

The Spirit Soars

Ram (James Swartz)

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Charles: Hi, Ram. I thought I'd let you know how I'm getting on, if you don't mind. The saying "the spirit soars" comes to mind. It describes how I am feeling at the moment. The knowledge "I am awareness" seems to be deeply rooted in my being, so much so that the mind doesn't come close to disturbing me anymore. It's like awareness apparently thinking it was bound and being lost for so long in ignorance has now realised that it is free, always has been and, of course, the only way is up (so to speak). Even though this is how I am living these days I know that I am simply the witness of it all. I seem to have it sorted now, Ram. How wonderful it is, this knowledge, and knowing that my life now is basically just discriminating Me from the forms (objects) appearing in me. Eternal freedom is who I always have been.

Before I came to Vedanta proper, i.e. your website, I had this strange notion that everything would change when I knew who I was, and that people would at least be able to notice something; actually, it is very ordinary and this is great because it is like a secret only I know, plus I'm not obligated at all to tell anyone. Wow! All these stupid and, frankly, vain notions I carried around with me are thankfully seen right through for the absolute bollocks that they were/are. It's very true that Vedanta only comes when you have matured, and I also feel that Vedanta actually matures and nourishes the subtle body. Of course, you already know this. I just wanted to share this with one of the only humans alive whom I can share this with. Anyway, Ram, over and out for now, my friend and teacher whom I've never even met... incredible!

~ *Namaste*

Ram: Hi, Charles. No, I definitely do not mind this wonderful news! Owing to its confident clarity I suspect that this email is a one off. It is clear self knowledge, freedom in spite of the mind. It encompasses both perspectives - awareness and the *jiva* - which means you are the simple witness of both. I am particularly happy to know that you understand that "life is now just discriminating you from the objects that present themselves to you." I wouldn't imagine that it is an effortful discrimination but a natural one. Some people think that discrimination stops with self-knowledge but it never stops once you know who you are. Life is discrimination, nothing more. The understanding that nothing except your status changes when you know who you are is another sign of fully-assimilated truth. Life goes on as before but it is viewed from a different platform.

This knowledge - you - is indeed a "royal" secret, to quote the *Gita*, obvious only to those who know it. The rest see only your ever-changing form. They do not suspect. That you understand that you are free not to inform the world shows remarkable maturity. Often the self-realized feel the need to "disturb the minds of the ignorant," to quote the *Gita*. There is actually no world to inform, just the self-shining you witnessing yourself in everything. I am happy to share this secret with you. It is God's grace. Someone should know. And the world should know that it is possible to attain the already-attained freedom that one is, so I will post this letter on the Web to inspire others to work diligently for it.

~ Much love, Ram

