

As Advertised

Ram (James Swartz)

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Seeker: Hi, James, great to hear from you. That *Inquiry into Existence* is now accessible in English and available in print is a major event, a door opening to spiritual maturation for many in the modern West. Thanks so much to you and to ShiningWorld!

Since our paths crossed, at the seminar in Tiruvannamalai, I've been assimilating the teaching and it certainly is as advertised. Profound gratitude, James! Having acquired and read the books, lately I've turned to the Bad Meinberg 2015 *Bhagavad Gita* videos – which are strangely delightful. In particular I've found that the explication of the *Isvara* teaching, and *upasana yoga*, fills a long-standing gap that this *jiva* was experiencing in the non-dual vision, and it has had the effect of making direct knowledge readily assimilable. How so? I cannot really say. The perfection of the complete teaching, as it is laid out through Vedanta, really does inspire awe, particularly because it works!

James: You hit the nail on the head when you said that knowledge of *Isvara*, which is *upasana yoga*, is the key to the vision of non-duality because it explains the connection between the *jiva*, which is a conscious being although apparently limited, and limitless consciousness, i.e. freedom. Modern teachers ignore the connection because they deny the existence of the *jiva*. They are fooled by appearances into thinking that the *jiva* cannot be limitless, because it is apparently burdened with the *upadhis* that *Isvara/maya* projects. They don't get that the *jiva* is actually the self (*jivo brahmaiva na paraha*). In any case, I am so glad that Vedanta is working for you and thank you for your well wishes. Things are quite fine these days. I am completely rested–energetic, really – and if life gets any better I don't know how I will stand it. ☺

~ Much love, James