

Experience in a Nutshell

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James: People who are empty spiritually are usually experience-hungry. They think knowledge is purely intellectual and imagine that the apparent separation of subject and object is an actual separation, so they long for some kind of experience to bridge the gap, which of course it never does, because they are already what they seek. If reality is non-dual, no experience is necessary for *moksa*, only self-knowledge, which is established by reason.

The intellect tends to think that a thing and its opposite cannot both be true – which is true if reality is a duality. But reality is non-dual and contains two orders of reality in it. So both a thing and its opposite can be true. Reality is a both/and, not an either/or. For example, a dreamer's experience of daylight does not contradict the sleeper's experience of darkness, because they are in different orders of the same reality.