

# Look on the Bright Side

Ram (James Swartz)

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**Mike:** Hi, James. I'm very miffed that I'm not going to be able to attend the next seminar. Life just got very busy and expensive, and I don't have the cash or time right now.

I tried to be clever and outwit *samsara*, but it got me. Again! I was going to sell the house, buy the boat, live on the house sale money and have a simple life devoted to *Isvara* and Vedanta. But I listened to the voices and they told me to just hang onto the house a bit longer, get a loan for the boat and use the tenant's income to pay off the loan. It all worked well enough in my head, but *Isvara* just kicked my butt instead for not sticking to the plan! Every time I hear you quote Krishna saying "devote your life to me and I will take care of your stuff" I blush with shame!!

Oh, well. It's done. Now life has become even more complicated!

I wagged the finger at my sister the other day for doing the Advaita Shuffle, as you call it. She has a ridiculous amount of self-chosen stress, but was doing the "but I'm fundamentally okay as awareness." But actually, what I've just done is the same: trying to hedge my bets out of fear. And it just created a whole lot of *rajas* - the very thing I was planning to reduce!

Ah, well. I love you James. Thanks for everything. At least I can put my foolishness in the context of Vedanta and understand why I'm getting the painful results, instead of feeling confused and sorry for myself, like I used to. I'm grateful for what you share.

~ Much love

**James:** Ah, yes, that pesky *Isvara*! The best-laid plans - well, as the song from Monty Python says, "Life's a piece of shit, when you look at it... etc." And the only option: "Look on the bright side." A lot of growth there, I'd say, what with gaining the knowledge of the WHY and the loss of self-pity. Be sure to write a book when you figure out how to get secure in *samsara*. Your fame and wealth will eclipse The Donald's, and I will hang up my Vedanta shingle and steal silently away into the night. ☺ I'll miss you at the seminar, Mike, but I figure our paths will cross again one fine day. Keep the faith. I love you.

~ James