

The World Is an Image in Awareness

Ram (James Swartz)

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Seeker: Hi, James. I am considering going to your retreat in Vancouver this January. As I read over some of your material, a question comes to mind. I was hoping you may have a moment to consider it:

It seems to me you are saying that the world exists within the self and will do so forever, that is, you do not see an end to the illusion of an objective world. Do you believe that there will always persist within the self an image of a world (even if it is understood as inherent in the self and thus not objective in the sense of separate)?

James: There are two “worlds” for everyone. The objective world, made of objects and happenings created by consciousness functioning as the Creator, and the subjective “world” of projections that individuals add to the objective world. Through self-knowledge the subjective projections that cause suffering can be recognized and removed, setting the individual free. Until the whole creation is dissolved by the Creator at some point, it will exist as an image in consciousness. But someone who knows that he or she is consciousness will not take the image to be the reality, and will thus be free of it. The image of the world is only a problem when you think it is real. Vedanta shows you that you are consciousness and not the person who appears in you as an image.

~ James