

# Love Moves Us Forward

Ram (James Swartz)

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**Ram:** Hi, Carl. With reference to your *jiva's* state of desirelessness, not to say boredom, sometimes you have to take the bull by the horns and do what you will, *Isvara* be damned. But if you have very little will of your own for the right reasons, you need to rely on *Isvara*, as desire is difficult to manufacture.

**Carl:** What to do when desire evaporates can certainly present something of a problem. As you are well aware, it has been for me a quandary which I have not been slow to voice. Like you say, if one lacks will for the right reason, then one has little choice other than to rely on *Isvara*. In the meantime, of course, one has to do something, even when one is aware that the motive for it is quite hollow. Such was the point of my return to work... and also I figured that while I was deep in my dilemma I might as well be getting paid for it.

**Ram:** That's very wise.

**Carl:** I guess that old habits die hard. And, as I reminded myself... what one actually does really makes no difference to one's self as Self... one way or the other. Anyway, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

**Ram:** It's a great excuse.

**Ram** (from a previous email): One should hope to purify one's intellect to the point where it brilliantly reflects the truth of one's ever-pure nature.

**Carl:** That's a wonderful way of describing the noblest pursuit of the intellect... and the true purpose of life.

**Ram** (from a previous email): Sometimes one's mind gets a bit rusty for want of rigorous application of the teachings and needs a bit of exercise to remain doubt-free. You should be able to work anything that troubles you on your own although I am always ready to help.

**Carl:** Thanks, Ram. It is now becoming clear, however, that the motive which moves us forward is actually love and not desire. The writing exercise that I am currently engrossed in is really an expression of it. It is simply the love of knowledge and *dharma*. Looking back to the time of Shanti's accident, it seems that what *Isvara* was asking of me was nothing less. I hope that you will excuse me for not articulating this better, but it seems virtually impossible to do so without making it sound like some sort of opportunity. I m sure, however, that you will understand what I mean.

**Ram:** Yes, indeed.

**Carl:** Before I finish, Ram, I need to ask, are you aware that Ted Trout has died? I only found out a couple of weeks ago when I inadvertently stumbled across his obituary. I liked him a lot... we got on well together. It's a real shame. Sorry to bring you this news, Ram, if you didn't already know.

**Ram:** No, I didn't know about Ted. He was a good guy. When your peers, and indeed those younger than you, start dying you realize that you need to have your house in order. I looked death squarely in the face last year but this year He seems to have disappeared, emphasis on "seems" and I am enjoying the youthful feeling of eternity.

~ Love, Ram