

About “Knowing Intellectually”

By A. Ramana

In working with spiritual seekers, there is often used by some the phrase, “I know this intellectually (whatever it is that’s being discussed), but I haven’t yet gotten it *fully*, or *completely*,” or, “I haven’t yet *realized* it.”

Let’s really look at what this statement actually means.

It is often used by more advanced, progressed, or spiritually developed seekers of Truth, in the context such as, “I do know – at least intellectually – that there is not a separate ‘me’ living this life in this body in time and space; I do know that time and space are only concepts, and not real; and so ‘I,’ this one living in time and space cannot be *actually* real; but I have not *realized* this yet, as you seem to.”

Such a statement is itself, *in itself*, just another concept in the mind. Moreover, it is one that is, or can be, very misleading. What it is saying is this: “I know that ‘I’ do not exist.” Well, just look; if that is *really* known, and understood, then there cannot be an “I” to know this, and therefore there is only Absolute or Very Knowing in its purity, which is therefore *already* realized. *It cannot be any other way!*

This knowing – or cognizing – which is immediate or direct *in* its pure knowing *AS* Pure Knowing, gets very quickly “known again” (re-cognized or seen)... by the mind... and translates *itself* as “I know this (intellectually).” Really see that the “I” in “*I* know” is itself only a thought... In addition, really “get it” that there is always only simple awareness of that thought like an object... without there being someone “doing” this awareness. IT (This Awareness) just IS! It always IS!

Realizing the Self is not an experience in the usual sense of the word. The idea that there should be a grand “Aha!” is itself a grand misconception; the anticipation and expectation that *cannot be had*, for it in fact is the “in-experience-able” experiencing itself, or the Very Experiencing of experience *itself*.

See that the “I” itself is nothing but a thought, just like any and all other thoughts... but it does have a special distinction, it is the common denominator of *all* thoughts. It co-exists with all other thoughts as the *very basis* or objective “cause” of all thoughts. However, this “I” thought is NOT the pure Being, or Self; it is only the mind or ego, containing as content one’s self-image (one’s memory and history of all experiences, etc..) apparently living in time and space (this world), and which it itself “gives appearance to,” or apparently creates and sustains, by simply “thinking all this to be so, or real.”

However, seeing this thought “I” is itself nothing but another object or thought in time and space, like any and all other thought-objects, see it is an object or thought in the pure Awareness-You-Are...the true Self. Then, know unequivocally that it itself (this “I” thought) has NEVER *done* anything itself; and it cannot actually do anything without using the One Power of the Very Self, which YOU ARE.

Everything is always only this ONE that has brought “you” (the self-image or character role you think you are) into being out of no-thing-ness. It sustains the universal galaxies; it spins the planets on their axes and around their suns; it moves the tides in and out; it beats the body’s heart; it grows the body’s hair, fingernails, and toenails. And yet, it is entirely free from all such activity like an invisible mirror that is ever untouched by all IT effortlessly reflects.

This One is infinitely dependable, not needing help from anyone, any ego “I,” this non-existing entity, or anything to make IT work or accomplish ITS work. As Sri Bhagavan Ramana says, “What will be done will be done, without any effort on the part of the ego-self that you take yourself to be.”

Get It! You *already are* this Self in which all and everything is now occurring, or now being done.

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