

No Experience Necessary

Ram (James Swartz)

2014-09-14

Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/594>

Mike: Hi, James. Thanks for your previous responses. Very encouraging, as always. When I got to the end of reading it again just now, the simplicity of your statement “it is purely in terms of knowledge” really struck me. Liberation is just a matter of knowing what is real and what is not real. As simple as that. Of course, studying Vedanta and coming to understand more and more the beauty of how it “all hangs together” is a terrific bonus for the *jiva*.

Also this comment: “There is only one self, and experience is only the self experiencing itself always. *Maya* makes it seem as if there is an individual self experiencing objects. Basically, this is all one needs to know.” This is a perfect *sadhana* for me, even as I’m typing now the experience is becoming objectified.

The video series arrived yesterday and I’ve started on *Vivekachoodamani* which is great because I’ve been reading the edition I got from ShiningWorld. Yes, a tremendous boon to have been given a human birth, but then to actually find (be led to) a teacher and the true path to understanding? Unbelievable!

Thanks again, James, and take care.

James: Hi, Mike. Great to hear from you again. Liberation *is* purely in terms of knowledge. This is the most difficult teaching to grasp, I think. It means that you have understood the simple fact that reality is non-dual. You are fine, have always been fine and will always be fine. Only a few thoughts to the contrary seemingly contradicted this fact in the apparent past. It doesn’t seem like much, but the shift from the notion that something has to be experientially different to the idea that freedom is only a matter of one’s perspective is huge. Good on you! I’m packing up your enlightenment certificate now. Maybe it’s prudent not to mail it just yet, but I doubt it. Just hang onto this elegant, clear knowledge: “There is only one self and experience is only the self experiencing itself always,” and keep in touch.

~ Much love, James