

A Vetted Teaching

Ram (James Swartz)

2011-11-28

Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/155>

Hans: Greetings, Ram! I recently heard a *guru* here in the West make a comment that sent me into confusion, so I sent him a question regarding his statement for the sake of clarity. He was kind enough to reply, but the response left me dumbfounded as it was so devoid of any clarity. Maybe he is a genius and sent me a *koan* or maybe I just don't get it, but I don't think that is the case here. I don't doubt that this teacher is self-realised, and as far as Western teachers go he is probably one of the better ones.

What became glaringly clear from this episode is the teaching itself. You point out that self-knowledge didn't come from the human mind or experience. It is also pointed out that self-knowledge has been vetted over and over, and seen to work over and over. This is significant, and yet the mind will pooh-pooh this for the promise of something right around the corner. Mum and Dad warned me that fire was hot; I didn't necessarily buy it until I got burned. Caveat emptor!

I found my way to Vedanta because it is so often referenced in the spiritual community that it needed looking into. By chance (there is no such thing, actually) I find ShiningWorld, a Western voice of this teaching, eventually making contact with you and acquiring all the teachings. In all the years of scratching and clawing for truth I have got nothing but little teases, and access to a teaching always seemed an arm's reach away. Now I have the depth of the Vedanta teaching tradition quite literally in my lap, and to say that it fell into my lap is not untrue. Don't doubt the grace of *Bhagavan*!

~ Peace and happiness, Hans

PS: No response necessary. This is just a note of gratitude.