

# Party Hearty, No Escape

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**Allen:** Yeah, it seems that *Isvara* punished me correctly for not following through my life duty. I guess this is usually what happens when someone is trying to avoid what they are meant to do moment-by-moment by dropping out.

**Sundari:** *Isvara* does not punish, as it is simply an impersonal force, a playing out of the *gunas*, not some vengeful god keeping score of good and bad deeds. Unfortunately, when we transgress *dharma*, the *jiva* has to face the consequences. There is no getting away with it because this is a lawful universe, running on immutable principles that apply to everyone. If one contravenes *dharma*, one pays the price. When all ignorance is removed from the mind by self-knowledge, one automatically follows *dharma* because one knows one is *dharma* – and one knows that for the *jiva* to have peace of mind; there is no fine print to following *dharma*.

**Allen:** I've always known I had a musician's *vasana*, but I avoided it for a few years because of the existential questions I kept on asking. I mean, what's the point of life? We're all going to die. So why not just go out and have a blast! Do whatever feels good! Forget responsibilities! Party hard! Transform your lives! Become super-*jiva*!

**Sundari:** Yes, this is a common trap; some believe it is quite possible to live in this manner and then "get" *moksa* right at the end before one dies. This is called *videhamukti*.

It is most improbable that one can pull this off of course because by indulging the *vasanas* indiscriminately throughout life, how likely is one to suddenly discriminate the self from the objects that appear in you (i.e. attain *moksa*) at the "end" of life?

**Allen:** But thank God for *Isvara*, this usually ends up putting people into an endless search for meaning in the wrong places by trying to pursue their vain attempts to get something from the environment which isn't conducive or related to their duty, which was what happened to me. When they realize it doesn't work, they go through another phase of dropping out and then becoming "spiritual," and finally after all the suffering they end up in Vedanta which just tells you to relax, accept your innate conditioning, focus on one thing at a time and you'll be happy with the right people in the right circumstances. Thanks, Sundari.

**Sundari:** Yes, it is true, which is why suffering has its place. It drives the mind to "find" its source – awareness – that which it has always been, its true nature. Most people who move away from worldly pursuits to the spiritual begin by looking in all the wrong places. It is inevitable when ignorance clouds the mind. If one develops the qualifications for *moksa* and has the good grace to find Vedanta and a qualified teacher, one has very good *punya karma* indeed. It is all grace – and grace is earned.

You are most welcome, and may self-knowledge continue to unfold every aspect of life as the self you are.

~ *Namaste*, Sundari