

Misplaced Devotion

Ram (James Swartz)

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Seeker: Hello, James. Just today I listened again to one of the discourses from Tiruvannamalai and I remembered when I asked you, "How is it that despite all this knowledge I still suffer and feel so much pain when I leave this discourse and go outside to town?"

You answered, "You don't suffer. How can you suffer if you know it?"

I could not understand what you were trying to point out and I felt puzzled. The understanding of your answer came later when I came home, and just today some release happened again.

Also, my grudge against you for criticizing Osho vanished; I hope it's gone for good.

☺

~ *Namaste* from Slovenia

James: It is lovely to hear from you. I am happy that you understood what I meant. If you see your suffering it is an object and you are not it. You are the witness. The witness is free of what it witnesses. The more you expose your mind to the teachings the more clarity comes. Keep at it.

I am glad you are no longer upset about my comments about Osho. It is good to have devotion for a teacher but it should not be devotion without discrimination. He was obviously helpful to you and many others spiritually at some point but if you look at his teachings in light of Vedanta and his behavior in light of *dharma* you can see that the devotion is misplaced. Whatever you gain in this world comes from *Isvara* TO human beings, not FROM human beings. Understanding that frees you from dependence on a *guru* and allows you to become a devotee of *Isvara* who turns out to be you. So in this way you become the *guru* and your love is placed where it belongs - in you, the self. There are no others.

~ James