

# Already Oriented

Ram (James Swartz)

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**Paul:** Dear Ram and Sundari, thank you for the Skype chat! I would have emailed earlier, but being the *karma yogis* we all are, I haven't had the chance to really sit and collect my thoughts until now. I realized immediately after our conversation that all I needed was the confirmation that I knew I was the self. And it is just a confidence issue because when you know that there is no enlightenment... because the one who knows fullness and emptiness obtains... and that I have been free the whole time, all that is left to do is reorient the mind into knowing that it is whole and complete, ordinary, actionless awareness. But, and here's the real kicker, the one who knows that the mind needs to reorient itself... me, awareness... is already oriented, being the essence of everything, and all that is left is the undeniable truth that I have, will and will always persist as the self. This is the beauty of knowledge.

It is so simple really because it is just a simple object/subject discrimination (*sat-asat-viveka*) regarding who I really am. The world and everything in it is just a thought appearing in me, awareness. The thought is awareness through and through. Where is there a thought in I? Therefore I, the subject, am free of the object. The object is wholly dependent on me, that is, the world exists because I do; I am free of the world.

And this feels like nothing... except knowing that you're the self, the whole spiritual seeking thing is done. All that's left is self-actualization until every last bit of ignorance is gone. But what Vedanta showed Paul is that even if ignorance is there I still am and always will be pure knowledge, free of ignorance. How can a reflection bite the person?!

This is fun. Ram, I am ever grateful for your teachings, especially your books. Sundari, I am also indebted to your time and consideration in answering questions that have plagued Paul for years. Thank you. I hope we meet soon, but I am already there anyways, so it's up to *Bhagavan*.

~ With love, I and Paul

**Ram:** Hi, Paul. Not much to say except that it is one of the best emails we have ever received. It is a perfect example of perfect knowledge, and I am pleased to receive your gratitude.

~ Much love, Sundari and Ram