

The Adidam Advocate

The Monthly Newsletter for Associates, Pre-Students,
the Third Congregation and others interested in
The Eleutherian Pan-Communion of Adidam

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The Revelation of Divine Truth

In the depth of every human being, there is a profound need for answers to the fundamental questions of existence. Is there a God? What is beyond this life? Why is there suffering? What is Truth? What is Reality?

The Adidam Advocate is an opportunity to be introduced to the Wisdom-Revelation of Avatar Adi Da, whose Teachings truly and completely address all of these fundamental questions. How can Avatar Adi Da resolve these fundamental questions? Because He speaks, not from the point of view of the human dilemma, but directly from the unique Freedom of His Divine State. Adi Da's Birth in 1939 was an intentional embrace of the human situation, for the sake of Revealing the Way of Divine Liberation to all and Offering the Spiritual Blessing that carries beings to that true Freedom. He is thus the fulfillment of the ancient intuitions of the "Avatar"—the One Who Appears in human Form, as a direct manifestation of the Unmanifest Reality.

Through a 28-year process of Teaching-Work (beginning in 1972), Avatar Adi Da established the Way of Adidam—the Way of the devotional and Spiritual relationship to Him. In those years of Teaching, He spoke for many hours with groups of His devotees—always looking for them, as representatives of humanity, to ask all of their questions about God, Truth, Reality, and human life. In response, He Gave the ecstatic life of real Divine Communion with Him, and all the details of how that process unfolds. Thus, He created a new tradition, based on His direct Revelation (as Avatar) of the Divine Reality.

To read Avatar Adi Da's Writings and the stories of His devotees is a great Blessing—for His Teaching is itself an Agent of His Spiritual Awakening-Power. As you will discover, Avatar Adi Da Samraj does not offer you a set of beliefs, or even a set of Spiritual techniques. He simply Offers you His Revelation of Truth as a Free Gift. If you are moved to take up His Way, He invites you to enter into an extraordinarily deep and transformative devotional and Spiritual relationship to Him.

To find Avatar Adi Da Samraj is to find the Very Heart of Reality—tangibly felt in your own heart as the Deepest Truth of Existence.

This is the great mystery that you are invited to discover.

The Source of True Humor: A Celebration of Avatar Adi Da's Sixty-Fourth Birthday

The Spiritual immensity of the Great Event of the human Birth of Avatar Adi Da (sixty-three years ago on Long Island, New York), is not truly comprehensible by the human mind. In that Birth Event, the egoless Divine Reality appeared in a human form. It was and is the completion of a mysterious, universal process that, Adi Da commented in 1993, had required the sacrificial participation of countless beings over incomprehensible spaces of time. It was the Incarnation of the Divine without qualification.

Avatar Adi Da's devotees invite you to contemplate this Incarnation through the first passages of the book *Adi Da (The Promised God-Man Is Here)*:

On November 3, 1939, as the world watched the early devastation of the Second World War, Avatar Adi Da Samraj was born on Long Island as Franklin Albert Jones. By virtue of this birth, Real God, the Eternal Divine Person—the Ultimate Condition and Source of everyone and everything—miraculously took birth as a human being.

Avatar Adi Da has a clear memory of His birth. He recalls nearly being strangled by the umbilical cord. He was aware of what was happening around Him, but His awareness was not confined to His struggling body. While the doctors worked to bring His body from the womb, He remained aware as His own Divine State, Conscious as the infinite Sphere of Radiance and Love that He later called "the 'Bright'".

Avatar Adi Da describes the "Bright" in His autobiography, *The Knee Of Listening*:

[F]rom my earliest experience of life I have Enjoyed a Condition that, as a child, I called the "Bright". . . .

Even as a baby, I remember only crawling around inquisitively with a boundless Feeling of Joy, Light, and Freedom in the middle of my head that was bathed in Energy moving unobstructed in a Circle—down from above, all the way down, then up, all the way up, and around again—and always Shining from my heart. It was an Expanding Sphere of Joy from the heart. And I was a Radiant Form, the Source of Energy, Love-Bliss, and Light in the midst of a world that is entirely Energy, Love-Bliss, and Light. I was the Power of Reality, a direct Enjoyment and Communication of the One Reality. I was the Heart Itself, Who Lightens the mind and all

things. I was the same as every one and every thing, except it became clear that others were apparently unaware of the "Thing" Itself.

Throughout His infancy, Avatar Adi Da's awareness remained free of the limits of His human birth. He felt associated with the body, but not defined or identified by it, dependent on its survival. Rather, He felt His body to be arising in—and as—the "Bright".

Even as a little child, I recognized It and Knew It, and my life was not a matter of anything else. That Awareness, that Conscious Enjoyment, that Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Space of Infinitely and inherently Free Being, that Shine of inherent Joy Standing in the heart and Expanding from the heart, is the "Bright". And It is the entire Source of True Humor. It is Reality. It is not separate from anything. [The Knee Of Listening]

Submission: Forgetting the "Bright"

One day after His second birthday, as He was crawling across a linoleum floor, His parents let loose a new puppy. In the instant of seeing the puppy and seeing His parents, Avatar Adi Da Samraj spontaneously identified with His human body and personality. From that moment on, He consciously became "Franklin Jones"—the son of Frank and Dorothy Jones, a couple living in the Long Island suburb of Franklin Square, New York. He had consented to undertake the task of "Learning Man"—finding out (in full and conscious detail) what it means to be human, and how human beings can go beyond their suffering and limitation.

The "creation" of "Franklin Jones" began from that moment. All of the rest of the events that occurred during the two or more years before that moment were not the years of "Franklin Jones". He had no existence before that time, which was the Conscious (or Intentional) beginning. [The Knee Of Listening]

In other words, Avatar Adi Da took on the sense of being an ego—an "I", separate from all other "I's". He allowed His own State of Oneness, the "Bright", to begin receding into unconsciousness.

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: My Identification with mortal existence occurred through sympathetic response. It was not merely a response to the puppy. It certainly was that, because the puppy was the nearest to Me in physical space—but then there was also the glance toward My parents. It was, simply and altogether, a sympathetic response that brought Me into the sphere of human conditions. So it was a kind of delight—not merely some effortful identification with mortal existence. It was not the noticing of mortality, in and of itself, that generated My Movement into this plane. Rather, it was the Love-Response, the attracted Response, in which all of the negative aspects of gross conditional existence were

effectively forgotten—in Love, in Delight, in Love-Bliss. [February 9, 1998]

While Avatar Adi Da surrendered to become like those around Him, the Intuition of the "Bright" still remained. Thus, somewhere in the depth of His Being, He never lost the urge to recover the joy of the "Bright". And He would always be working, in one form or another, to find a way to bring that joy to others.

Blessed Beyond Belief

by Marvin Carpenter

Marvin Carpenter has been a devotee of Avatar Adi Da Samraj since the beginning of 1975. He is currently living in northern California near the Mountain Of Attention Retreat Sanctuary. He is an insurance broker and lives with his intimate partner and teenage daughter. This is his story of finding Avatar Adi Da.

MARVIN: I grew up in a very small town in northern Illinois, living mostly on farms. I first felt the problem of life when a friend of my two brothers, a star on the football team, was killed during a game. His funeral was held in the high school gymnasium. Seeing him, I exploded in tears—not so much because this was someone I missed, but because of the very fact of death. After graduating from high school in 1969, I went to the University of Illinois.

During my second year, I began to use psychedelics. On the first trip on mescaline, taken in a forest, I was overcome by tremendous energies and blisses, energy exploding up my spinal line and pulsating into the crown above my head. I spent the next couple of years trying to find my way back to this experience. But this search led me to a final "trip" in which I was clearly instructed that I wasn't going to get what I sought through drugs. And so I began to read. I began with Ouspensky, and Gurdjieff and moved on to the Eastern traditions. I got a job at a metaphysical bookstore so that I could read anything that attracted me. I remember picking up a book called *The Knee Of Listening* by Franklin Jones (now known as Adi Da Samraj). Attracted by it, I looked it over, but put it down, thinking, "He's an American. He can't know what it is."

After graduating from college, I started to work, but continued my spiritual studies. One day, I picked up a hitchhiker. The first thing he said to me was, "Have you ever heard of Ramana Maharshi?" (a great Indian Realizer of the 20th century). Naturally I felt I had found a kindred spirit, and took him home. His name was "Cloud"—a name he had given himself, of course—and he was such a strange and exaggerated character that he actually frightened my parents and my sisters. I visited "Cloud" in Wisconsin several times and then he disappeared.

After Christmas of that year, I decided to move to Florida. On the way, I stopped in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina, to spend five days at the Meher Baba center where, for the first time, I met devotees of a Spiritual Teacher. One

of them in particular, who had served as Meher Baba's secretary, greatly impressed me as the most "alive" person I had ever met. I went on to Florida and settled in Hollywood, just north of Miami.

On my first afternoon there, I went out to the beach. Suddenly, Cloud appeared, walking up the beach! It turned out he was living with his mother in a condominium nearby, and he told me he had a book I had to read. It was a paperback titled *The Method of the Siddhas*. I recognized the American author of *The Knee Of Listening* and immediately took the book back to my apartment. I tried to read the first chapter that evening, but couldn't understand it. In fact, it took me about a month to get through that first chapter because it ran counter to everything that I presumed about life and God and Reality. In those first pages of the book, which is the first public talk Avatar Adi Da gave, He speaks about what He calls the "self-contraction" (or the ego) and the Divine Condition:

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: There is a disturbance, a feeling of dissatisfaction, some sensation that motivates a person to go to a teacher, read a book about philosophy, believe something, or do some conventional form of Yoga. What people ordinarily think of as Spirituality or religion is a search to get free of that sensation, that suffering that is motivating them. All the usual paths—Yogic methods, beliefs, religion, and so on—are forms of seeking, grown out of this sensation, this subtle suffering. Ultimately, all the usual paths are attempting to get free of that sensation. That is the traditional goal. Indeed, all human beings are seeking, whether or not they are very sophisticated about it, or using very specific methods of Yoga, philosophy, religion, and so on.

I still felt that I was somehow "succeeding" with my seeking—that "I" was going to find God and be made happy and satisfied. The idea that seeking itself was motivated by my suffering, created by my own presumption of separation from everything and everyone, and that seeking would never attain perfect happiness, just didn't make sense to me. I kept putting the book down. But somehow I kept coming back to it. In the meantime, I got a job working for a construction yard, and found a house with Cloud and his brother.

One of the first nights at the new house, while I was attempting to study *The Method of the Siddhas*, I found myself becoming completely disturbed—upset, unhappy, totally focussed on myself. Cloud and his brother seemed so connected, and I felt like an outsider, completely cut off, sad, alone—then angry. I tried to study, but I just felt more and more upset, in a kind of anguish that I couldn't explain. Finally, I fell into a tormented sleep, and had a dream that my mother had died. The dream seemed meaningless at one level, but at another I felt that it had something to do with moving beyond my initial (and, it seemed to me, rather child-like) resistance to hearing what Adi Da was saying about my suffering. I began to sense something about the fact that all of this torment was the "self-contraction" that Adi Da was talking about. His "argument" about how the ego is

dissatisfaction and unhappiness was beginning to make a lot of sense to me.

A few days later, I found *The Knee Of Listening* again, and read it in two days, unable to put it down. There was something completely familiar in the story and the communication, as if it was somehow my own story, in the sense that it answered the question that had driven my life to this point. Here was someone who had fully embraced all of the life possibilities that I was seeking, and had seen "through" them all, and discovered to the depth the underlying "answer" to all that was still a question to me.

Shortly after that, Cloud and his brother left for California to see Adi Da. I was corresponding with Adidam at that time, and looking forward to becoming a formal devotee, but I remained in Florida and worked. One weekend, I went to a retreat with Hari Das Baba, a medical doctor and teacher of hatha yoga and meditation. He had taken a vow of silence and hadn't spoken in 20 years, communicating with a slate. At one point in the weekend, I was assisting him by pulling a block and tackle device he used to get people hanging upside down in order to do a particular form of body work with them. I told him at one point that I was studying the teachings of Franklin Jones. He immediately wrote, "Good, you should go be with Him. He is very good."

That was all it took. After Christmas, I packed up my car, visited my family, and headed off to California. I went to the Adidam bookstore in San Francisco, and was invited to come to see an introductory film about "Bubba Free John", as Adi Da was known then. At the end of the film, Adi Da sits in silence for a time with devotees and then looks directly into the camera for a long period of time. Looking into His eyes, I received a heart opening that I could not explain. I simply wept, now certain that I had found what it was I had been looking for. I realized that there was nothing more to look for, that Adi Da was exactly the "What" that I had always been seeking for. The next day I went back to the bookstore, spent the day looking for a job, and that evening, while having dinner with a group of devotees, was invited to come with them to the bookstore to sit with Adi Da. I was overwhelmed, both with surprise about being able to sit with Him so soon, but also with apprehension. I felt awkward, not knowing how to relate to Him in this kind of occasion. I did not yet understand anything about the relationship between Guru and devotee.

Several months later, having become a formal devotee of Adi Da's, I was invited to come up to the Mountain Of Attention Sanctuary—a secluded property in the mountains—to serve. The first night there, on Friday, we were all invited to come to sit with Avatar Adi Da for meditation. I closed my eyes and did my best to "meditate". At one point, I felt a flush of heat over the front of my body, and opened my eyes to see that He was looking directly at me. In the next few moments, as I held His gaze, I was drawn completely into a feeling of Light and Consciousness—total and indescribable Bliss—and I realized that it was all coming from Avatar Adi Da, and He was drawing me into this light, into Him. The room dissolved in Light, and I was swooned

into Him. Everything dissolved, until there was only Him, and “I” disappeared. It was the most sublime feeling of happiness, like coming to a place you had always wanted to be, and yet, without any sense of thought, or conception—just the thoughtless feeling of perfect love and absolute light.

After a time, a thought arose, “What do I do now, since I have been given everything?” and He looked away. The following moments were horrific, as my mind kicked back in with a vengeance. There was a torrent of unhappy thoughts and emotions and bodily discomfort. All I wanted to do was get out of there. I had just been given everything, and I had failed miserably, I thought, to make use of it. After what seemed like a very long time, He rose and left the room.

It took me a few days to understand what had happened. Luckily for me, there was a class for new students a few nights later, and I shared this experience there. Remarkably, the same thing had happened to everyone I spoke with about that particular meditation occasion! Thus, I was given an initial understanding of the miraculous process of relationship with Avatar Adi Da. The Gift of His Realization and State is Given by Him—and is received however it is possible and appropriate for the devotee to receive it in that moment. And then the devotee must grow in self-understanding to make use of what has been Given, and to be able to receive what is Given next. And what is Given next may not be “Spiritual” in nature. In fact, it is more than likely that it will take the form of a reflection of what you are doing as an ego that is a refusal of the Divine.

In the years since that time, this process of mutual sacrifice, the giving and receiving of Gifts, has continued. In fact, I am grateful to say that it is my entire life. I am eternally grateful to have been drawn into Avatar Adi Da’s Blessing Company, to His Wisdom-Teaching, and to the community of those who love Him as I do. May all beings be Blessed as I have been Blessed.

The Search Is An Absurd Proposition

An Excerpt from Chapter Six of
The Dawn Horse Testament Of The Ruchira Avatar

In these few paragraphs, Avatar Adi Da speaks of His Spiritual insights as a young man in His early twenties, recounting His examination (and criticism) of the religious proposition that God or Truth must sought and attained and His discovery that understanding and transcending the ego (or the “self-contraction”), rather than seeking as the ego is the only means of actually Realizing the Divine Reality:

If God, or Truth, or Happiness Is Sought On The Basis Of A Problem (or The Feeling Of Dilemma), Then God, or Truth, or Happiness Is Always Projected Into future time, and The Realization Of God, or Truth, or Happiness Is Made conditional, or Dependent Upon psycho-physical events. This Stood Out To Me As Nonsense, or As An Absurd Proposition.

My Own “Consideration” Was This: God, or Truth, or Happiness Must (Necessarily) Be Reality Itself, or That Which Is (Necessarily) Always Already The Case. Therefore, I Observed That The Felt Dilemma and The Urge To Seek Are Simply The Absurd Confession That God, or Truth, or Happiness Is Absent Now. And I Observed Further That The Signs Of Dilemma and Seeking Are Not A Program For The Actual Future (or Eventual, and future-time) Realization Of God, or Truth, or Happiness, but They Are Merely A Means For Preventing Actual Present (or Inherent, and present-time) Realization Of God, or Truth, or Happiness. The Feeling Of Dilemma and The Urge To Seek Are Actually The Evidence Of A Disease, Which Is the conditional (or psycho-physical) self In its Chronic Contraction Upon itself, and In its Symptomatic Non-Realization Of Reality Itself (Which Is, Itself, God, or Truth, or Happiness).

Indeed, It Became Clear To Me That the “ego” (or the conventional “I”) Is Not an “entity” (or an Independent and Static “thing of being”), but the “ego” (or the conventional “I”) Is the Chronic and Total psycho-physical activity of self-Contraction, Always Associated With Concrete Results (In the psyche, mind, emotion, body, and their relations). And the self-Contraction Can Always Be Located (In any moment) In Feeling (As Fear, Anxiety, Stress, and All Other Kinds Of Reactive emotions and Blocks In The Flow Of Natural bodily energy In The Circle Of the body-mind).

We Praise and Acknowledge the Following People Who Deepened Their Formal Relationship to Avatar Adi Da in November:

New Course Participants

Debra Boyd - Santa Monica, CA
Mylo Groen - Tuscon, AZ

What’s New in the Bookstore?

1. **2004 Wall Calendar** The new annual Adidam Calendar celebrates Avatar Adi Da's Gift of the primary esoteric practice of the Way of Adidam: Ruchira Avatara Bhakti Yoga. Each month of the calendar features a quotation from Avatar Adi Da's "Source-Texts" about this Divine Yoga of ecstatic devotional resort to Him.

This year's calendar features large, full-color photographs of Avatar Adi Da that are suitable for framing. The inside calendar pages include descriptions of many of the significant events in Avatar

Adi Da's Life and Work, as well as all of the 2004 Adidam Celebrations. All 25 photographs in the 2004 wall calendar were taken over the past 12 months.

\$27.95

2. **2004 Desk Calendar:** In addition to 12 recent photographs of Adi Da Samraj, this year's desk calendar also contains specially selected quotations from Avatar Adi Da's "Source-Texts" about the primary practice of Ruchira Avatara Bhakti Yoga. \$9.95

3. **2004 Pocket Calendar:** The Adidam pocket calendar features a recent photograph of Avatar Adi Da Samraj with the 2004 calendar on the back. Conveniently wallet-sized and laminated. \$3.00

4. **New Double CD** The Structure of Existence, Vol.1: *The Grid of Attention*

In this Discourse, from August 15, 1995, Avatar Adi Da describes the fundamental nature of attention. He explains how experience in the conditional domain occurs through a mechanical association of attention with objects in an infinite "grid" of Light. He clarifies that attention does not move from one object to another, but only identifies with the apparent objects within this "grid".

Avatar Adi Da describes how this mechanism operates in each of the three dimensions of experience: "gross", "subtle", and "causal", and in each of the three human states: waking, dreaming, and sleeping. Finally, Avatar Adi Da describes the nature of His Spiritual Blessing-Work, and Offers the Way to Realize the Divine Reality that is prior to "the grid of attention", and prior to all states and experiences of the body-mind. \$26.95

Call 310-358-0555 to order. Visa, MC and Discover are accepted. We will ship in 24 hours. We can ship "media-rate" to save you money!

General Announcements

The Way of Adidam, Five Steps to An Ecstatic Life of Communion with Real God Course is now being taught all over the Southwest Region. You can take the class by tele-conference if you live in a remote area. Call 310-358-0555 for more details.

Thanks for everyone's participation in the Hero of Giving Celebration. It was wonderful to be with the people that attended!

The Heart's Connection is published by The Outreach Department of the Southwestern Region in cooperation with the Third Congregation Office of the Advocacy Department of the Eleutherian Pan-Communion of Adidam. For more information please contact Tim Peterson at 310-358-0555.

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