

# SHININGWORLD

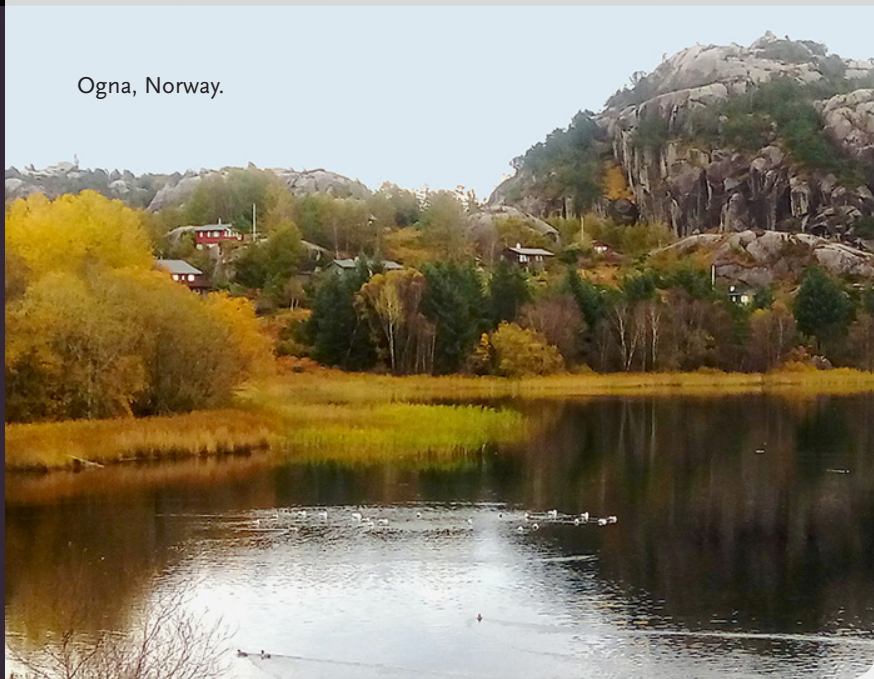
## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016

HELLO, EVERYONE

*from Sundari*

Ogna, Norway.



WE STARTED THIS newsletter in a cabin in the woods in Norway, graciously loaned to us by Christian Paaske, who organized the Norway seminar, which thanks to his dedication and enthusiasm was a great success. Ramji has travelled the world, but Norway was a first for both of us. We were so impressed with the natural beauty and the unpretentious calm of the place and the people.

Our European tour also took us to Belgium for the first time, where we were graciously hosted by Marie-Amelie de Potter, who organized a wonderful seminar. She was the perfect hostess, taking us to see some of Belgium's most historic cities. We particularly loved Bruges.

Lovendegem, Belgium.



Photo at right:  
James and Sundari  
in Bruges, Belgium.





James and Hilbrand in Amsterdam.

Next was the Amsterdam seminar, brilliantly organized by our good friend Hilbrand Gringhuis, seen at left with James, both looking dashing and happy!

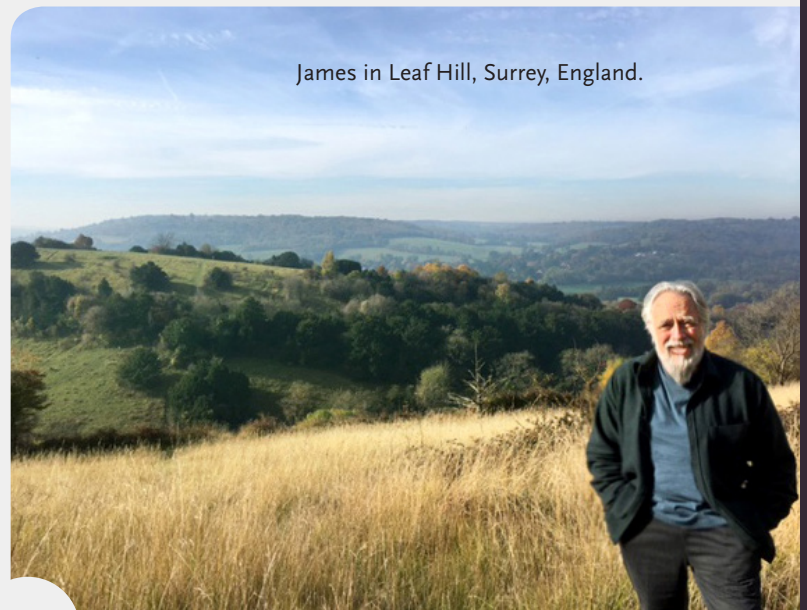
We had record crowds at all the seminars, with about 80 in Amsterdam. It is wonderful to see how Ramji's indefatigable efforts over the years have born fruit and spread so far and wide across the globe.



The Amsterdam seminar.

The last of the European seminars saw Ramji in Reigate, Surrey, England, teaching a very receptive crowd. Here he is (see below) in the English countryside on his daily walk.

After Europe, we stopped over in Dubai to visit my daughter and granddaughter on our way back to South Africa, where we are now, enjoying the summer weather and some much-deserved rest and relaxation on the beach. We have a big job ahead on the *guna* books before we leave for India in December. The bulk of the writing has been done for my book. Ram has completed his outline and will flesh it out in the coming months. Instead of combining our efforts, we have decided to publish two books, which cover the topic in slightly different ways. 🌀



James in Leaf Hill, Surrey, England.

## A MESSAGE FROM RAM

“I DON’T TEND to be an emotional person, but the prospect of teaching at the foot of holy Arunachala once more is very meaningful for me because the opportunities to give back some of the many riches *Ishvara* in the form of Swamiji and the great Vedanta *sampradaya* bestowed on me since 1968 are dwindling with every passing year.” ☸

## INDIA!

PREVIOUSLY WE ANNOUNCED that the teaching in January would cover three important topics:

- (1) *karma* as it is unfolded in the *Bhagavad Gita*,
- (2) knowledge as it is presented in *Panchadasi* and
- (3) devotion as taught in the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Narada Bhakti Sutras*.

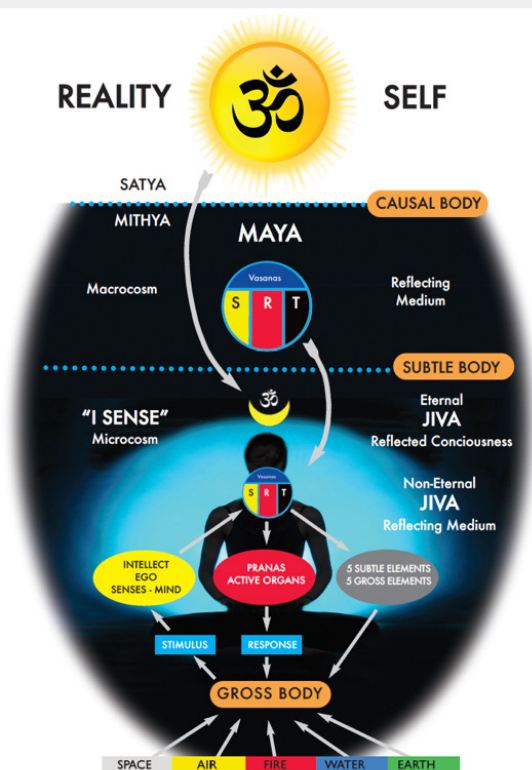
In the last two years we have been carefully culling enough information from various texts and commentaries of sages to put together a complete teaching on the topic of the three *gunas*. Ramji organized the knowledge in an interesting way, presented it under the title of *An Enlightened Lifestyle*, and tried it out in October in Amsterdam and Reigate, England, where it was enthusiastically received!



India, with Arunachalisvara Temple in the background.

We are pleased to announce that it will be included in ShiningWorld’s offering in January, as it nicely complements all three advertised topics. Ramji and I got so into it that he came up with the Chart of Charts with the help of Christian Paaske, a Photoshop wizard. It is a far cry from Swamiji’s BMI chart! Here it is (at left). Come to India and hear it unfolded!

For those of you who attended the *guna* talks in Europe and for those who are unable to come to India and hear them, the *guna* video from the Reigate seminar will be available by the end of November. Look for it. *The Yoga of Love* video from Wilton, Connecticut, is now in the Media Center (Subscription Service), as is the *Tattva Bodh* video from the Belgium seminar in October. ☸



## CHANGE OF VENUE IN INDIA!

NB, PLEASE NOTE: We have had a record number of people register for the talks in India and have had to hire another venue because Sunshine Guesthouse will be too small. The talks will now be held at the Old Rice Mill, where Mooji used to teach.

For those of you who have had trouble making the payment to register for the India talks, please do enter your name online on the list or let us know that you have not yet paid but plan to attend. We need to know how many chairs to buy. ☸



## WHAT'S NEW AT SHINING WORLD

### SOCIAL MEDIA

WE WANT TO thank Georg Schiller for his service in posting text and videos on Facebook and YouTube. Any internet-savvy person who would like to volunteer to post for Shining-World is welcome to contact me at [sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com](mailto:sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com) or James at [swartz.jb@gmail.com](mailto:swartz.jb@gmail.com). ☸



Georg Schiller visiting James in America.

### TEACHING GROUPS



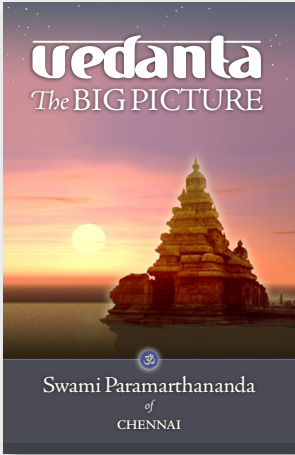
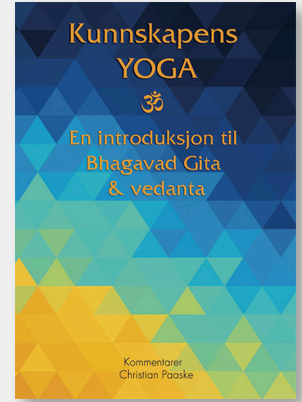
JEREMY REISENFELD AND Nadia Boudili are starting a Vedanta study group in Washington, DC. For information, contact [www.dc-acupuncture.com/vedanta-study-group](http://www.dc-acupuncture.com/vedanta-study-group).

CHRISTIAN PAASKE IS offering a *Bhagavad Gita* study group in Stavanger, Norway.

For information, contact [paaske@online.no](mailto:paaske@online.no). ☸

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

CHRISTIAN PAASKE HAS also translated the *Bhagavad Gita* into Norwegian, available under Translations in the Publications section. Here is the link: [http://www.shiningworld.com/site/files/pdfs/publications/translations/Bhagavad\\_Gita\\_norwegian.pdf](http://www.shiningworld.com/site/files/pdfs/publications/translations/Bhagavad_Gita_norwegian.pdf). You can order the paperback edition from him by email: [paaske@online.no](mailto:paaske@online.no).



*VEDANTA: THE BIG PICTURE*, an excellent book, is based on talks by Swami Paramarthanada of Chennai, South India, disciple of Swami Dayananda and India's pre-eminent living teacher of traditional Vedanta. It gives a straightforward outline of the essential teachings in clear, modern English. It includes chapters on motivations, the scriptures, society and the stages of life, *karma yoga*, *upasana yoga*, *jnana yoga*, *bhakti*, qualifications for liberation, the three bodies and the five sheaths, the self, creation, the oneness of *jiva* and *Isvara*, and liberation and *karma*.

It was lovingly transcribed by one of the Swami's disciples and beautifully edited by Rory McKay. In keeping with ShiningWorld standards, it is Sanskrit "lite" but retains essential terminology. It is recommended for beginning and intermediate students of Vedanta. It is also recommended for the growing number of people who wish to teach Vedanta, as it provides all the basic concepts with remarkable clarity. Insofar as ShiningWorld invested considerable resources in bringing this book to market, the book will sell for \$10 until we have recuperated our costs, after which it will be transferred to the Publications section as a free download. It is ShiningWorld's intention to continue to publish books based on the teachings of great sages. 🌀

## 2017 SEMINARS

OUR FIRST SEMINAR after India next year will be in:

- **South Africa:** March 18 to 23, 2017 Cape Town The Forge

Contact Daniel Band: [danielbandits@gmail.com](mailto:danielbandits@gmail.com)

Contact Megan: [megan@purpleplums.co.za](mailto:megan@purpleplums.co.za) 🌀

## 2017 EUROPEAN SEMINARS

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|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| ▪ <b>Germany:</b> | April 16 to 20, 2017 | Bad Meinberg | Yoga Vidya |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|

Contact: [gastgruppen@yoga-vidya.de](mailto:gastgruppen@yoga-vidya.de)

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|-------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| ▪ <b>Germany:</b> | April 20 to 23, 2017 | Cologne | See website for details |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------|

Contact: [koeln@yoga-vidya.de](mailto:koeln@yoga-vidya.de)

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|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| ▪ <b>Germany:</b> | April 27 to May 1, 2017 | Berlin | See website for details |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|

Contact Matthias Raetz: [ramjiseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ramjiseminar@gmail.com) 🌐

## 2017 U.S. TEACHING SCHEDULE

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WE HAVE FINALIZED dates for most of the U.S. seminars for 2017, but have not yet had time to post them on the website:

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|----------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| ▪ <b>New Mexico:</b> | June 2 to 4, 2017 | Santa Fe | To be announced |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|

Contact Paddy Kean and Spencer McDonald: [psmckean@me.com](mailto:psmckean@me.com)

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| ▪ <b>Colorado:</b> | June 9 to 11, 2017 | Carbondale | To be announced |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|

Contact Eaden Shantay: [eaden@truenatureheals.com](mailto:eaden@truenatureheals.com)

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|------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| ▪ <b>Oregon:</b> | July 6 to 9, 2017 | Bend | To be announced |
|------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|

Contact Sundari: [sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com](mailto:sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com)

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|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| ▪ <b>California:</b> | July 28 to 30, 2017 | Berkeley | To be announced |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|

Contact Vance and Erin Selover: [vance@ashtangayogaberkeley.com](mailto:vance@ashtangayogaberkeley.com)



■ **Washington:** August 13 to 18, 2017 Trout Lake Trout Lake campsite

Contact Sundari: [sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com](mailto:sundari.shiningworld@gmail.com) ☼



### NEW SATSANGS

JAMES AND I have posted more than 50 *satsangs* this month. The best of his lot, for those of you who still have questions about the doer, read *How Can Activity Be Ascribed to the Jiva?* If you want to read one of the most inspiring spiritual stories we have ever heard, search for *Iron Bars Do Not a Prison Make*.

For a technical argument with a Vedantic intellectual, read *Isvara Is a Convenient Fiction*. If you're still confused by the idea of *Isvara 1* and *Isvara 2*, perhaps the *satsang* entitled *Isvara 1 and Isvara 2* will be your cup of tea. I particularly like the one entitled *No Answer in the Apparent Reality*, with a woman who was disturbed by one of her *guru's* habits and wrote for clarification. And finally, for those of you who are uncertain what "taking a stand in awareness" means, there is a *satsang* entitled (what else?) *What Does Taking a Stand in Awareness Mean?*

In my contribution to the *e-satsangs* this time around, there are a few of particular interest. I have written an elaborate answer to a problem that many of us have to cope with, which is lack of sleep. Another is an answer to the "who or what is God?" question, and also another big issue, sex and *moksa*. Lastly, the *satsang* entitled *The Communication Mechanism* covers a very important and often difficult area in everyone's life.

Finally, this will be our last newsletter until February, as we have cleared the decks to finish up our *guna* books before heading off to India in mid-December. We wish you all a peaceful and happy close to the year, may *Isvara* bless you and bring you the perfect satisfaction of the self you are!

Much love from us,



☼ OM TAT SAT ☼