

Can Ignorance Return?

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Seeker: James, I was wondering: If self-inquiry exists in duality, and everything in duality has limited results, then how does self-inquiry permanently remove ignorance?

James: Self-inquiry doesn't remove ignorance, knowledge removes ignorance. Knowledge is the fruit of inquiry, so you need to inquire.

Seeker: Also, if ignorance is an object, then how does its removal facilitate freedom?

James: Bondage to objects is caused by ignorance, so when it is removed you are no longer bound to objects.

Seeker: Can't the ignorance return after its removal, like other objects?

James: It can if the self is known to be an object. But it can't if the self is known to be you. How can you forget yourself? You have to be there to forget or remember, and you are never not present. Self-knowledge is not memory-based. It is direct knowledge.