

Gratitude

Ram (James Swartz)

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/401>

Mike: Hello, James. I am currently reading *How to Attain Enlightenment*, which is phenomenal. I do not have a specific question at this time, but would rather like to say hello and introduce myself in case I do have some questions. As for me, I have been taking online classes, live and recorded, from Sadhvi Vrindavan, a disciple of Pujya Swamiji's who resides in the District of Columbia, for about a year-and-a-half now. Before encountering Advaita from a traditional source... a *brahmanishta*, if you will, I was stuck in the sorry-go-round of reading the *Yoga Sutras*, wanting a teaching, wanting more out of life, etc. I have since also been reading Pujya Swamiji's work (I even met him a few months back in Saylorsburg), and somehow (of course!) came across your website. I have been reading the website, specifically the *satsang* section, a lot. I also purchased your book and am rereading each chapter carefully, especially the one on qualifications, and am ever so grateful to have the teaching presented in an American way. Don't get me wrong, I am an Indophile *par excellence*, but it is refreshing and easier to digest from your point of view. All this being said, I thank you for the teaching, and would gratefully appreciate it if you could guide me as questions arise.

~ Best, Mike Thompson

PS: I emailed Julia for a specific question a few months back and she was phenomenal. That said, I still had the drive to email you.

PPS: I love in, I believe, your autobiography, a quote by a *yogi* that read, "See me when you are already happy," as this knowledge isn't for a broken heart or twisted head.

~ Om

James: Lovely to hear from you, Mike.