

Enlightenment the Beginning, Not the End

Ram (James Swartz)

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/340>

Jack: Dear James, after my realization at Doro in 2012 my vanity got the better of me, I am afraid. I thought that I had understood everything... finished, job done.

But I had not understood that understanding everything is not enough. Even though the knowledge in itself helps a lot to calm the mind, I now understand that one has to actualize the knowledge. What use is enlightenment if the relative self, the one that lives in this world, is not a credit to the me, the self, and a blessing to the world? I was seeking freedom because I didn't like Jack and I mistakenly thought that Jack would just disappear but Jack was still Jack. So more work has to be done, and that I do gladly.

I now spend my days doing *sadhana*, listening to your MP3s and reading the scriptures in your kind translation, and it works wonders!

Epiphanies flood my mind and there is no fish-out-of-water hangover as there used to be. But not everything is bliss.

Sometimes your words or the words of the *Gita* hit a nerve and I think, "Oh my God, oh my God, it is true, it is true: I am that," and then tears flood my eyes and my muscles go into violent spasms. This often happens several times in a day.

Who said Vedanta is only intellectual? That person must be mad. Mortal combat is more like it! But I charge on. No turning back.

Please, wish me luck. Hope to join you soon.

James: Good for you, Jack. The *yogic* idea that *moksa* is an end to one's life in the apparent reality is nonsense. Of course, it is a seductive idea for the ego. But *moksa* is just the beginning of *sadhana*, insofar as you can do your life from an inspired non-attached position. All the best.

~ Much love, James