

Consequences of a past action

There have been so many hours spent sitting after a lunch or dinner, where we tried to find the end of the mind. One night it just so happened that we had been talking until dawn about Enlightenment and giving up the mind. One day I questioned Swami about a certain matter and he replied, "I will not answer this question because the answer will only blow your mind and will not help you in any way". Even though I knew he was right and tried to keep my mouth shut, my questioning mind just would not relent and I kept on arguing with him. I soon learnt my lesson, one evening after dinner when there was a discussion going on about free will. I voiced my opinion that everything is just the consequence of a past action. Swami then asked about the act of swallowing. I replied that after food has been put into the mouth, you should just let gravity do its work.

At this point I think that I had finally crossed one of those invisible lines and he just about had enough of my endless arguing. He pretended to become angry and said, "I will stuff your mouth!" He started to stuff all kinds of food from the table into my mouth. Bread, olives, nuts and fruit — anything he could lay his hands on went straight into my mouth. When he was sure that there was not even room for a single more nut in my mouth, he closed it and said with a smile, "Now let gravity do its work". Contrary to my belief, gravity did absolutely nothing. I just sat there with a mouth full of food and nothing happened. I had two choices: I could either spit it all out or try very hard to swallow it. I felt that there really was too much food in my mouth to chew it all properly, and it would be taking days to dissolve. Everybody had their eyes on me as I sat there and struggled to make a decision as to what to do. Should I go to the restroom and spit it all out? There were many things in my mouth that I did not like in the first place and as I had just eaten dinner, I wasn't hungry either. However, the food had been given to me by my beloved *guru*, so could I possibly

refuse it? I think this must have been one of the most difficult decisions I ever had to make, but as the conversation switched to new topics and the attention shifted away from me, I slowly began to chew the food. As far as I remember, I remained quiet for the remainder of the evening!

Naamdev - Germany