

# Ripeness May Take Some Time

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**Arlindo:** Yes, Mark. I understand it may feel phony to accept and assert that you are the limitless self. Accepting one's free, limitless and full nature is a bit strange at the beginning because that is not *jiva's* experience. People tend to say that they only believe their experience – but they fail to understand that the reason they don't experience fullness and happiness is because they don't contemplate and own the truth of their nature as presented by scriptures – they don't analyze and understand their own ever-present experience of freedom and limitlessness.

They don't fully trust what scriptures say, because they don't "feel" that way. Can you see the vicious circle? How sad! It does not come to them that their experience of suffering and dissatisfaction is a by-product of wrong knowledge, wrong notions. They meditate on the thought/feeling "I am the limited *jiva*" nearly all the time. They feed their ignorance almost 24/7.

Only knowledge of the true non-dual nature of reality will condition *jiva's* mind to "experience" and know the truth ("I am the ever-present, free and limitless, pure awareness"). Only knowledge will produce the sense of limitlessness, satisfaction and freedom the scriptures talk about. Knowledge is everything!

But before *jivas* understand that only knowledge will make them happy, they will get exhausted by trying to, indirectly and dependently, get happiness through objects. Maturity is rare to find among *jivas*, and the whole set-up in *maya* seems to be designed to eventually produce it through exhaustion. But one cannot push it. Ripeness takes time; understanding and knowing, not so much.