

Enlightenment Is Not a Big Deal

Ram (James Swartz)

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Mark: Dear James, you mentioned that Anna realized the self. I am quite skeptical of this, as there did not seem to be any change. Why did you say that?

James: Hi, Mark. Good question. It certainly seems genuine to me, particularly since she was not looking to me for confirmation and I do not know her personally, and it happens several times a year during the teachings. But we will see in the fullness of time what difference does it make, except to her. Enlightenment is the default, so you are not really getting something special. You are just getting rid of something irritating – the search. But that is a great relief. I told her that I was happy for her. I think that there is a belief that *moksa* is supposed to look like something special from the outside. But it is just the firm conviction that you are the self. The effect of this is that the seeking stops. It does not mean that there are any obvious changes in one's personality. The person will continue to react to life according to his or her conditioning. However, there will be a "gap" between the self and the person that will always be obvious. Anyway, I copied in her email below so you can judge for yourself.

Anna: Hey, James, I just want to thank you again. The search is over, by God! The seeking is over... some of those last little pieces were put in the puzzle. From here on in I will perhaps go to the same spiritual lectures and workshops as before, but now it will be to enjoy them, not to seek anything. Self has been found and I understand now that this was all I was seeking – and not some ephemeral and mystical "Secret." That's such a breakthrough. It feels as though I've just quit a job, the searching-for-self job. It feels wonderfully free.

I felt complete after yesterday morning at camp. The truth is, a few minutes before I drove into the campground on the Thursday I had a knowing that it was no longer necessary for me to seek anything. But I'm so glad of course that I spent those days hearing you, as you put it all into words... you framed the knowing verbally which somehow grounded it for me and freed me from the search.

~ With warmth and gratitude, Anna

James: Hi, Anna. Great news! I am so happy for you. Take care of yourself.

~ Much love, James