

# SHININGWORLD

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

HELLO, EVERYONE!

from Sundari

### ONLY ONE DAY



IT'S BEEN A while since our last newsletter, so much of our news is not really news anymore. In a way, it's silly to speak of "news" because nothing ever actually happens. If you think it does, which is reasonable from a dualistic perspective, a little inquiry reveals that every day is Groundhog Day! We wake up, go about our day, sleep, perhaps dream a bit and go through the same sequence over and over every day of our lives.

Hence the wise see action in inaction and inaction in action. If reality is non-dual awareness, which we know it is, then there is nothing other than awareness. There is no such thing as past, present or future, no time and no space between things, no change or causality. Yet the power of *Maya* to delude is so pervasive and persuasive that it makes the changeless appear to happen and change.

Imagine how crazy life would be if everything happened at once! Things appear to happen sequentially in space-time and seem to move from A to B, but the mind can only experience one thing at a time, and the time is always NOW. Thank God *Isvara* set it up that way or we would all go mad.



The mind rules the five knowledge-gathering organs and the five action-producing organs, and depends on them to relate to external stimuli. Swami Paramarthananda calls it the "traffic cop" because it directs the flow of the five streams of information that flow through the perceptive senses to contact the objects away from you, even though there is no "away." To avoid the confusion caused by conflicting information, the *vasana*-driven mind decides which organ will function consciously and which will function mechanically. When you are driving and talking, you are a seemingly competent, but actually aren't, because you are paying attention to your organ of speech when you should be paying attention to your organ of vision, so you don't have control of the factors that are out of sight.

Racing though our lives identified with our sense organs, time is an intractable companion, yet it has no objective reality. It is the distance between a memory of an event and another memory or the current



experience. Time “begins” when *Maya* manifests and the creation appears. Science cannot figure out what existed before the Big Bang, because there is no information from time or space from which to reason. It will remain an unsolved mystery that only self-knowledge can resolve. We cannot step out of time if we identify with the body, because as long as it is alive it is “in” time.

Memory is a function of the mind which catalogues and categorizes apparent events as they take place and makes it seem as if I have had many different experiences. But there is just one unbroken experience “all the time” and that is me, the ever-present, unchanging witness of the seemingly experiencing body-mind-sense complex. Unaffected, I observe the waking, dreaming and deep sleep states as they appear in me. The more things change, the more they stay the same. ☸

## BACK IN THE DREAM



YET ALTHOUGH WE have a busy teaching and travelling schedule, our lives are pretty simple. In whatever unusual and interesting place Time takes us, we get up, have our morning *satsang* with breakfast, boot up our computers, write *satsangs* and books, and manage ShiningWorld all day long. Nevertheless, we never fail to take pleasure in what we do and in each other, but the pleasure simply highlights the eternal bliss of who we are. Nothing adds to or subtracts from it.

I wish we had something “exciting” to share, but the bliss of the self beats excitement hands down! On the other hand, people always ask us what’s happening, and we have some interesting new developments to report on. ☸

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

WE LEFT BEND three weeks ago, took a slow drive through Idaho and Utah, camping along the way, and arrived in glorious Carbondale, Colorado, two weeks ago. We are awed by the beauty of the Rockies and are very much enjoying the *darshan* and faultless hospitality of Eaden and Deva Shantay of True Nature Healing Arts. We admire the integrity and excellence they bring to everything they do, including assisting us in our work. Thank you to both of you for your kindness and generosity. We look forward to working with you.

I will be leaving the U.S. next week for South Africa, and Ramji will stay on in Carbondale until mid-October before flying to Germany and joining me in S.A. We will be there until mid-January, after



Sundari, Eaden and Ramji.

which we leave for the seminar in Spain. Ramji has agreed to two other seminars in Europe, one in Bad Meinberg from March 11 to 16, and one in Berlin, March 24 to 27. [Click this LINK for the schedule.](#)

The April newsletter mentioned that Ramji was taking a five-month break from teaching after Trout Lake, which is obviously not going to happen! No surprises there. Ramji finds it hard to say no to requests to teach. With the new events scheduled at True Nature this fall, a seminar in South Africa in November and the three events booked in Europe in 2018, that plan is now redundant. ☀

## WHAT'S NEW ~ NEW NEWS

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### Was the Universe Created?

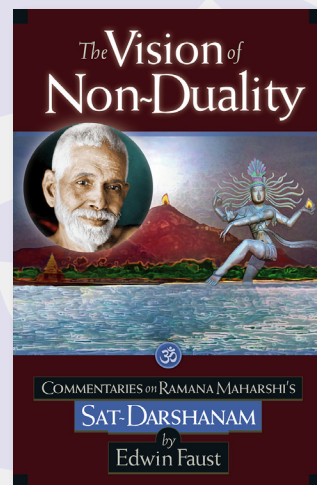
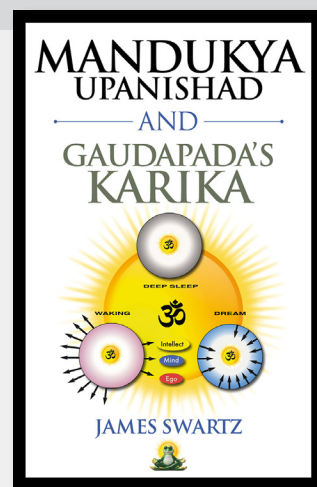
A MUST-READ! ShiningWorld is happy to announce an excellent new text, suitable for intermediate and advanced inquirers. It is a provocative gem that presents *ajativada*, the non-creation teaching, which will blow your mind because it seemingly contradicts the cause-and-effect teaching that James has been teaching for years and which most of you have cut your Vedantic teeth on! It is available as an eBook in the online bookshop for \$10. We recommend that you read the book and watch the video of this wonderful teaching together. The book is included when you purchase the video series, [which you can do here by clicking this LINK.](#)

A testimonial from Susan Taylor: “Dearest James, I just wanted to thank you for sending me your *Mandukya Upanishad and Gaudapada's Karika*. It is just beautiful in every way, so exquisitely written! It has a different ‘flavor’ from your other writings, not that those aren’t also beautiful. I just went and had it spiral-bound for easier reading, so I hope the eBook sells well enough to support an actual publication. It’s a true treasure! Give a hug to Sundari for me, and of course a big one for you! ~ Love, Susan” ☀

#### A Tribute to Ramana

SHININGWORLD IS HAPPY to announce a wonderful new publication, *The Vision of Non-Duality: Commentaries on Ramana Maharshi's Sat-Darshanam*, Ramana's Vedantic verses on self-knowledge written by one of our favourite people and ShiningWorld contributor, Edwin Faust. Ed is certainly qualified to write these commentaries on Ramana's verses. A former editor, he is a fine writer, one of my role models. I read it carefully, red pencil in hand, and found nary a flaw in his eloquent commentaries.

Don't miss it! [Get it here by clicking this LINK.](#) ☀





## END-OF-THE-YEAR EVENTS FOR 2017, PLUS EARLY 2018

Mount Sopris, south of Carbondale, Colorado.



### CARBONDALE SEMINAR, OCTOBER 13 TO 15, 2017

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#### **No Break for Ramji**

WE ACCEPTED EADEN and Deva's invitation to come to Carbondale, Colorado, not only because we wish to support them in their *sadhana*, but because we believe we can give much more to the ShiningWorld community by working with them. True Nature Healing Arts is an intentional sanctuary in the heart of the Rockies at Carbondale, offering yoga, an Ayurvedic spa, tea room and an eco-friendly boutique surrounded by a tranquil peace garden. It is open to the public seven days a week, sunrise to sunset. [Here's the LINK to their website.](#)

Our next seminar on October 13 to 15 will be here in Carbondale and will be streamed live over the internet at the *Livestream.com* site. [Here's the LINK for the seminar.](#)

#### ***Livestream.com* Events**

OUR COLLABORATION WITH Eaden and True Nature began last week, and will continue



until Ramji leaves the U.S. in mid-October. For the scheduled [Livestream.com](#) event, click this LINK to visit True Nature Healing Arts.

## An Important Issue!

WE HAVE NO discretion as far as the direction of ShiningWorld is concerned, because it is controlled by *Isvara*. It is not a worldly organization but an idea meant to serve the spiritual needs of everyone. Our

lives are solely dedicated to devotional service to *Isvara*. As Ramji gets older, international travel becomes more difficult for him. At the same time, the demand for teaching just keeps growing. We decline more invitations than we accept. In the last few years we have concluded that the most efficient way to satisfy *Isvara's* insatiable need to communicate Vedanta to the world would be to present more seminars online. Enter *Isvara* as Eaden, who is equally committed to the dissemination of Vedanta and who invited us to use his state-of-the-art facilities to this end. Equally important, Eaden has established a community of spiritually-inclined individuals who are eager to hear the teachings.

The seminar in June at True Nature was very well-attended by an enthusiastic group whose interest in Vedanta has grown. So the basic ingredients for successful communication on the internet are in place. Ramji does not want to put pre-recorded lectures online. Vedanta is a living transmission between a teacher and receptive minds.

## A Possible Downside

AS WE DO not have energy, time, expertise or resources to shift to the internet, we need to address the monetization issue. ShiningWorld is not a business entity. It is supported by *Isvara* in the form of donations from those who feel they have benefitted from the teachings. At the same time, to professionally offer these teachings online means that Eaden must cover his costs, so there will be a reasonable non-refundable fee for event registration, which takes into account the Rocky Mountain location and the amazing facilities at True Nature. Ramji will continue to teach on a donation basis. ☸

## CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 17 TO 19

FOR OUR SOUTH African inquirers, we'd like to announce another seminar (that was not supposed to happen) in Kalk Bay, Cape Town, from November 17 to 19. Megan has graciously agreed to host a follow-up teaching on *The Yoga of the Three Energies (gunas)*. Click this LINK for the schedule. ☸



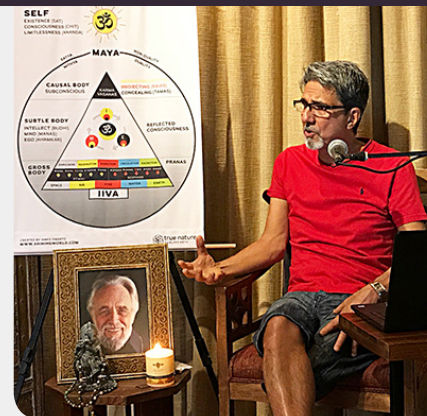
Carbondale, Colorado, June 2017.



## TIRUVANNAMALAI, INDIA, JANUARY 3 TO 23, 2018 WITH ARLINDO

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WE WILL NOT be teaching in India next year, but for you die-hard India *bhaktas*, Arlindo Nagar will be teaching in our place. **For information, click this LINK.** ☸



## BEAUTIFUL SPAIN, JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 10, 2018

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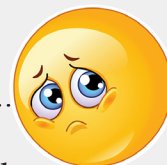
OUR FIRST EVENT for 2018 takes us to the sunny countryside outside Seville, Spain, at Suryalila, at Vidya's classy yoga centre, from January 27 to February 10. Check this place out. Remember, instead of suffering a gloomy winter in frosty Europe or America you can avail yourself of the opportunity to enjoy beautiful people, vegetarian food, yoga classes and an in-depth exploration of the three-energies teaching. I particularly enjoyed **the video HERE**. Here is **the LINK to the seminar**.

Vidya and her team are actively involved in a permaculture project to reclaim the land from decades of bad farming practices. The project is called Danyadara, which means "Blessed Earth."

If you would like to find out more and contribute to Danyadara, Vidya is raising funds to plant thousands of trees, build a food forest and educate others to help reverse desertification. Any support is greatly appreciated! **Please click this LINK to donate.** ☸

## PORTUGAL, SPRING 2018 ~ A SMALL BOO-BOO

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WE HAVE BEEN going on about teaching in Portugal for a couple of years now and posted a seminar on the website for April next year, only to realize that it was a bit premature, as we failed to communicate properly with the organizer, so the teaching will be postponed until the fall. We apologize to those of you who signed up. After the Spain seminar, we will go to Portugal, meet with the organizer and get all our ducks in line before we announce the teaching, probably in the fall of 2018. ☸

## AUDIO BOOKS

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AT LONG LAST, Ramji is able to record his books on audio, thanks to Eaden's high-tech recording studio. As he has a month before he joins me in South Africa, he hopes to make great progress. He is working on *The Yoga of Love* presently. We will keep you all posted, as we know many of you have been waiting for the audio versions of the books for a long time. ☸



## SATSANGS

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WE HAVE A bunch of new e-satsangs posted on the website. I have 65 and Ramji 30, so there are many new pages of great Q&A available. Here are James' favourite *satsangs* this month: *Jackpot*, *Joy Taking Root*, *Meditation on I*, *Moksa*, *The Feeling of Self-Knowledge* and *Vedanta Works*. ☸

## OLD NEWS ~ USA EVENTS 2017

### SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, JUNE 2017

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RAMJI TAUGHT THE three-energies (*gunas*) seminar in Santa Fe in early June, shortly after returning from Europe. Thanks to Rob for providing the venue, and particular thanks to Paddy and Spencer for treating us like royalty. We were totally pampered and very much enjoyed our stay with you. ☸

### BEND, OREGON, JULY 2017

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AFTER CARBONDALE, WE returned to Bend, where Ramji taught the *Mandukya* and *Karika* to an excellent group. Thank you to Carla, Mark, Arlindo and Jennifer for your excellent support with the practical details. We loved having you stay with us! After the seminar, Ramji worked overtime on his commentaries on the *Mandukya Upanishad*. ☸

### BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, JULY 2017

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AFTER BEND, RAMJI flew to Berkeley, where he taught the second chapter of *Panchadasi*. Much thanks to our wonderful hosts Vance and Erin, who made their yoga studio available for the weekend. Thanks also to Kent and Suji, who gave the itinerant *sadhu* a lovely place to stay. And thanks to Thien for the fabulous *satsang* dinner on Sunday night! ☀

## TROUT LAKE, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 2017

HERE IS A group of inquirers worshipping the self alongside a stream among a cathedral of tall trees at Trout Lake this August, which incidentally was perhaps the best Trout Lake seminar ever, a convivial group of about fifty mostly Vedanta old-timers. Great teaching and great company! Thanks to Mark, Manny and Yates for your help. Thanks to John and Lisa for so much hearty laughter! Here are some photos of the group who listened



Happy campers, Trout Lake, August 2017.

*The Yoga of Enlightened Lifestyles*, which comes out early next year. The relationship book, which is sure to be popular, is basically finished on my side, but Ramji's copy editing is taking a bit more time than we expected, owing to his busy schedule. ☀

~ Much love to you all, Ram and Sundari

to Ramji teach the *gunas*.

Hopefully, we'll get another newsletter out before the end of the year, but don't count on it. I am working overtime on a new book, *The Yoga of Relationships*, which is part of another book I've been working on for two years,







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Ramji recording audio books at True Nature Healing Arts' studio.

❁ **OM TAT SAT** ❁