

As God as It Gets

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Terry: Hello, Ram. I want to thank you for all the information at your website. I've ordered your book, and very much enjoyed reading Chapter II at the site. My pursuit began over 45 years ago contemplating Camus' statement: "The first question of philosophy is whether or not to commit suicide." The cycle of life seemed meaningless, futile, absurd, but despite its banality life did at least reserve the possibility that there was something I did not yet know. Renouncing religion, rules, cultural expectations, I set out, my own master, to learn what I could. Within months there was an epiphany where the night called me outside, and the stars, wind, trees and universe blessed and accepted me. I felt connected to everything, not identical, but on the same team, and I knew nothing was expected of me, no matter what I did in life or didn't do, I was accepted. While somewhat free from the prior renunciation, I was now stunningly free and, as you put it, safe from any existential crisis. Taking psychology at the time, I realized it was more than a peak experience, and that I was completely self-actualized. I also knew others must have had similar experiences, and started looking for books and poems. I was so obviously in love with life that a language lab teacher stopped me once and asked, "I see you every day and you seem so happy. Why?" I just pointed at the grass, trees, sky and said, "It is all so beautiful." Much has passed, and though I've read all of Ramana, Merrill-Wolfe, Shankara, Nisargadatta, I've never worked through the literature systematically with a teacher. Your explanations are so clear, and your confidence, that as I read in Shankara 29 years ago, knowledge alone brings about liberation (I don't have much in the way of experiences) is reassuring. It is time to polish the diamond and make sure the shift is full-time. Again, thank you for your wonderful, systematic revelation of the Truth. Here is a poem as further introduction.

As God as it Gets*

The Sages say
We are the Absolute!
We are all One!
The sense of self:
A mistake of the intellect.

Our bodies, our lives
May be facets of
A perfect diamond
But we are the diamond.

So there is no advantage
To be taken over another
Or even for ourselves;
Not thru dress
Not thru business
Not thru education
Not thru *yagya*
Not thru gem stones

Not thru prayer
Not thru worship of the Gods
For each is a perfect ex-pression
Of the wholeness of it all
Even self-improvement
Is a mistake of the intellect¹
So doing nothing
Here I sit
As God as it gets.

Cleaning house in a wild fit
You are, as God as it gets.

Riding a bicycle,
Flying down a hill
With face lit I am, as God as it gets.

Lying with you
With your lips to sip
We are, as God as it gets.

Footnote: 1. *Avadhuta Gita I.34*, Shree Purohit Swami translation: "There are no scriptures; no Gods, no regions, no colour, no status; no class, no clan; no dark path, no bright path; ultimate reality is the beauty of spirit only." And Swami Chetanananda's translation: "In *Brahman* there are neither the *Vedas* nor worlds nor gods nor sacrifices; there are neither stages of life nor castes nor race nor lineage; there is neither the path of smoke nor the path of light. Only the selfsame *Brahman*, the Supreme Reality, exists."