

ONE WITH NOTHING

By Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

SHIMATI                      A man on the long and lonely road to enlightenment.  
He is quick to anger and aggressiveness.

JASON                        A laid-back fellow who is much, much further along  
that road.

(Note: Either gender could be changed with appropriate tweaking of a few words/pronouns.)

## SETTING

A present-day mountain top in the late afternoon.

SCENE

*(It is the top of a mountain. A guru, Shimati, is sitting cross-legged, eyes closed and meditating. After a few moments, Jason approaches. He is a little winded from getting to the top. Shimati opens an eye to notice that Jason has arrived, then closes it again, returning to his meditation. Jason takes a moment to catch his breath, and then looks over at Shimati. Shimati opens an eye again, then closes it again.)*

JASON

Hey there.

*(Shimati opens an eye, looks, closes it.)*

Nice day, huh?

*(Again, Shimati opens an eye, then closes it.)*

I'm Jason.

SHIMATI

Okay, what gives?

JASON

Sorry?

SHIMATI

Do you want something, or what?

JASON

I—

SHIMATI

I mean, here I am being one with the universe, and you barge in like some kind of spastic rhino and start asking all kinds of questions. Like I have nothing to better to—

JASON

One.

SHIMATI

What? One what?

JASON

Just one question. Well, I guess two if you count when I said “Sorry?”, but...

SHIMATI

Will you *please* shut up?!

JASON

Right. Sorry. You're at peace.

SHIMATI

*(With great exasperation...)*

Duh!!

JASON

Didn't mean to interrupt.

*(Shimati closes his eyes again. Jason sits down nearby and takes out a bag of Doritos. He opens it. Shimati opens his eyes again, glares at Jason, then closes them. Jason notices, looks a little sympathetic, and then starts eating some chips. Crunch, crunch, crunch.)*

SHIMATI

Dude!!!

JASON

What?

SHIMATI

One with the universe over here!

JASON

I didn't say anything.

*(Shimati gestures angrily at the bag.)*

Oh.

*(Shimati regains his composure. He closes his eyes. Then... crunch.)*

SHIMATI

Oh, for Christ's sake!

JASON

I was in the middle of chewing from before.

SHIMATI

Are you finished now?

*(Jason quickly finishes chewing.)*

JASON

Yeah. Now I am.

SHIMATI

You're sure?

JASON

Well, that chip anyway.

SHIMATI

And I suppose you're planning on masticating your way through the rest of the bag like some Adidas-clad construction machinery?

JASON

It was a pretty long hike, and, well, I'm kinda hungry.

*(Shimati glares at him.)*

Want one?

*(Jason extends the bag. Shimati glares more, then reaches over and takes the bag. He puts it on the ground like he is going to take one, then suddenly ruins all the chips by smashing the outside of the bag with his palm. Then he hands it back to Jason.)*

SHIMATI

No. Thanks.

*(Shamati closes his eyes again, and starts to meditate. Jason looks a little confused. He reaches over, and using just a finger he slides the bag back to him. He looks inside, thinks about it for a moment, then picks the bag up and shakes out the chip crumbs into his mouth. Alas – for Shamati – this is not substantially quieter.)*

Okay, that's it. What's the deal?

JASON

Nothing. I was just—

SHIMATI

You know there are like a dozen peaks around here. Why the hell did you have to come up here and annoy me?

JASON

I didn't know you were up here.

SHIMATI

I come up here every day. Every day, bud.

JASON

Jason.

SHIMATI

Whatever. Every day, do you hear me? Every god damned day. Same spot.

JASON

You must really like it.

SHIMATI

Not when some idiot like you shows up and interrupts my meditation.

JASON

Sorry.

SHIMATI

Damn well should be.

JASON

Said I was sorry.

*(Shimati harumphs.)*

I didn't know. This is my first time up here. It's very pretty. I can see why you come here a lot.

SHIMATI

Every day.

JASON

Is that why you come? Because of how pretty it is?

SHIMATI

I come up here... to be alone. To meditate. To become one with the universe...

JASON

*(Overlapping)*

...with the universe. Right.

*(There is a pause, and Shimati thinks they are done, so he closes his eyes again.)*

Are you homeless?

SHIMATI

DUDE!!! *(Takes a breath)* No, I'm not homeless.

JASON

What do you do?

SHIMATI

I'm a software engineer.

JASON

That's interesting.

SHIMATI

No, it's not. Would you just shut—

JASON

Then why do you do it?

What? SHIMATI

Why do you do it? JASON

Meditate? SHIMATI

Software engining. JASON

Engineering. God, you're an idiot. I don't know. It's good money. SHIMATI

Oh. JASON

Good money, nice house, healthy food. Not Doritos. SHIMATI

But you don't like the house? JASON

It's a great house. Now can I plea— SHIMATI

Then why do you come up *here* every day? JASON

*(Shimati glares at Jason, then...)*

Fine. If I tell you, will you shut up? Or better yet, will you go away? SHIMATI

I guess. JASON



SHIMATI

Fine. I come up here... I can't believe I'm wasting my time like this, 'cause you're never going to understand it. But if it'll make you shut up... I come up here because you can't just sit around all day and hope for enlightenment. You need to work for it. You need to be willing to make sacrifices. And that's what I do. I could be out at parties or whatever you people do, but I don't. I'm on the path to enlightenment, and I'm not gonna stop because some bonehead comes up here and crunches Doritos in my ear and asks a bunch of stupid questions. You want to throw your life away, go right ahead. But I'm going to keep plugging away at it until I reach a higher state of being, and we'll see who's sorry then, won't we?

*(There's a stunned silence.)*

JASON

Huh.

SHIMATI

Right. I told you you wouldn't understand.

JASON

So you come up here every day to meditate...

SHIMATI

Right.

JASON

Instead of going out...

SHIMATI

Right.

JASON

So that you can reach enlightenment.

SHIMATI

Right.

JASON

By not enjoying your life.

SHIMATI

*(By now on autopilot...)*

Right.

JASON

And you don't have any new experiences...

*(Shimati is clearly getting very angry and frustrated again, and glares at Jason.)*

...so you can make time for sitting here.

SHIMATI

Are you done yet?

JASON

And you work in a job you don't like...

SHIMATI

Dude...

JASON

To earn money...

SHIMATI

*Dude...*

JASON

...to live a life that you can't wait to rise above.

SHIMATI

Right. Now will you *please* leave so I can get back to meditating?

JASON

Wow. You're right.

SHIMATI

Thank you.

JASON

It doesn't make the slightest bit of sense to me.

SHIMATI

I told you it wouldn't.

JASON

Well... best of luck with it.

SHIMATI

Thank you. Now please beat it so I can get back to being one with the universe.

*(Jason nods, gets up, and walks to the bag of crushed Doritos. He reaches in, and pulls out a full, uncrushed chip, and pops it into his mouth. Shimati stares at him, trying to figure out how he could have pulled forth such a pristine chip. Jason then nods at Shimati one last time and exits. Shimati finally gives up figuring it out, shrugs, and settles into a Lotus position with eyes closed. Shimati's face is scrunched in meditative concentration as the lights go out.)*