

Superior and Enlightened?

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Seeker: Hello, James!

I came back last night and received your audio. Thank you very much for your generosity! I am very excited to listen it tonight!!

Also, thank you for the newsletter. I have a question. It was mentioned about some people who got *moksa* through your teaching and felt superiority to you. Isn't *jivanmukta* the one who can see all equal and one? If they are feeling superiority, why do you admit them as awakened ones? Are they really enlightened?

James: Often when someone first realizes who they are there are still some unhealthy *vasanas* and some ego remnants remaining that may co-opt the realization. Some people worry about what to do with their lives. They don't feel superior, they just feel lost in the knowledge that there is nothing to do and no doer to do anything. Others feel superior because they have discovered the secret. It is natural. It should go away as the knowledge becomes firm.

If the feeling of superiority or emptiness persists for a long time then they are not enlightened. That means that the ego has claimed the enlightenment. Enlightenment does not belong to the ego. It is freedom from the ego. When you are the self you let the ego express itself. You do not try to censor it, make it be spiritual and holy and good. You have tolerance and love for it. You see it as a spoiled brat and you love it. Enlightened people do and say dumb things sometimes. Swami Dayananda said that Barak Obama was a Muslim. This is simply not true. Everyone in the world knows he is a Christian but Swami said he was a Muslim. He is as enlightened as a person can be and he said something very dumb. You cannot always tell by the behavior.

~ Much love to you, James