

Persistent Effort

Ram (James Swartz)

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Seeker: Dear James, I am about halfway through *Inquiry into Existence* (about two pages a day). What a book! It is lucid, exact and methodical and is also a great bridge to the Trout Lake + Tiru *Panchadasi* recordings.

I am so grateful for the teaching and your persistent effort. Thank you, James. I can't really imagine "doing" anything else. It's as if time is just stopping, the endeavours – pains and pleasures of the past – are just "there," they won't go away but it's fine. In the middle there is a terrific feeling that nothing ever changed anyhow and the gratefulness just beams out. Thank you, thank you!

James: Persistent effort is the key. The world is always with us, but since it is as good as non-existent, when you look at it from the self's point of view, it might as well be non-existent, "joy and sorrow woven fine," as the poet says, freedom in spite of *samsara*.