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By Dennis Waite

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Gaudapada was one of the world's greatest philosophers in seventh-century India. He invokes the mystical symbol 'AUM' (pronounced as 'ohm') pointing to the three states of consciousness (waking, dreaming and deep sleep) and the nature of reality itself. In the text on which this book is based, he writes that the waker, dreamer and deep-sleeper are like the roles that an actor plays at various times. All three states are the result of ignorance and error. Who we really are is the fourth aspect – the actor himself. If you see or feel a 'thing', then that 'thing' is not 'real.' So the waking world is no more real than the dream. 'You' have never been born. Nothing has ever been created. Causality is a myth. Discover your true nature to be Existence-Consciousness, without limitations, undivided and infinite, prior to time and space. Incredible? Read...and be convinced by the irrefutable logic of Gaudapada.

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Editorial Review

Review

Your book on the Mandukya Upanishad and Gaudapada kArikA-sis the best introduction I have read on Advaita. Clear, succinct, knowledgeable without being pedantic. The book shows your deep grasp of the principles but what is exceptional is your ability to explain the dynamics without dumbing down. And the simplicity of your writing shows that you understand without recourse to abstruse and complicated reasoning. It means you know what you are writing about. A rare feat considering the amount of verbiage out there!

What struck me was your capacity to give the teachings context. TMP Mahadevan, Balasubramanian, TK Sundaram et al have published erudite books but, as Westerners, we fail to catch the nuances that they take for granted. You have given the teaching context, applicability, and awareness of implications and consequences. This is rare. With your Western education and culture you have managed to absorb the teaching within your background. One could go native so to speak and become a swami after intensive study at say Swami Dayananda's Arsha Vidya Ashram but that can be a trap for, by exchanging one set of 'clothes' (physical, mental, emotional) for another, there is the danger in thinking one is now superior. You have avoided that trap and as a result your investigations have an authenticity lacking in many who 'explain' Advaita however versatile they may be in spouting Sanskrit and abstruse concepts.

Christopher Quilkey, Editor 'The Mountain Path', Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai, India.

About the Author

Dennis Waite has been a student of Advaita for over 25 years and maintains one of the most visited and respected websites on the subject. He lives in Bournemouth, England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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