

# ShiningWorld



**ShiningWorld Newsletter**

**January 2015**

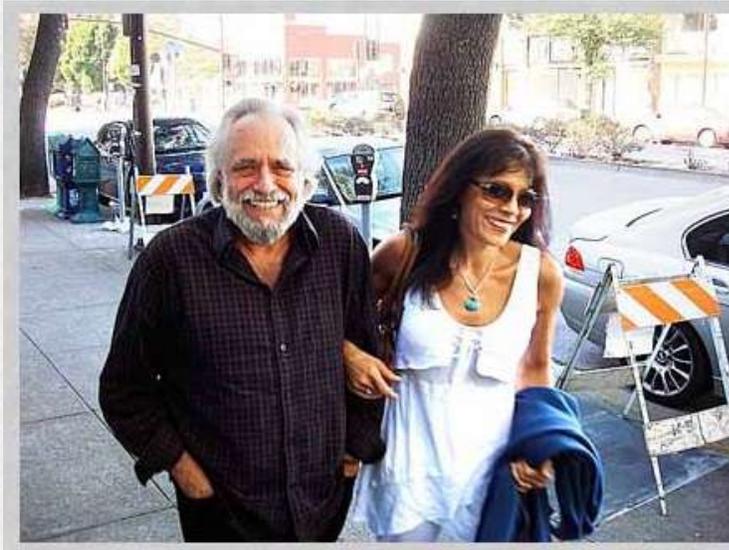


Dear friends

This has been a year of expansion on the jiva level for James and me with many things coming together for us, our family and for shiningworld. My daughter gave birth to a healthy and beautiful little girl; she is happy and well, living the best life possible for her with her new family. James and I have finally been granted a

fiancé visa for the US, which means we can get legally married. This is simply a formality for us as we do not recognise an authority other than the self to proclaim us married or not, but it does mean that we no longer have an issue with US immigration. Jai Bhagavan! Ramji now has to make an honest woman of me in the eyes of the law ☺! We are planning a simple ceremony in Bend when we get back there in the spring.

James and I have been together for 3 and a half wonderful years, with non-dual love deepening, unfolding and framing every moment—loving and living life fully in all its glorious and inglorious transience—unfettered and blissful, regardless. We savour each moment like gourmands at a wedding feast, deeply grateful, aware, observing it all. Our union has been a blessed thing and Isvara has cleared the way for us, removing obstacles and bringing in support where we need it. Our aim is as always to serve each other, ShiningWorld and the knowledge to the best of our ability.

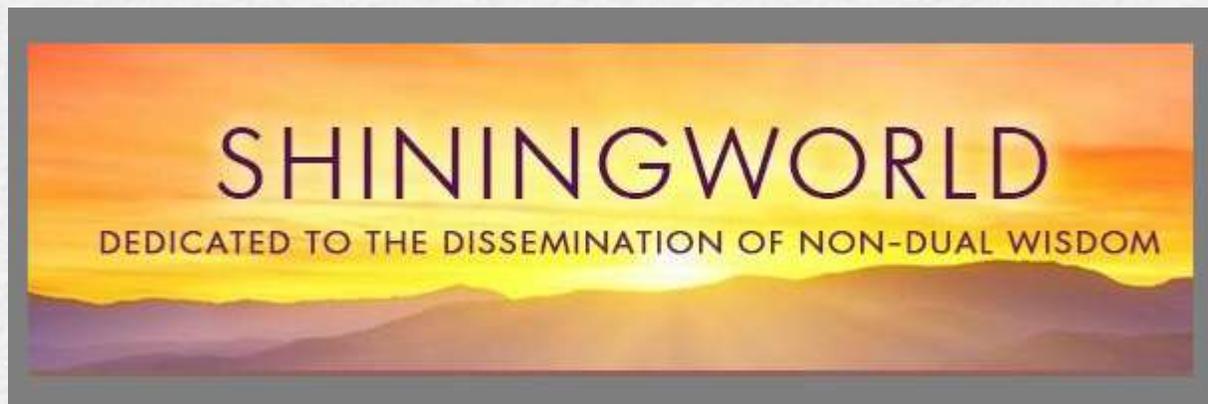


I am still in South Africa and hoping to join Ram in India if the vicissitudes of petty Indian officialdom by some magic give me a visa in time! Ram is loving being back in India and the shooting of the film on bhakti is progressing well. It is going to be a valuable addition to our video library. He is very much looking forward to the start of the seminar and seeing all the wonderful souls who will travel so far to hear the teaching. It

promises to be the best ever seminar in India. Apparently the spiritual supermarket crowd has cleared out of Tiruvannamalai, the place has been cleaned up considerably and the energy there is one of underlying peace and devotion.

## **ShiningWorld Progress**

We have so much to be grateful for! Shiningworld is taking off like a thoroughbred that has been carefully trained and nurtured to maturity, prepared and ready for the course it must run. Ram's single handed and tireless efforts for so many years have finally come to fruition. Our team of people, Christian, Isaiah, Robert and Dan are all working with Ram and me to help us give you more access to the highest quality Vedanta teaching possible. In addition we have a growing number of wonderful souls: Myuri, Leonara, Susan, Luma, Peggy, Lidija, Ted, Vinay, Simon, Shams, Lana, Jonathan, Mel, Magdolna, Nancy, Gail, Andre, Marija and Svetin giving of their time and effort to help us transcribe, translate and edit our publications. Thank you to all.

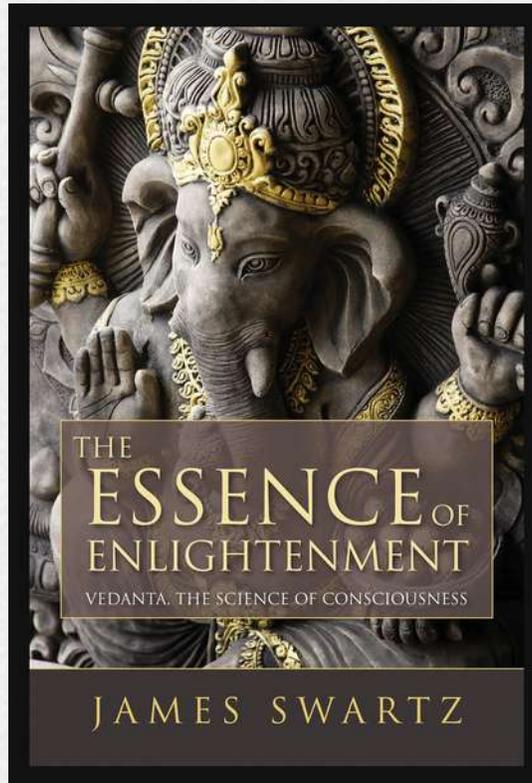


A special thanks again to Dan and his assistant Mike who are working so hard to get the new website up and running properly. Dan is hopeful that we will have the new website fully functional by mid to end February.

We have a great many projects on the go and ShiningWorld is “going viral” as they say in computer lingo. It is in Isvara's hands as always and we are merely its servants. Our greatest reward is in knowing that this timeless knowledge works for those who are ready and find their way to it.

## **New Publications**

### **The Essence of Enlightenment**



After much anticipation we are pleased to announce that James' new book, "The Essence of Enlightenment" is available in the ShiningWorld shop:

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE SHOP](#)

It will also be available through Amazon from the 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Here is what James has to say about it. "I wouldn't say that it is the same as "How to Attain Enlightenment" and I wouldn't say that it is different. Vedanta is Vedanta; if properly taught it always covers the same topics in the same logical sequence.

It is not the same in that it is written in a more engaging conversational style, as if I am talking directly to you. It is suitable for people who are new to Vedanta and

people for whom English is a second language but it is not any less sophisticated than “How to Attain Enlightenment”. It may be a little ‘better’ in that I am a better writer than I was than I was five years ago.

In it I have developed themes which in “How to Attain Enlightenment” needed further attention: qualifications, dharma, values, the enlightened person, Isvara and Jiva. I have omitted two popular chapters...those on Ramana and Neo-Advaita... to make room for other topics.

I am very proud of this book and I hope you will read it. I don’t think you will be disappointed. It was only possible to publish it because of the generous donations of two Australian friends, Ben de Silva and Greg Pickworth.”

It would be nice if you ordered through the ShiningWorld shop. You can place your orders now. See link above.

If you click on the graphic link on the home page it will take you to the shop, or just click on Shop/books. It is also available on Amazon through the publisher, Sentient Publications and directly from the Sentient Publications website. It is a few dollars cheaper on Amazon and for non-USA people the postage may be less.

## **Panchadasi**

Ramji has also finished writing commentaries on Panchadasi inspired by Swami Paramarthananda’s teaching. He has called it **INQUIRY INTO EXISTENCE**. It is a truly great text. It requires a bit of preparation so new people should read “Tattva Bodh”, “Bhagavad Gita” and either “How to Attain Enlightenment” or “Essence of Enlightenment” first before they tackle it. It is perhaps Vedanta’s most advanced text.

Panchadasi establishes self knowledge on the basis of an investigation into the unexamined logic of our everyday experience. Self knowledge and self ignorance come in the form of words arranged in certain thought patterns. Panchadasi is a very sophisticated work that analyzes the meaning of words so that wrong thinking about the nature of reality can be exposed and corrected. When one’s thinking coincides with the nature of reality, suffering ceases.

**Quote: If everything is consciousness/awareness, then experience is consciousness/awareness and we should be able to realize our nature as consciousness through an analysis of experience.**

Panchadasi will be formatted for the web presently and will be available in the shop shortly. Keep your eyes peeled!

## **Teaching Course**

The next webinar of on chapter 7 of the teaching course will take place in February when Ram returns from India. Unfortunately, the internet connection is not strong enough in India to hold the webinar from there.

## **New Satsangs**

The new batch of e-satsangs from Ram and me and all the other shiningworld writers have been loaded on the new website. The new search function is working well and should facilitate inquirers finding answers to their questions instead of having to write to us.

## **Theme for Newsletter**



## **Control of Speech**

We have focused quite extensively on the correct use of words—the mechanics of communication—and why it is so difficult for most people. Control of mind, action and speech is one of the qualifications for moksa and understandably so.

Vedanta is an oral tradition and the importance of how language is used cannot be overstated. All words have an implied and ostensible meaning and are spoken and heard through the filters of the *vasanas*. Vedanta uses the implied meaning of very specific words to teach because in order to teach the truth that is not based on subjective experience, words have to be as accurate as possible. Because Vedanta is a valid, complete and independent means of knowledge it is possible to get direct knowledge through the implied meaning of words, when they are used and unfolded correctly through a specific methodology, by a qualified teacher to a qualified student so as to leave as little as possible up for interpretation.

Most people are not aware how they use words, or what the difference between the implied and ostensible meaning of words is, let alone the filters through which they speak and hear. As inquirers it goes without saying that this is an area that requires careful attention if one hopes to understand and assimilate the knowledge—as well as to communicate with other minds in a way that brings clarity and peace of mind.

Ram has designed and written an excellent video clip illustrating what goes wrong in communication and why.

Christian animated it and Isaiah narrated it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owhhv5FjNYQ&feature=youtu.be>

## **And for a laugh....**

For those of you who over-indulged at Christmas time and need to make some New Year resolutions... or, who have not yet mastered the art of sinning intelligently...here is something for you..... ☺

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=cf2\\_1367169265](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=cf2_1367169265)

## **Our New Year Message to You**

Thank you for being a part of our lives, for the love and grace you bring to us and to the ShiningWorld community. We thank all of you who have so generously contributed financially to keep shiningworld growing. We could not do what we do without your help.

May the “New” Year bring you all the unqualified peace of self knowledge, quiet abiding joy, and clarity in all of life’s transactions and endeavours.

We love you and cradle you all in the cave of our Heart

