

Dharma Clarified

Ram (James Swartz)

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Alex: Dear Ram, I think I've got something that clarifies *dharma* for me. The right thing to do can only be determined by the desired results. You want family harmony, then do the wish of the father or the mother. You want business success, you'll probably do better, statistically, by wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie. If you want liberation, then you'll have to take up the scriptures as a serious postulant and apply it.

I have been struggling with this for some weeks now. As you mentioned in one of your *Vivekacudmani* talks, it's easy to realize the self but hard to do the right thing or know how to live in this world. Nothing is right or wrong except in comparison to desired results. The problems come with mixed desires. This, I believe, is why the scriptures say only a burning desire for liberation will do. One has to slice through the confusion and be absolutely clear, otherwise the default of the field and your *vasanas* take over. I have also been noticing that ignorance can use anything to keep you ignorant, for instance, the *dharma* teaching. That is to say, "Horrible me! I've been *adharmic*. I am a worm." But to take credit for failure or success is to miss the point of the scriptures. *Isvara* created the conditions for a rich society that allowed the apparent breaking of *dharma*, the ignorance that you could be somebody else. And it's actually not a breaking of *dharma* (the way Western countries turned out) if the desired result is a possible total breakdown of the biosphere and other dangers of our lifestyle. *Isvara* is in control of periods of more *dharmic* or less *dharmic*. I guess these are the *yugas*?

Ram: Yes.

Alex: I don't believe *Isvara* has desired results; the field has rules and it just runs, and because of the apparent duality then sometimes it looks messy and sometimes it looks utopian. And if you want to teach *dharma* to the world then its opposite will have to be expressed in a scary way in order get the message across. Not that *Isvara* is trying to teach anyone, it's just a dualistic principle.

Ram: Yes.

Alex: Anyway, I am sorry for my last random email. I have to remember you are an institution now. No need to respond to this, so far all my questions have been answered by repeated listening. I just wanted to let you know I'm working on the assimilation and that the whole *dharma* thing was one of my biggest confusions.

Thank you, thank you again for your efforts to make this teaching available.

Ram: I knew you'd get it sorted sooner or later, Alex! Very cool indeed. The guilt, worry, etc. can now take a hike. There is nothing you are "supposed" to do apart from the desired result. Going

for or against your nature or going for or against the rules is all the same. There is no escaping the results. So be indifferent to the results and be quiet, and *Isvara* will make its will known. Follow it and you will live without inner and outer conflict. This is a great email and I will post it at the website. Take care of yourself and keep in touch.

~ Love, Ram