

Krishna's Knowing Smile

Ram (James Swartz)

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/18>

Seeker: James, thank you for pointing me to the *satsang* entitled *The Experiential Power of Self-Knowledge*. It is beautifully written.

As you so skillfully remind us, enlightenment is not an experience. However, there does appear to be an experiential process associated with the knowledge becoming hard and fast, as you put it. For me personally, it has been a process of dissolution, of watching previously unexamined beliefs flare up and then dissolve and various *vasanas* decompose – some explosively, some languidly – just like the different images used in the *Gita* (the mirror, the womb, etc.) or the different passages along a river. And what remains? This clear primordial substrate – the self.

So nothing has changed (including my husband) and nothing needs to change, yet everything has changed. As the “making hard and fast” process continues apace, it appears that his bundle of *vasanas* are also being activated in a different way. He is, he is. I am, I am. We are, we are. It's perfect as is. Other reflections of this process I mentioned previously: the increase in apparent synchronicities, the flow of words at 4:00 a.m. being poured through me, the lack of frustration or anger even in the light of very strong circumstances, shall we say, the constant, quiet, joyful humming along...

The liquid nature of the knowledge, of Vedanta, has cooled and dissolved the heat of ignorance, protection and denial. It's a personal experience of Krishna's knowing smile. You just have to shake your head and silently laugh – the outer world is just so beautifully intelligent and ridiculously sublime. And yet, for all of this apparent process – well, it is just the revelation of the self-evident. So self-evident that it seemed inappropriate to communicate this process to you given how busy I know you to be.

However, knowing that your teacher is there should you require any assistance or have a question that your current knowledge cannot seem to penetrate has been invaluable. And for this I am truly grateful, and apologize that it has taken me this long to communicate. So, James, you are at the mercy of your strength as a teacher, guide and friend. My lack of communication on this front is a signal of your skill. The long-time *vasana* of identification with the outer *guru's* praise or criticism has dissolved, with your able assistance. This being just one of the many aspects of the Vedantic dissolution activated by contact with you and the teachings.

And just to state the self-evident – or as they call it in the UK, “the bleedin' obvious” – checking in with you is always a treat.

James: Yes, indeed. Experience is the self and, with reference to individual *jivas*, eternal, actually or potentially. One can't dismiss experience. One can only understand its nature. If you really hear these teachings as they are meant to be heard, the experiential impact is subtle, yet profound. The knowledge does the work, so to speak. There is always something to change but nothing needs to be changed. You, the self, simply observe its impact on the experiencing entity which, as you so eloquently state is a “process of dissolution, of watching previously unexamined

beliefs flare up and then dissolve and various *vasanas* decompose – some explosively, some languidly – just like the different images used in the *Gita* (the mirror, the womb, etc.) or the different passages along a river. And what remains? This clear, primordial substrate – the self.”

So, Amanda, job well done! I am very happy for you. It is a tribute to your devotion, dispassion and discrimination that true understanding has come. I am so glad that you shared your process with me, as nothing gives me more satisfaction than seeing this simple and great knowledge in action. “Seek to know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” I thank you for your thoughtfulness and restraint – insofar as I am an “I,” I am rather busy – as far as sharing your process with me. There are too many people experiencing their lives from this platformless platform as a result of the teaching for me to get involved with their daily ins and outs, ups and downs. I may not be obviously present but I am always there with you as this great wisdom, guiding and informing. I will post this email with the title “Krishna’s Knowing Smile.” What is happening in you, to you, by you and for you is indeed great from one perspective but, as you say, laughably obvious from another. How could I have missed life’s utter simplicity for so long, considering the fact that it is always revealed? A knowing smile.

Thanks for your service to the *sampradaya*. I really appreciate it. The world will thank you too. I don’t know exactly where this project will go. I’m working on another project now but am much looking forward to moving it forward.

As for us, things are moving along very nicely. Spain is winding down and I am looking forward to teaching in Germany, and our trip to the States where our paths will cross soon, no doubt.

~ Much love, James