

# Samskaras

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**Sundari:** Hello, Serena. We have said to you many times there is no wrong or right about the decisions you make, there is just what is conducive to peace of mind. If freedom is what you are really after then you will make the right choices for yourself, whatever they are. We are not invested in what you do; we just want Serena to live with the freedom and joy of her true nature, the self. For this, your life needs to serve the truth, not the other way around as you well know.

I picked up your feelings about Richard last year, and subsequently even mentioned it to Ramji. You are right of course; he is a symbol of the self and of freedom. However much you may have moved on from needing the “other,” we all long to know and be known for who we are, to share non-otherness with an apparent other who is none other than our own true self. It is very rare, of course, because so few know who they are. Essentially though, it is not about Richard or about Conrad, but about Serena and why she feels she needs to carry others. The sadness at letting go and the clue to it all is there; it must be a deep *samskara* from childhood linked to your mother.

Here is a *satsang* Ram and I co-wrote a while ago on *samskaras*; I think it might help:

Observing the mind and how the *vasanas* play out in the light of self-knowledge is the main step towards rendering the *vasanas* non-binding. What this entails is to track the mind and see what the trigger was for the disturbance whatever it is, what *guna* was in play and what value underpinned the *guna*. Ignorance works the same way every time, so it should not be difficult to track. Sometimes though, when it comes to deeply entrenched *samskaras*, it can take repeated observation and determination to render them non-binding because very often they are hidden. *Prarabdha karma* plays out the way it plays out, and *Isvara* gives us what we need to see when we need to see it. The effects of ignorance have been there for a long “time” and mostly do not dissolve overnight.

*Samskaras* will take time to go away – they will fade more quickly when they are fully understood. Applying the opposite thought works because it objectifies the anxiety – if one can remember to think it when one is stressed. *Karma yoga* works when worry is there; it is perfectly designed to destroy *samskaras*. However, the nature of *rajas* is such that the *tamas* (denial, blindness) that accompanies it causes one to feel that one does not have “time” to deconstruct the desire/fear on the spot! The doer forgets that it is now an inquirer and that it is supposed to free the mind of worry through self-knowledge, not to get the object in the world. It thinks that the results of the action will free the mind – which they will temporarily – leaving the *samskara* carefully concealed and intact, however.

When one wants to ameliorate the effect of a *samskara* it is very effective to dismiss the present thought by taking the line of reasoning it represents to its logical conclusion, thus defusing the power of the *samskara* in the moment.

The key to most *samskaras* is the word “time.” Time represents the pressure of the *samskara*. When it is operating, the thought/word “time” is meant to refer to something real, something substantial. But all it refers to is “I want.” We know what is behind that: “I am insecure, I am

afraid, I am incomplete, etc.”

But then the doer/ego will immediately try to prevent this alternative because doing is the key to the maintenance of its identity as someone in control of his or her destiny – see the fear, again *rajas*. This is the problem with relationships too. If one really surrenders to the relationship, you lose control.

But renunciation of *karma* causes another problem for the doer. It presents the scenario it was trying to avoid in the first place: No control, which is fear based too. If the doer actually analyzed the root thought, the whole problem would go away instantly.

But if the *samskara* is doing the thinking, that is the worst alternative. “What if...?” and off it goes worrying. Fear is meant to be very smart. At some point in the life of the doer, worry is self-validating. It equals love for the doer. It means I care about myself. But as you know, it is a purely *samsaric* value. If one encounters a terrible fear of any kind, dismiss it immediately. Reaffirm the opposite thought: “No bad result, I am awareness.” Fear is hard to love.

*Samskaras* are never about what they purport to be about. An unnamed fear lurks behind them all. No matter what you do or don’t do, it is there attaching itself to an action. One needs to be sick and tired of the mind it creates. Yes, one can walk away from various situations relatively easily, but walking away from the belief that worldly results are necessary for peace of mind is the real renunciation because it amounts to renunciation of the doer itself.

The best *mantra* is “Nothing can go wrong.” Nothing ever went “wrong” because life is not about me getting what I think I want. It is about the me that does not want. The only cure for a bad attitude is a good attitude.

There so many good thoughts available to remove the stress in any situation but attachment to the doer make them all unpalatable. The renunciation thought is particularly difficult for the doer because it indicates a failure to get what it wants, the way it wants it, when it wants it. It can’t stand that thought because the “I am the self” thought does not actually sustain it when it is faced with various everyday situations that involve loss or the fear of loss.

We love you too, dear friend, very much.

~ With big hugs from both of us, Sundari