

Let the *Vasanas* Bind

Ram (James Swartz)

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Sandy: Hi, James. In our last exchange, I stated that while I intellectually know I am awareness, I still have binding *vasanas* and therefore cannot be enlightened. What if I realize that *vasanas* have nothing to do with me, that the binding is only apparent in the same way that my gross and subtle bodies are only apparent? In other words, realizing that the causal body is as apparent as the gross and subtle bodies? Would it matter if this *jiva* appears to have binding *vasanas*? I don't think it would matter if one has shifted one's identity to the self. Is this accurate?

James: Absolutely. The "binding *vasana*" teaching is aimed at the person, the subtle body. Awareness observes the binding. If you know that the *vasanas* are binding the person and you know for sure that you are not the person, i.e. you are the knower (awareness) of the person, then let the *vasanas* bind. Scripture says that *vasanas* known in this way are like a burnt rope. They look like they bind, but they are impotent. If the one that they bind is not real, then where is the bondage?

Sandy: That is exactly what I was thinking after I wrote to you. I thought about it all that day, and then I knew: I am free! I always have been free, limitless, eternal awareness! I am not the *vasanas* and I am not bound. This is what had me hung up because I felt really badly about the binding *vasanas*. What's interesting is that just that knowledge helped to loosen the binds on the subtle body, and I am observing as this process continue.

James: If you're not the *vasanas*, you're not the *vasanas*, binding or non-binding. If the knowledge is firm the knots will loosen in their own good time. A lot of uncooked people use this idea to justify various self-insulting actions, but I suspect this is not a danger for you. I am glad my words were helpful.

~ Love, James