

# 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 Ineffable Source of the Arising World:***

*Avatar Adi Da on the Mystery of Being*

The heart and substance of Avatar Adi Da's Wisdom-Teaching is His Realization and Revelation of Truth. He Grants the Realization of Reality Itself. He Lives as That Which is the Substance of everything and the Source of everything. He explains that this Divine Reality is "Always Already the Case". He describes It via many names: Existence, Happiness, Real God, the "Bright" (which is how He experienced and named It as a child). When speaking to children, He refers to the Divine Reality as "the Mystery". Another primary description He uses is "Consciousness Itself".

What is Consciousness Itself? What is That in Which the entire universe arises? We cannot know it in any conventional sense—but we can intuit it and, ultimately, we can Realize that there is only Consciousness Itself. The reason we cannot "know" Consciousness in the ordinary sense of knowing is because we are not other than Consciousness! If we will enter into the process that utterly goes beyond the ego, we can be completely Free in the Realization that everything is only an appearance to and as Consciousness Itself. Adi Da's entire life is devoted to helping those who are not yet awake to the Divine Reality to awaken to It.

In this excerpt from the introduction to Avatar Adi Da's Spiritual Autobiography, *The Knee Of Listening*, Carolyn Lee first discusses the all-consuming question of Adi Da's early life (What is consciousness? What is this living awareness? What is existence?) and then presents a wonderful Talk by Adi Da on the Conscious Light (or

Consciousness) in Which everything is appearing and how that Conscious Light is Realized.

(from Carolyn Lee's introduction to *The Knee Of Listening*.)

The great issue of Avatar Adi Da's early Life was His enquiry: What is Consciousness? This question sometimes took the tangible form of an image that would rise up in Him. He would see a great black stone set in what felt like a sacred enclosure—with a gathering of people, including Himself, seated in front, quietly gazing at it.

The stone, to Him, seemed to be a symbol for Consciousness, the Mystery of Being—which He felt, on the one hand, to be the Ineffable Source of the arising world, and, yet, somehow also directly connected to everything. What was the relationship between Consciousness and phenomena? This was what He wanted to know. But there was no "answer" in this vision. While the Stone (or Consciousness) remained apart, the world of mere phenomena (or the conditional manifestations of Energy) was without meaning.

As Avatar Adi Da discovered during His early Life, this puzzle was exactly the motivator of the religious quest. God, or Truth, or Reality is felt to be absent, or apart, from the living world of energy and objects—and so this or that path is developed in an attempt to attain to God, or Truth, or Reality. Some esoteric traditions, as He discovered, try to resolve the matter by seeking for Consciousness via Energy, through practices such as Kundalini Yoga. In some other traditions (such as Advaita Vedanta), the practitioner is called to Realize Consciousness directly, eschewing the search for Enlightenment via the objects and energies of the phenomenal world. But where does the entire Truth lie? What is unqualified Divine Enlightenment?

Part One of *The Knee Of Listening* is the story of the Sadhana (or Spiritual practice) engaged by Avatar Adi Da in His search for this unqualified Enlightenment, the Condition He already knew in His infancy as the "Bright". His effort to recover the "Bright" was an immensely difficult human and Spiritual trial, in which He suffered all the limits, doubts, and struggles of an ordinary human being. At the same time, none of the ordinary (or even extraordinary) "answers" to life were satisfactory to Him. Below outer awareness, He was always being led by the "Bright", responding to what He later called a "fierce, mysterious impulse" at the heart of His being. Driven by this hidden Grace, He Submitted to the Unknown and lived His unique Ordeal without any advance knowledge of what it was about or how it would turn out.

On the one hand, He was engaged in a profound process with Energy—while, on the other hand, He was absorbed in the deepest questions about Truth and Reality. And so there is an intriguing double strand, a play of opposites, shaping His entire Sadhana. And these opposites—which He calls, at times, by different names, such as Awareness and Energy, or Consciousness and the Shakti, or the Heart and the Light—were always intimately connected. The final stroke of the Divine Avatar's "Sadhana Years" is His complete Spiritual Realization of Consciousness-and-Energy as One Non-Dual Reality—or "Conscious Light". The story of how this Realization finally emerged in Him is

one of the most magnificent parts of the book. It is a unique Confession in the records of Spiritual Realization.

By the end of Part One of *The Knee Of Listening*, Avatar Adi Da has fulfilled the first part of His Avataraic Divine Work—to regain the full, permanent Realization of His native "Bright" Awareness. At this point in the odyssey of the Ruchira Avatar, Consciousness has been restored to the "room", and the relationship between Consciousness and objects resolved. Decades later, in the following Discourse to His devotees, He explained this profundity very graphically:

*AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: If you examine objects more and more profoundly, sooner or later you get down just to Energy Itself, Light Itself. Similarly, if you go within, beyond all the outward functions, you get to Consciousness. Those are the two "extremes" of the One Reality. But they are not, in fact, separate realities—they are only presumed to be such, from your point of view. And this is the nature (or pattern) of un-Enlightenment.*

*Energy Is the Radiance of Consciousness Itself. Consciousness Is the Source-Position of Radiance Itself. Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Consciousness Is Love-Bliss Itself—Unconditional Feeling, Radiance.*

*When Consciousness (without limitation or dimensions) is Realized As Is, to Be Infinitely Radiant, One with Its own Radiance (or Energy, or Light, or Shakti, or Love-Bliss), and That is the (so to speak) "Point of View" with regard to objects that arise—then, in that case, all objects are (Inherently) Divinely Self-Recognizable. Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Consciousness (or Fullness of Being) Divinely Self-Recognizes all phenomena in the Context of Itself—as transparent (or merely apparent), and un-necessary, and inherently non-binding modifications of the Self-Radiance of Consciousness Itself, the Divine Conscious Light Itself.*

*When there is this Awakening, it is obvious. In every moment, Natively, Inherently, It Is simply the Divine Conscious Light—the Infinite, Dimensionless, Uncaused, Eternal "Brightness" of Being (Itself).*

—March 29, 1998

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## ***Find Out the Great Secret***

*by Jim Bommarito*

*This is the first installment of a story about how a devotee of Adi Da Samraj came to a much deeper understanding of Adi Da's Person and Spiritual Work.*

JIM: I became aware of Adi Da Samraj in 1972, the year He opened the doors of His first Ashram and began to Teach publicly. Over the next ten years, I read every book of His that appeared several times, read all the monthly Adidam journals, and collected and nearly memorized all the published audiotapes of His Discourses (thirty or more at the time). But although I had burned every element of Avatar Adi Da's published Teaching to date into my brain, I had not yet found my way into His direct Company. Even after I became a formal student of His in the early 80s, I did not go to see

Him. I remained a fiercely independent character—in spite of His unprecedented Revelation to me and the awesome profundity of His Spiritual instruction.

In 1982, during my third year of law school in Boston, a visiting devotee of Adi Da's convinced me to go and see Him. Avatar Adi Da was then residing at the Mountain Of Attention Sanctuary in northern California. In a moment of intuition, I knew that it was inevitable that I would see Him on the other side of the continent and receive His Darshan, in spite of being in the middle of a demanding semester of critical studies.

A few weeks later, several of us from Boston landed in San Francisco just after a light rain. As we were driven through the hills of Marin County and on up into the mountains of the Coastal Range to the Mountain Of Attention Sanctuary, we saw a glorious, thick rainbow in the East, dense with mesmerizing colors.

The next morning, several hundred of us gathered to listen to one of Adi Da's senior devotees give a presentation on His most recent book. She read at length, beginning with these words of Avatar Adi Da's:

*Truly, we are nothing but Consciousness. That is exactly and only what we are. And everything else is a play on Consciousness, a play within Consciousness Itself. Truly, Consciousness is not even pervading the world. In the Realization of Transcendental Being, we identify that being everywhere and in everyone because that Consciousness is the Condition of everything and everyone.*

As she read, I was catapulted into the position Adi Da described—I was suddenly able to feel Consciousness Itself. The ego-sense was not extinguished, but the Limitless Field, or the Great Space that is Consciousness Itself flashed forward, and "I" was dwarfed by it. The familiar barriers of mind, as well as the sense of the body's limitations in space had evaporated.

I had experienced such an extraordinary "illuminated" state before, very powerfully, when I first came into contact with Adi Da through His books, and in a few dozen lesser instances since then, so it was not an unfamiliar occurrence. I relaxed and began to combine with it, surrender to it, as I was accustomed to do. I was then forcefully pressed deeper into it, and the experience magnified beyond any intensity I had previously experienced—even frighteningly so. My awareness was flung past the limits of the field of vision, with no clear sense of "me" left behind. My visual field expanded to perceive only overwhelming brightness, to the point that I could not distinguish objects. There was brightness without boundary, as if I were surrounded on all sides by a mountain of stadium lights.

In that moment, I "saw", or felt, the Pure Being "beyond" the brightness to be Consciousness Itself, or the Perfect or Real Self. I intuited Consciousness Itself as limitless and "only"—there was obviously nothing else. I saw that the temporary chemical and electronic appearances and the separate self make it seem as though there is "something else"—or "others" and "things". I "knew" that everyone was

simply a condensed bodily form of the One and Only Being—an electronic, patterned play of Consciousness.

Having been ejected from the usual feeling that "I" am the center of things with directions all around "me", I rested in the intuitive feeling of unbounded perception. The sense of separate "I" was unnoticeable or set aside in that long moment, as was the usual sense of gravitational forces on a body.

The reality that this Spiritual experience was given by the direct Spiritual Transmission of my Guru had not yet occurred to me. Believe it or not, I needed more to convince me to surrender to Adi Da Samraj as His devotee. I also needed more understanding about the fact that such surrender—as well as a sustained ordeal of Spiritual practice—were necessary to stably Realize the Truth.

At some point, the experience began to subside and I remembered that we were invited to sit with Avatar Adi Da personally the next day. It felt anti-climactic. What, I wondered, could possibly exceed what I had been given? I would soon discover how naive and foolish this notion was.

*Jim's story will be concluded in the next issue of the Adidam Advocate.*

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### ***Who Am "I"?***

*An Excerpt from Sutra 69 of The Dawn Horse Testament*

The Dawn Horse Testament is Avatar Adi Da's principal Text—the book in which His entire Teaching is both elaborated and summarized. Here, you will find Avatar Adi Da's fullest description of the entire process of human and Spiritual development, including many passages about the nature of the Ultimate Realization of Consciousness Itself. The following paragraphs are a beautiful description of how Consciousness mistakenly presumes that it is identical to a mortal body and mind—in other words, an "I"—and what its real Status is.

Consciousness (In egoic Association With the body and the mind) Feels That It Is A Separate Consciousness—but When It (Truly, or In Reality) "Wakes Up", It Realizes That There (Always Already) Is Only One Consciousness (or Non-Separate and Non-"Different" Conscious Light), In A Merely Apparent Circumstance Of many Merely Apparent body-minds. In The Context Of conditional Existence, There Appear To Be endless numbers of conditionally Manifested beings (or subjectivities)—but When conditionally Manifested beings "Wake Up" To their Real Condition, they Realize That There Is Only One (Inherently Indivisible) Being. When This Is Realized Most Perfectly (In The Awakening To The Only-By-Me Revealed and Given Seventh Stage Of Life In The Only-By-Me Revealed and Given Way Of The Heart, or Way Of Adidam), Then The One and Only . . . Conscious Light Of Mere Being Divinely Self-Recognizes all-and-All. And all conditional appearances Are . . . "Brightly" Outshined. Such Is The Process Of The Only-By-Me Revealed and Given Seventh Stage Of Life (In

The Only-By-Me Revealed and Given Way Of The Heart, or Way Of Adidam).

There Is No Separate subjectivity, but Only The (One and Only) Divine Conscious Light, Self-Existing and Self-Radiant. The (One and Only) Divine Conscious Light Is Never “Other” Than, or “Different” From, or Separate From, or Standing Over Against, or Related To any object, or Apparent “other”, or “thing”. The (One and Only) Divine Conscious Light Is Always Already Identical To The Self-Existing (and Perfectly Subjective) Divine Self-Radiance Itself (Which Is The “Bright” Itself). All Of This (arising) Is That—Always Already (and, Therefore, Now). This Is The Great Realization Of The . . . Way Of The Heart, or Way Of Adidam.

### ***The Room Became Bright***

*A Testimonial by Katherine Gantz*

When I saw Avatar Adi Da for the first time, the very room changed. The space immediately got very bright. I knew almost nothing about spiritual practice, but I gazed at Him and felt heart-broken and amazed. He seemed fragile and not-of-this-world. At the end of the sitting, my body felt rooted to the floor, as though it weighed a thousand pounds. Something about His Radiance had pressed forcefully into me, from my head down through the soles of my feet.

Over the years I’ve discovered that Adi Da’s spiritual descent, which I experienced that day, is a fundamental sign of His Person. I understand that He is not an ordinary man—not even an extraordinary man. He is much greater than that, greater than my fear and my doubt, greater than the world’s pain, greater even than the deepest love I am capable of feeling. He surpasses all that in a way that I cannot explain but have palpably felt over and over again.

When I turn to Him with feeling, a miracle occurs—every time, wherever I am. I forget myself, and I taste the freedom of His Realization—freedom from separateness, freedom from the clench of my self-obsession. He came into this world to offer that liberation to every being. I trust Adi Da with my life, with my loved ones, with the world. He has given me certainty of God, purpose in life, and faith that love will never die. Surrendering to Him is the only true happiness. I owe Him everything.

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

### ***New Course Participants***

Sean MacManus, San Diego, CA  
Rich Klein, Denver, CO  
Damian Hopper, Santa Barbara, CA

### ***New Prestudent Course Participants***

Jefferson Nunn, Philippines  
Daisy McCrackin, Los Angeles, CA

## ***What’s New in the Bookstore***

**New CD: *The Grace of Turning to Me*. Contains recent discourses. Double CD. \$24.95**

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**“Consider” This, *Selected Readings from the Avataric Divine Word of The Ruchira Avatar, Adi Da Samraj*. Volume 2: \$16.95**

**“Consider” This, *Selected Readings from the Avataric Divine Word of The Ruchira Avatar, Adi Da Samraj*. Volume 3: \$16.95**

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