

The Point of No Return

Ram (James Swartz)

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/904>

Marilyn: Hi, James! Good to hear from you and know where you are, safe in Portland. I love the *satsang* with Jill.

I love Portland! I was there once in September in the late nineties for a long weekend learning energy medicine. It was just beautiful.

I have been listening to your audios from the Berlin *satsangs* every day, and they blow me away every time. I'm firmly ensconced in the Vedanta to the point of no return. I know this much is true! *Satsang* with you in England has thrown me over the edge. Yeah, something definitely happened there.

I can relate so much to what Jill is saying. I loved reading her experiences of assimilating the knowledge, and your responses. Thank you for sending that out.

My daughter is in a serious crisis right now, a crisis that would make any parent quake in their shoes.

It was interesting because when I found out I initially responded with dispassion. But then I noticed the little me begin to wonder if I shouldn't be feeling a little more upset.

I noticed her being more affected by the attitudes and beliefs and opinions of those who still have both feet in *samsara*... and think I still do too... and I noticed that I started to react in a way *samsaris* would expect and feel more comfortable with. I also noticed that I became quite agitated and felt overly responsible for her choices, and was upset with this for a couple of days, overly identified with the drama, becoming more separate from the *sattvic* state of mind.

But I knew that awareness was watching everything the whole time of course and didn't interfere. Then I began listening more deeply to your audios to apply them more specifically to the situation. Once again, I returned to dispassion with renewed confidence, identifying more with the calm eye watching it all and responding as needed, without enabling.

As for the boyfriend situation, I am very pleasantly surprised with how well we are getting along enriching each other's lives. He has been a tremendous help decluttering my home and providing some companionship. I know it's because I'm not worried about getting or not getting what I think I want out of the situation (being that I know there's an upside and downside that makes everything zero-sum anyway), and so I am free to just enjoy it for what it is and respond naturally to each moment as I see fit with no expectations or worries. If and when it no longer works, I'll be just fine, because I do know the self can never be affected by anything that comes and goes.

Thank you.

~ Much love, Marilyn

James: Dear Marilyn, it is very lovely to hear from you. I am so happy that self-inquiry, à la Vedanta, is working for you, that you are past the point of no return. I suppose I needn't offer encouragement but I will - keep it up! From the way you describe your relationship to your daughter and boyfriend, it definitely does show that the teachings are working.

~ Much love, James