

That's What *Pramanas* Do

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Carl: Hello, Ramji. Salutations from the self. I am now reading the *Bhagavad Gita Home Study Course* and I must say without listening to and reading your teachings I would be adding so much of my ignorance to this. However, I came across a passage that stopped me in my tracks, so I would appreciate your feedback.

The passage: "Because *atma* is not available as an object of knowledge, it is *aprameya*. But if *atma* is not an object of knowledge, why are you doing all this study? What is the *Gita-sastra* for if not for knowing *atma*?"

Am I correct in understanding that the word *aprameya* means "that which cannot be known as an object"? Does that mean it is unknown to me as a *jiva*, as an experiencing entity? And of course that is true; I answered my own question. And yet to know that it is unknown to me as an object and cannot be experienced, is it true then "that it is known to me as the self?"

Ramji: Yes, you answered your own question and yes, the self is the one doing the study. It is not unknown to you. It is not an object. It is you.

Carl: Then why am I "doing all this study"?

Ram: Maybe you do not know what it means to be the self. Vedanta shows you the self and tells you what it means to be you. But you don't really need to do all this study, because what it means is that you are not bound by your fears and desires and that the sense of doership has disappeared. It seems it is still there because you seem to think that "you" are "doing all this study." You are watching Carl, the reflected self, do all this study. You are not studying. You are observing without comment.

Carl: I asked this question of myself, and then there was lots and lots of silence and the words, "I do not know and this is just what appears to be happening." Is there some ignorance here that I am not clear about? If so, please assist. Along with this there are epiphanies.

Ramji: The epiphanies are the result of your mind becoming more and more *sattvic*. Yes, they are just objects appearing in you, awareness. You, awareness, observed the silence and the words, "...this is just what appears to be happening." You are coming along very nicely, Carl. Maybe your study is about over.

Carl: Then it does not matter one way or another if reading and writing about the scriptures happens or not.

Ramji: The scriptures are just objects in you, awareness. They may be helpful for Carl, although it seems the penny has dropped. Perhaps Carl was approaching them with an unjustified expectation. Nonetheless, it seems that all that study has had a beneficial effect. So it must be the right way.

Carl: Yes. That has been there all along. This means of knowledge, the *pramana*, keeps clearing away whatever apparent ignorance seems to be there. Thanks again. Blessings to you.

Ramji: That's what *pramanas* do.

~ Much love