram