

Tadpole's Promise

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/2456>

Daniel: Below is a post from the [nondoodle](#) Facebook group:

Tadpole's Promise

So a tadpole and a caterpillar fall in love. They make a sincere promise never to change. Never ever to change – never ever! And for some time it's blissful and it's all good. But one day Caterpillar suddenly vanishes and leaves poor Tadpole anxious and very upset. Whilst apart, Tadpole starts transforming – little legs, little arms – radical tongue – and in time he is brand-new – he is a fully manifested, perfect frog. One fine day, whilst taking it easy on the river bank, Mr Frog sees this perfect, brand-new butterfly, and it was love at first sight – a different kind of love this time. All of a sudden – gobble, crunch! – he eats it. Yum!

Daniel: The moral of the story? In the world of change, in this apparent reality known as *mithya*, nothing remains the same from one moment to the next. Life eats life. Understand the impermanence of this fragile and beautiful play of transaction and transformation. Learn to objectively take part whilst not being tied (attached) to what may arise. Do your best in the given situation and receive what arrives with/in gratitude (*prasad*). And if liberation (*moksa*) is your goal, then the application of self-knowledge (Vedanta) is your only golden ticket out of the *samsaric* treadmill, the world of ups and downs. Understanding that you are the never-changing, non-transactional “knower” of the field (*mithya*) will release you from the cycle of birth and death. “Death” just refers to the nature of change.

Ricky: I see you threw Jeanne Willis's *Tadpole* wisdom at the Non-Doodles! Trying to traumatize 'em, eh? *Tadpole's Promise* is brutal. It's harsh wisdom, it's what fairy tales and myths are for... but people want a happy ending, Daniel! Psychotic Disney and the like. Fluffy bunnies! Flowers! Because it's perfect, okay?! It's cute, it's nice and it's all going to be alright! Bright-eyed, bushy-tailed! Mary f*ckin Poppins. Ha, ha, ha.

Daniel: The only possible happy ending is when self-knowledge (Vedanta) ends one's need for depending on any happenings (outcomes) in the first place and frees one from both a sense of a beginning and an end.

When we understand that our true nature is awareness and that we remain free of change, whatever happens in *mithya* is as good as a dream. The dream exists, but it ain't real.

We can enjoy the dream even more when we understand our freedom from it.