

SHININGWORLD

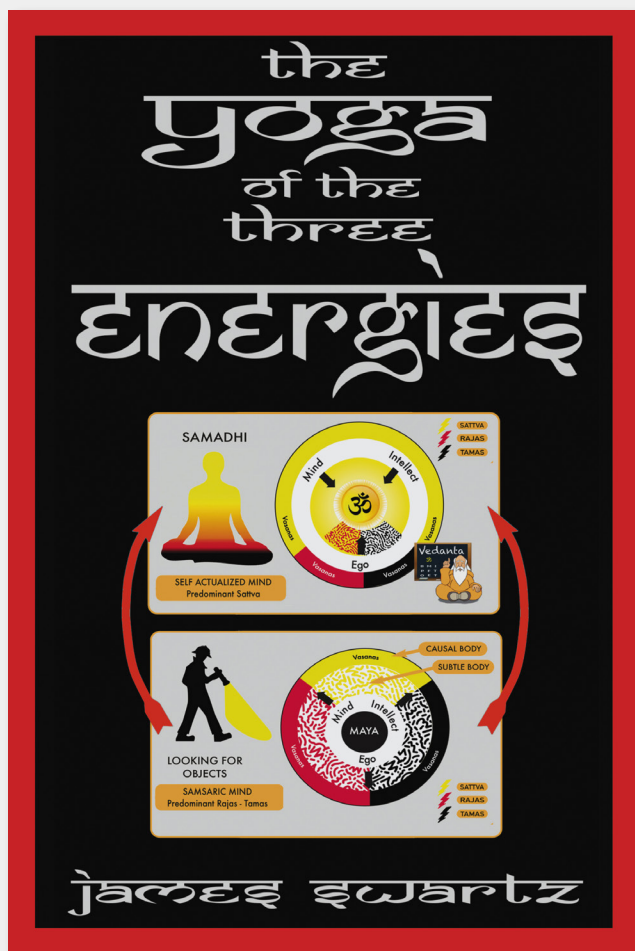
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

MUCH GOOD NEWS THIS MONTH!

from Sundari

JAMES' GUNA BOOK IS FINALLY FINISHED!



The Yoga of the Three Energies by James.

shows how the basic *guna* model works out in all areas of life, such as spirituality, relationships, money, health, security, pleasure and love, to name a few. *Isvara* willing, it should be finished within the next few months. ☸

WE HAVE BEEN busy since our last newsletter, with Ramji hard at work completing his new book *The Yoga of the Three Energies*. *Isvara* relentlessly kept his nose to the grindstone as ideas poured through his poor brain and flowed into print!

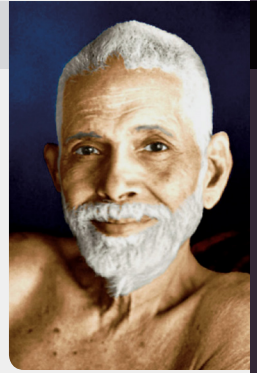
The Yoga of the Three Energies is unique in the history of the great Vedanta *sampradaya*, as far as no one has organized and collated the knowledge of the *gunas* into a single text in such a cogent, clear and brilliant way. It leads the reader step by step through the process of *guna* knowledge and *guna* management to the eminently achievable state of *guna* transcendence, the goal of self-inquiry.

This extremely helpful, practical gift from *Isvara* will be a great boon to every sincere self-inquirer, not to mention secular individuals seeking worldly success. It is now available in the *ShiningWorld shop* as an eBook (and as a paperback soon).

I have been slowed for various reasons in finishing its companion book, *Enlightened Lifestyles*, which

A GREAT COMMENTARY ON RAMANA'S SAT-DARSHANAM!

ONE OF OUR dear friends and a ShiningWorld contributor, Edwin Faust, has written an excellent commentary on Ramana Maharshi's *Sat-Darshanam*, an elegant Vedanta text on self-inquiry. It is available as a free download in the Contributions panel on the home page of the ShiningWorld website. Ramji and I can't praise this commentary highly enough. It is as if Ramana himself had written it! ☸



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Ramana.

THE TROLL HAS SURRENDERED! ~ AT LEAST FOR NOW

IN OUR AGE of fake news, time weaves its usual illusion of things happening and changing, while as the self we impassively observe the changeless in the apparently changing chimera called life.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we started this year with an interesting curve ball from

Isvara, a scurrilous and cowardly attack on James. One doesn't know exactly why these things happen, but we received dozens of emails of support from our ShiningWorld community worldwide. One of our favourites was from an Indian man who quoted an old Tamil proverb, "Nobody throws stones at a mango tree with no fruit." If what we do was not valuable, nobody would be bothered to throw stones. James believes that this *karma* was the result of his outspoken criticism of Neo-Advaita, but who knows?

We want to thank all of you who offered support during the last two months. We want also to thank Stan, Peter, Ed and Dan for technical help in tracking down the troll. Just as we were about to discover his identity, James got a bizarre letter with new lies trying to conceal old lies, the inexplicable gist of which was that the troll, pretending to be the imaginary victim, was calling off the attacks! ☸

A POOR MORAL COMPASS

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ONE CAN UNDERSTAND how a psychologically unstable person with low self-esteem can lash out at a complete stranger to gain satisfaction from trying to injure them in such a cowardly way. The internet is a hotbed for

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breeding this kind of low-life, not that he/she succeeded in James' case, as it is impossible to injure the self and James' reputation is impeccable. But what this incident also serves to highlight is a common problem in the modern spiritual world: poorly functioning moral compasses, specifically that of Rick and Irene Archer of *Batgap.com* (Buddha at the Gas Pump). The Archers claim to be "spiritual people" – and they make their living from interviewing famous people in the spiritual world – but this incident revealed their higher values to be seriously compromised. Without discussing the issue with James and me before acting, and without considering the damage to James' reputation, they chose to believe the lies of a person who refused to identify himself/herself. Not to mention that the accusations, while very serious, were not only highly improbable but this person had absolutely no evidence of James' alleged transgressions.

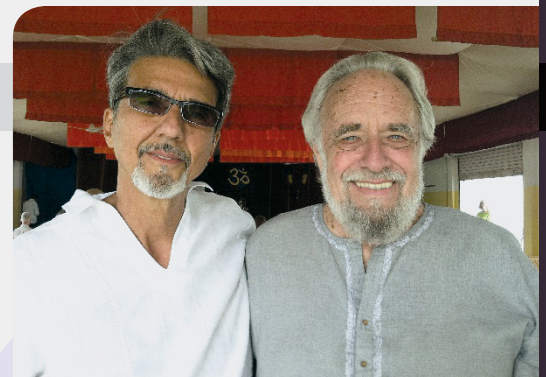
The Archers know the identity of the troll, and we asked them several times to reveal it to us so that we could press legal charges, but they refused each time. By *Isvara's* grace, and luckily for the Archers, the troll called off his campaign just in time, maybe even at their behest. We know that they had to contend with many of our supporters demanding to know why they took the actions they did. We had just completed a video which we were about to post on YouTube and various other websites calling out the Archers for their unfair and cowardly actions.

I wanted to go forward with the project because letting *adharm*a pass encourages it. Apart from basic fairness, the Archers have a duty to uphold *dharma* for the people they interview. But James, being James, took pity on them and called off the campaign. Nonetheless, their lesson is: virtue is as virtue does. We all have a duty to consider the effects of our actions on others and not simply do what is expedient to protect ourselves. ☸

MOVING ON! NEWS ABOUT INDIA

WE HAVE DEFINITELY decided not to return to India in December, owing to various difficulties. All is not lost though, as Arlindo Moraes will be teaching in Tiruvannamalai at Sunshine Guest House for two weeks in January 2018. The details are soon to be confirmed, but take note, those of you who are very keen to experience the *shakti* of India while hearing the teachings.

We have no doubt Arlindo will not disappoint, as he is an excellent teacher and was much in demand as a backup while Ramji taught in India this year. He gave generously of his time to many who needed assistance with their inquiry. ☸



Arlindo Moraes and James.

OUR NEWS

JIVA-WISE, I had a few body issues to contend with this year, nothing life-threatening, but inconvenient, as the equipment needed a few repairs. It would have been nice to drop off the body and rent a spare one while this was taking place, but alas, it seems *Isvara* is possessive about bodily things. Thankfully, things are looking up for the newly mended equipment.



James posing as the mailman in Belgium, March 28, 2017.

As for Ramji, he is fitter and healthier than ever! *Isvara* gave him a body like a panzer tank – it just ploughs through everything the *gunas* throw at it! He seems to get more vital and younger by the year. We did not manage much of a holiday in South Africa, but we did have time to enjoy the beach on occasion, when time and health permitted.

Ramji recently headed to Europe to teach the three seminars in Germany: Bad Meinberg (April 16 to 20), Cologne (April 21 to 23) and Berlin (April 27 to May 1). Please see the website for more details if you would like to attend any of these seminars. After Germany, he makes his epic journey back to the United States. I am still in South Africa (trying to finish my book) and will join him in the U.S. in May. ☺

Kalk Bay Harbour, Cape Town, South Africa.





Daniel Band, Ramji and Sundari in Kalk Bay, South Africa.

RECENT EVENTS

WE RECENTLY RETURNED from Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, where Ramji showed off his new charts and gave the most comprehensive *guna* teaching so far, based on his newly released *guna* book. The seminar took place in a beautiful venue in Kalk Bay, a quaint and romantic harbour town en route to Cape Point.

Thanks to the great support we received from the organizers, Megan Knight and Daniel Band (Nondoodle.com), the seminar was a big success.

Thank you to both of you, especially Megan, for your excellent support, generous hospitality in your exquisite home, your un-

failing common sense and sheer happiness! You are a great example of perfect satisfaction and intelligent living, and we greatly enjoyed getting to know you. Dan has been under the weather with health issues of his own, but stepped up to the plate nonetheless to give his full support to the seminar. Thanks, Dan, and we hope you are on the mend soon. We look forward to hosting you in the United States this summer.

We have invited Dan to the U.S. as our guest in Bend, Oregon, this August, so those of you who would like to meet our South African *jnani*, he and Christian Leeby (ChristianLeeby.com/Vedanta), who are good friends, will be joining us at Trout Lake. Don't miss it! 🌸



The seminar in Cape Town, South Africa.

WHAT'S NEW AT SHININGWORLD

TED SCHMIDT ON HIS OWN

SOME OF YOU may have noticed that Ted is no longer with us. He has branched off on his own and will still be teaching Vedanta. For those of you who benefit from his teaching, we encourage you to continue with Ted. We wish him well and know he will take the responsibility as a lineage-holder with integrity and humility. If you are interested in the reasons, please contact him, not us. (NeverNotPresent.com) ☸



Ted Schmidt.

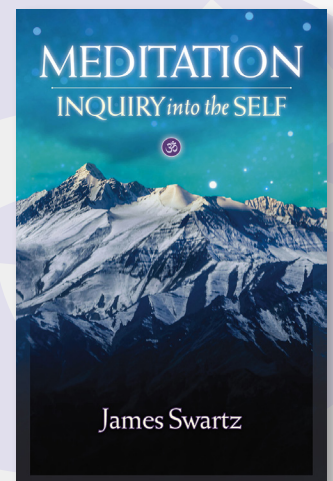
NEW SATSANGS

RECENTLY RAMJI AND I have posted more than 100 new *satsangs*. My favourites are on the timeless and ever-challenging universal *vasanas*, fear and relationship love.

- Read *The Dharma of Relationships, Why Do I Want a Relationship?* and *What Is Non-Dual Love?*, which is an article I wrote based on my relationship with James. Also read *The Fear Samskara*, as it deals with an issue all of us must face and dissolve to be free.
- Ram recommends *I Am Not Enlightened*, a wonderful *satsang* with a long-time inquirer and friend who got a touch of enlightenment sickness, and with the help of this *satsang* got back on track.
- *Isvara Forgets* is a really cool *satsang* that should relieve the anxiety associated with the failure to remember things.
- *Mystic and Non-Mystic Non-Duality* is Ramji's transcription of one of Swami Paramarthananda's talks, addressing the issue of experience and knowledge.
- *Is Experience Superior to Knowledge?* deals with the most pertinent issue with reference to enlightenment. It was occasioned by a person's reaction to another *satsang* on Ram's recommended list, *Mystic and Non-Mystic Non-Duality*.
- *True Compassion* is a beautiful *satsang* well worth the read. ☸

NEW PUBLICATIONS

IN ADDITION TO RAMJI'S powerful new *guna* book, we have a newly formatted version of Ramji's classic, *Meditation: Inquiry into the Self*, available in the [ShiningWorld shop](#) in popular eBook file formats. ☸



A CONTRIBUTORS PAGE

WE HAVE OPENED a contributors section on the ShiningWorld home page (ShiningWorld.com) for those of you who wish to express your understanding of the teachings or offer a testimonial to the power of Vedanta to transform lives. Send your submission to me or to Ram, and if it passes muster we will post it.

We are happy to publish it under your name or anonymously, but if we feel that there is an element of self-promotion we will publish it anonymously or not at all. If it more or less duplicates an existing document, we will post it in the *satsang* section. ☸

EVENTS 2017 TO 2018

RAMJI IS TAKING a well-deserved break from teaching from September 2017 to January 2018, as we are going to establish a residence in Portugal or Spain where we will offer seminars next year. Once we have a base in Europe, it will make teaching in Europe much easier.

All future events are listed on the ShiningWorld website. ☸



Our indefatigable Ramji, blissful as ever!