

Next Step for the *Sampradaya*

Ram (James Swartz)

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Kumar: Dear James, thank you once again for all the effort you put in to reply to the mail. If there is one pure vessel of Vedanta, it is you, James. I must have had a really good *karma* to have got a *guru* like you.

I wanted to share something with you. Yesterday I decided to become a pure vessel for this knowledge myself. I am never going to play to the gallery, mixing up Vedanta and *yoga*. I will not care whether I get students or not. I decided I am just going to focus on abiding in awareness and creating a pure body of knowledge of Vedanta in the modern context. Actually, your book *How to Attain Enlightenment* is my Bible in this regard. I must tell you that your book is not an easy read. It is packed with an astonishing amount of wisdom. It is like the *Bhagavad Gita* for the modern world. To get the knowledge out of Vedanta in almost pure English, with very little Sanskrit, is remarkable.

It is through your work that Vedanta has been vivified again for the modern world without sacrificing the scriptures. Honestly speaking, I have not read all the ten *Upanishads* and the *Brahma Sutras* as of yet but because I have studied your work I have the confidence to reply to any verse of the *Upanishads*. Knowledge and experience, if we understand these two terms, is the whole of self-enquiry.

After my decision, there are going to be changes in my life. I am going to be spending more time in writing and researching on Vedanta and, as I said earlier, I am starting with your body of teachings. I am not sure how money will come. I have my organisations running; they will continue to give me some financial support. I have some fixed deposits. But the greatest thing I have is *Isvara* and self-knowledge. That should be enough to take care of me. ☺ As always, I seek your blessings on the path I have chosen.

~ Love, Kumar

James: Dear Kumar, I think it is a good idea. The next stage for *sampradaya* is that, after having been anglicized, it is returned to India by an Indian. There are many secular Indians with spiritual roots who will listen to you. Sad to say, but Vedanta needs to be divorced from the tradition if it is going to live up to its potential. The whole last century of Vedanta writing and teaching that confused knowledge and experience, apart from Dayananda and Paramarthananda, needs to be scrapped.

You have the *bhakti* and the brain. The money will come. You have my blessing.

~ James