

Another Stupid Nisargadatta Statement

Ram (James Swartz)

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Questioner: Hi, James. I picked up a Nisargadatta book the other day and it stated: "Whatever is being witnessed is constantly changing, but the witness is not changing." This is basic experienced-based knowledge, understanding the different levels of reality, but yet he goes on to say, "When the witness stops completely this is the eternal state." We know that it is not a state yet we know what he means, and it is a translation.

Ramji, could you speak about this please?

Ramji: By "witnessing" he means the subtle body inquiring, meditating, looking at itself. The subtle body is the experiencing witness. It witnesses thought, feelings, perceptions, etc. He is wrong that when the witnessing stops the eternal state appears. The "eternal state" is the one that knows the witnessing. It is always present, irrespective of the activities of the mind. And as you point of, it is not a state. This is *yoga* doctrine, experiential enlightenment. This kind of statement causes so much mischief. It is completely misleading.

Questioner: I must say, after my little foray into the *Gita* recently and knowing that nothing has ever happened or will happen or could happen, you must have a wonderful life expounding this for those who want to understand.

Ramji: Yes, it is wonderful indeed. If it gets any better I don't know how I will stand it.

~ Love, James