

What Is Self-Knowledge?

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2014-12-10

Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/1944>

Vedanta is a body of knowledge and a teaching methodology based on a logical observation of our own unexamined day-to-day experience of life. It produces self-knowledge. Self-knowledge is the knowledge that ends the need, the craving, for any kind of knowledge of objects or experiences.

In the apparent reality (*maya*) there is no beginning and no end for knowledge of objects of experience. One can always know more! One can always know more about the science of reality called Vedanta because Vedanta is another object appearing to the only knower there is: the awareness we all are.

But self-knowledge is not the knowledge of any object of experience. It is not subject to change nor can it be forgotten once it is known. Self-knowledge is the knowledge of the knower once it recognizes its own nature as pure consciousness, pure knowledge. Self-knowledge is the knowledge of "that" because of which we know what we know and we don't know what we don't know. It is before or beyond knowledge and ignorance of objects. It is me, it is you, pure knowingness, pure awareness, call it what you will!

If a self-realized person loves Vedanta, he or she does so for the sheer joy of It. It is more like a hobby. It is not that he or she wants to get something from Vedanta that would add a sense of completion or fulfillment to one's life, because once he/she firmly knows his/her true identity as the changeless, actionless, beginningless, all-pervasive consciousness ever infusing everything - there is nothing more needed to be known, not even Vedanta.

Self-knowledge puts an end to the need for all kinds of objective knowledge. It is the knower's consciousness free of all association or non-association with objects of experience.