

Isvara* Sees Everything as *Isvara

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Justin: Hi, Daniel.

I try too hard sometimes. I am reading Swami Vivekananda's dialogue on *karma yoga* and in particular about the role of the householder.

It's quite easy really, isn't it? Live life with integrity, do not seek the fruits of labour, know everything belongs to *Isvara*, and just accept whatever *karma* gives. Simple, really.

Daniel: Hi, Justin. Yes, it seems as if you overanalyze at times. Sometimes investigation alone just ain't enough to carry us over the rapids of hardwired ignorance. Faith and *bhakti* are key ingredients.

All that you say is true. It's quite simple, but it ain't that simple to apply.

Justin: Does this work for an analogy? I like to see things in nuts-and-bolts terms, getting away from religious nomenclature.

Could we view *Isvara* as the engineered machine, where *dharma* is the philosophy of how this machine operates, and *karma* the modus operandi?

Daniel: I see why *Isvara* made you *jiva* an engineer, Justin. ☺

Firstly, Vedanta has zero to do with religion – but I get what you're getting away from.

Just as a bonus: the word "religion" comes from the Latin word *ligare*, "to bind." So when clearly understood, religion is nothing more than a pointer to how everything fits together.

Yes, *Isvara* is nothing more than a self-equilibrated machine. There's actually no such thing as *dharma* and *adharma* for *Isvara* (aka "the machine"), because *Isvara* sees everything only as *Isvara*.

There are a few definitions of the word "*dharma*," but to keep it simple, *dharma* is "following natural order." If we were to apply this to humans, then it's the foundation that guides the *jiva* to act naturally and in harmony with this "machine."

Yes, *karma* (cycle of action) can be seen as the modus operandi.