



# *Vedanta*

## *Life-skills you can “Bank” on!*

By Marcel Fuchs

So, here I am, male, middle aged, established, reasonably well versed in the secrets of life and superficially comfortable that I have, what some would consider as, “found my place in the universe”.

Well this is until I came across Vedanta – traditional Indian philosophy, some several thousand years old, handed over by chanting verses of wisdom from one generation to the next and evolving constantly to accommodate the cumulative wisdom of countless philosophers (sages).

And if you think it was a copy of “Chicken Soup for the Soul” or “Eat Pray Love” that got me there, you could not be further off the mark.

To be fair, I did neglect to tell you that I am what many consider a true “Virgo” (whatever this may mean) and German on top of this, making me to be one of those “I need to touch it, feel it, smell it to be able to believe it” kind of person.

In other words a realist with roots firmly grounded in Mother Nature and the underlying science of things, with no compassion for non-scientific beliefs, superstitions or the general hocus pocus associated with all that can’t be explained (yet).





So where I was familiar with a reasonable amount of basic philosophy, I had to admit that in no way other than age related life experiences, had this “knowledge” benefited me in “Conscious Living through Applied Knowledge”.

The seminar with Swamiji at the Bank changed all that because it made me realize how little I really knew and how I had already wasted much of my life being a slave to uncontrolled emotion and desire. Not that there is anything wrong with desire, it is taking account of the price one has to pay to satisfy such desire in a controlled and logical manner that is the difficulty, since for most of us, it is the “heart” that rules and not the head. Some may think that this is a good thing, but basing one’s decision on nothing but a feeling can at best be considered a fair gamble. I just don’t like gambling, I like knowing why I want something and base my decisions on good reason, which is why I decided to explore this further and travel to India, the Vedanta Academy, home of the Swamiji and about a hundred semi-permanent students from all over the world.

The Laws of Cause and Effect, Intellect versus Intelligence and the Evolution of the Soul are just some of the principle topics taught there to big business delegates and students alike. A clean and professional environment based on need to have rather on like to have is precisely the correct environment for all students to immerse themselves in ancient Indian philosophy of the Bhagavad-Gita. No religion, no special club, breed or creed, just pure reason for open minds.

Just the right place for a middle aged, established German Business Exec like myself to find what I have been looking for all my life: A logical and practical guide on how to live life. I spend only 10 days on an Executive Retreat (Seminar) and left knowing that this was just the beginning. Of course old habits die-hard and in no time I had fallen prey to most of my old ways, but with a difference:

I am more aware of it now and this is all it takes to start the metamorphosis from reactive to proactive living.

*So my heartfelt thanks to Swamiji Parthasarathy, whose 60 year long dedication to Vedanta philosophy, sharp intellect and clever presentation of the “facts”, has been instrumental for me in turning the next corner in my life. I will reciprocate by spreading the word and hopefully get the message to some that are still young enough to make full use of the valuable lessons Vedanta teaches.*

***And my next visit to the Vedanta Academy shall always be just down the road...***

**For reference on Vedanta Philosophy visit: [www.vedantaworld.org](http://www.vedantaworld.org) and to watch some of the recorded seminars go to [www.vedanta.tv/pune2011](http://www.vedanta.tv/pune2011)**

**Some Publications by A.Parthasarathy:**

- The Fall of the Human Intellect
- Governing Business & Relationships
- The Eternities: Vedanta Treatise
- Select English Poems
- The Symbolism of Hindu Gods and Rituals