

The Adidam Advocate

*The Monthly Newsletter for Associates, Pre-Students,
the Third Congregation and others interested in
The Avataric 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.

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“The One For Whom All Beings Have Been Praying”

*A Story of Finding Avatar Adi Da
by Tony Lewis*

Tony Lewis is a businessman and professional drummer who lives in Los Angeles. For many years, Tony has toured with the singer Smokey Robinson. This is the story of Tony's search for God and his discovery of Avatar Adi Da.

TONY: I grew up in a loving, black middle-class family in Los Angeles. We attended a pentecostal church and church life was central to our lives. The pentecostal church is very vital, expressive, and ecstatic and the congregation is encouraged feel into the energies of life that are beyond those that most people are comfortable feeling. And so the pentecostal church is characterized by what are called “kriyas” in some other traditions—spontaneous movements, “shouting” (ecstatic dancing), and speaking in tongues.

In the midst of all this, as a boy and then a teenager, I was trying to understand what religion is all about—by trying to participate in it fully. I wanted to prove its authenticity to myself and I wanted to understand religion

clearly and experience God truly!

During church services, the preacher would often make an “altar call”—or invite the members of the congregation to either be baptized with water or to “tarry for the holy ghost”, which is to chant continuously until the individual begins to speak in tongues—proof that the holy ghost has descended. Many of my family and friends had said that they had received this holy ghost or holy spirit, and so for years after I was baptized at the age of nine, I would go down to the altar and engage the tarrying process, hoping to receive the holy ghost and so prove its existence to myself. I was not willing to “fake it” by babbling or “shouting”.

Late one night when I was fourteen, I was praying to God to let me experience this holy ghost, if it was real. I remember telling God that I wanted to have it, even if I had to die right after I got it. In other words, I was willing to give up everything for a genuine experience of the holy spirit. I got out of bed and got on my knees, and, after a short period of tarrying, I started speaking in tongues and feeling a strong Presence in and around me. I had finally gotten it—and it was definitely real. But to my dismay, I found that it was not enough.

Nothing really changed after this experience. It felt good to have it. The experience of this new and Spiritual dimension of life did give me some evidence that there is something greater or God-ward, but my heart needed the way to final freedom. So, my search continued.

A few years later, while I was still in high school, I discovered “Transcendental Meditation” as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. I took the initiation and began to enjoy the calm and relaxation generated by the meditation practice, and I was fascinated by the possibility of attaining the higher states of awareness they described such as God-Consciousness or Cosmic Consciousness.

At twenty-two, I married, soon fathered two children, and began my Spiritual search in even greater earnest, all the while supporting my family with my music. One day, I was in the racquetball court at the health club. I looked at the box of white walls and ceiling that surrounded me, and in that instant that “box” was profoundly felt by me as the reality of my entire existence. I saw and felt that I was caged—trapped in a life of suffering and futility. I was overcome by fear and despair and I understood and felt my destiny as death. For a period of time after that, I was acutely aware of the suffering of others and of my own inevitable suffering and death.

I began to study and meditate for many hours each day. First, I read metaphysics. I studied Emmet Fox, Ernest Holmes, Joseph Murphy, and Thomas Toward, and learned about the relationship between mind, or thinking, and experience. Next, I found authors such as Alan Watts, who were more interested in the connection to God beyond the mechanics of the mind-world connection, and eventually I began to read the works of great Indian saints and learned about the Guru-devotee relationship, the transmission of Spiritual experience, and devotion to the Guru. I read Yogananda, Ramakrishna, and Vivekananda, and it was apparent to me that these were extraordinary beings who were on to something very great. I took courses from Self-Realization Fellowship and later approached a Swami in

San Diego, hoping to become his devotee—but he told me to come back to him in a year and before that year was up I happened upon an Adidam Bookstore in Los Angeles and purchased a book by Avatar Adi Da.

After reading only a few sentences of the book, I knew that He embodied what He was talking about. He wasn’t simply talking about a tradition. He wasn’t speculating about anything. He spoke with the Wisdom and Spiritual Authority of One Who has “Arrived”. He was obviously an Enlightened or Liberated Being. I read everything I could find that Avatar Adi Da had ever written. I was now twenty-seven years old, and I knew I had finally found my Guru.

The search was finally over. I knew that, at last, I now had the real starting place and the way to God.

In His writings Adi Da Samraj clearly and simply explained what beings are doing to shut off God, or the Divine Reality, and what must be done in order to heal this human fault.

I started feeling a flow of bliss in my body. I could feel that these frequent experiences were due to my exposure to Avatar Adi Da. There was a characteristic sensation of my head being larger, as if my head extended out further than my skull. When I felt the blisses, I would try to feel them more—and then they would recede to a place just beyond my reach because of my grasping for them!

One day in the late ‘80s, while touring, I was sitting in my hotel room feeling the pain and fear and emptiness of the ego to the max. I was listening to a tape of my Guru. One of His points was that His devotees were only talking, thinking, and imagining God—as if God were not already perfectly Present and Alive. I fell into doubt. If the people Avatar Adi Da was talking to, the people he was intimately working with, were not Realizing God, how could I, who had not yet even seen Avatar Adi Da, expect to Realize? I thought about the other guys in the band—downstairs eating, drinking, and enjoying each other’s company, while I sat alone in my room, trying to practice what I thought was Spiritual life, and feeling only isolated, fearful, and contracted.

Frustrated and also depressed and disturbed—and looking for an excuse to explore more self-indulgent options—I decided then and there to “loosen up” and take a break from this earnest, serious, and even uptight life I had been living and join the “fun”. But after a few years of this, I realized what I had known in my heart all along: that I had already found the purpose of life. I had already understood Avatar Adi Da’s message that life is to be used for the purpose of Realizing true and permanent Happiness and not wasted in the search for temporary consolations.

I had already traveled the world and had already seen and experienced more of life as a teenager than most people do in a lifetime. I had gone on my first world tour with Michael Jackson when I was nineteen and I knew what the world had to offer me. I knew I had to embrace for real the precious Gift that had been Revealed to me.

Although I had never stopped studying Avatar Adi Da’s Word, I began to much more seriously apply myself to my approach to Him and in 1998 I took a formal vow as His devotee.

One day—again, in a hotel room—I began to look at the photograph of Beloved Adi Da I always travel with. His Face began to change. At first, I saw Him as He had looked at various stages of His Lifetime. Then, His Face appeared as the face of every one who has ever been. His Face was “flashing” everybody’s face. I began to weep and cry aloud with every imaginable emotion. I knew that I was looking at the great Divine Lord God Himself. I was being given the gift of seeing and recognizing the Form of the Divine Lord as every being on this planet and the countless other beings in all worlds. It was an overwhelming and, truly, indescribable experience.

Then, at last, I had my first Darshan of my Beloved Guru in His human Form. I left Los Angeles on the last day of October, 1998, for the Mountain Of Attention Sanctuary in northern California. The next day, I was invited to sit in a large meditation hall, where we chanted songs of devotion in preparation for Avatar Adi Da’s arrival. When He entered the room, I raised my hands and beheld my Guru for the first time in person. Moving gracefully, He took His seat, then Gazed into the eyes of each of His devotees. I gazed back at Him, noticing the Descent of His Presence through my head. I was in awe.

A day or two later, I played with a trio of jazz musicians as part of an offering of sacred music for Avatar Adi Da. It was the most exquisite presentation of devotion through music that I have ever experienced. Even during my brief solo I felt no self-consciousness. It was obvious that Avatar Adi Da already knew me completely, so there was nothing to prove. I allowed the free flow of feeling to be expressed through the music and I could feel that whatever was expressed was fully and freely received and accepted by Avatar Adi Da.

All my life I had been looking for this Being. Avatar Adi Da is the One for Whom I had longed all my life and the One for Whom beings have always prayed. I know Him as the Source of Life and Happiness and Joy that I had intuited at the most primal level of my being as a child.

The Unity of All Existence

One of the many ways that Avatar Adi Da’s Revelation can be described is as the Revelation of the Oneness or Perfect Unity or Absolute Indivisibility of Reality—at every level.

In contrast, human beings have often proposed that reality is “dual”—that there is Heaven and Earth, body and mind, spirit and matter, “me” and “you”, and so on. This natural conception—or, really, misconception—arises from the egoic presumption that there is “self” (or “me”) and then there is everything else. This natural presumption gives rise to the notion that “God” (or true Happiness and Freedom and Love) is also separate from “me” and exists somewhere “else” and that “God” is absent now and must be sought for. But Avatar Adi Da Teaches that to search for Truth and Love and Happiness never becomes actual Love and Happiness. Why not? Because the only thing that is preventing us from being Free and Happy, right now, He explains, is this very presumption that we are separate, a “me”, different from

everything else! How can we go beyond the illusion and the suffering of being separate? This is the most profound and important matter for us to consider, and we can begin by simply listening to One Who has truly transcended every illusion of separation and difference. Avatar Adi Da invites us to ponder His Proposition of universal unity that is the “philosophical foundation” of the Way of Adidam that He Offers to everyone who desires true Happiness and Freedom:

“Consider” This: There Are Three Great Principles Of All Truth.

The First Principle Is The Divine Principle Of Indivisibility: Reality (Itself) Is Inherently Indivisible (One and Divine and Un-conditional and Absolute).

The Second Principle Is The Universal (or Cosmic) Principle Of Unity and Non-“Difference”: The world (or The conditionally Manifested Cosmos) Is Inherently A Unity (Which, In and As Its True Self-Condition, Is Inherently Non-“Different” From The One and Indivisible and Absolute and Un-conditional Divine Reality).

The Third Principle Is The psycho-physical Principle Of Non-Separateness: The individual psycho-physical entity Is Inherently Non-Separate From The world-Unity (or The Inherently Unified Cosmic Totality, Which Is Whole and Universal) and, Also, Inherently Non-Separate From The Inherently Indivisible Divine Reality (or The One and Conscious Light That Is The One and Only Self-Condition Of all-and-All).

These Three Principles, Proposed By Me, Are (Effectively) An Integrated Whole and Single Proposition. They (Together) Comprise The philosophical (and Reality-Based, and Reality-Realization-Based) Foundation For The . . . Way Of Adidam. . . . And They Are, Also, The Right and True Basis (and The Right and True Measure) For The Correct (and, Inevitably, Intellectually Liberating) Evaluation Of Any and All Possible Propositions Of philosophical Import Made (Now, or In the future, or In any time and place at all) By any one (or Any School or Tradition) at all.

The Core of All True Religious Experience

What is the heart of genuine religious experience? How can we measure the true relevance and usefulness of our Spiritual intuitions and insights? In His Spiritual Autobiography, *The Knee Of Listening*, Avatar Adi Da writes about the knowledge of the Divine that He had enjoyed from birth: *There was simply the sense of being related to a Presence that was Truth Itself and Reality Itself—a perfectly absorbing, heartening, and illuminating Force that contained me, “Lived” me, and guided me. Such is the core of even all true religious and Spiritual experience.* He then goes on to explain that this life-long experience of a “Presence”, when it was perfectly Revealed, was understood to be not other than the Eternal Condition of Himself and of all beings and things: *But now [at the age of 30] this Presence had Communicated Itself in me utterly—revealing Itself utterly to me and As me, such that I was re-Awakened to the Truth of my inherent . . .*

Self-Identification with the Spiritually “Bright” Self-Condition . . . That Is the Divine Presence Itself. And This “Bright” Self-Condition . . . Showed Itself to Be my Eternal Condition, even always already before my birth.

Elsewhere in His Autobiography, Avatar Adi Da describes the “essential experience” that we should value and measure all our experience against. He tells us that . . . *from the beginning, the essential experience to be valued is the one variously described as “being One with all of life”, or “experiencing the Oneness of everything”. This is the Power of Reality, of unqualified relatedness, of non-separation, no suffering, and no-seeking in the heart.* In fact, He explains, this is the “primary Experience and Knowledge” that ultimately resolves and vanishes everything we suffer—all our motivations and desires and troubles.

Avatar Adi Da explains that His only purpose in life has been and is to make this real understanding possible not only in His own case, but for everyone. *[I]t is not a mere idea or belief, or a feeling that depends on any particular circumstances. It is (and more and more becomes) a function of Real Consciousness, of unqualified Being. And, once this Realization . . . is Awakened and Established, It (Itself) develops, over time, into the most perfect Realization of Ultimate Knowledge and Free Existence.*

The Essence of ego-Transcendence

In 1978, Adi Da Samraj developed this scripture, “The Essence of ego-Transcendence”, from three verses of the traditional Srimad Bhagavatam (also known as the Bhagavata Purana), Book 11, chapter 14, verses 12–14. It is the purest and most beautiful description imaginable of the distracted love that the true devotee enjoys in relationship to the Divine Avatar, the embodiment of Grace and Love, Adi Da Samraj.

The pleasure of those who desire and possess experiences of all kinds is not even remotely comparable to the Love-Bliss-Happiness Realized by one who surrenders to Me and transcends all experience in Me—by Most Perfectly Realizing Me As the True Divine Self, the Transcendental, Inherently Spiritual, Inherently egoless, and Self-Evidently Divine Self-Condition (and Source-Condition) of every apparently individual self.

My most perfect (or Most Perfectly Me-Realizing) devotee is Always Already Happy and Full of Divine Love-Bliss.

My most perfect devotee no longer depends on bodily satisfactions, nor is My most perfect devotee disturbed by the inevitable changes of experience.

My most perfect devotee has transcended the motion of attention in the body, the senses, the emotions, the mind, and all the subtle reaches of the higher being.

My most perfect devotee no longer seeks for any state or place, but only Abides in Me.

My most perfect devotee does not seek to become equal in power to the cosmic force of world-manifestation.

My most perfect devotee does not desire paradisiacal glories in the heavenly worlds.

My most perfect devotee does not crave dominion on Earth, or in the lower worlds of elemental Nature.

My most perfect devotee does not seek or hold on to the psychic and astral powers of mysticism and Yoga.

My most perfect devotee does not even cling to the notion of bringing experience to an end, or the notion of bringing an end to the cycles of birth and change and death.

Rather, My most perfect devotee (who only loves Me and always Communes with Me) transcends all possible phenomena quite naturally—and such a one simply Abides in the Love-Bliss-Happiness of My Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Divine Self-“Brightness”, whatever comes or goes.

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

New Course Participants

Grace Ocampo, San Diego, CA
Amy Green, La Canada, CA
Bob Buckley, San Diego, CA
John Reynolds, Tucson, AZ
Amber Lupton, Santa Barbara, CA
Edgar Montgomery, Los Angeles, CA

New Prestudent Course Participants

Nenita Sarmiento, Henderson, NV
Sean MacManus, San Diego, CA

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