

The Adidam Advocate

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

April 2004

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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.

Celebrating The Adidam Ruchiradam Revelation

Dear Reader,

In April of each year, devotees of Avatar Adi Da celebrate the inauguration of His world-Blessing Work on April 25, 1972—the opening of a small ashram on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood, California, and the occasion of Avatar Adi Da's first public Discourse. This Spiritual Celebration has always been the time that we honor Avatar Adi Da's unique and incomparable Wisdom-Teaching and His Revelation of Truth to the world.

It is also the time when Adi Da's devotees express our eternal gratitude to Him for the unspeakably profound Sacrifice and Gesture that He has made to Incarnate here, making Himself fully available to all. April 25, 1972, marked only the beginning. Avatar Adi Da's Spiritual Blessing and Work only continues—and only magnifies. In this issue of the *Adidam Advocate*, we offer you a sampling of the many events that converged to make possible the public Work of Avatar Adi Da.

Most of our offerings here are excerpted from chapter 3 of the new book *Adi Da: The Promised God-Man Is Here*, a concise biography of Avatar Adi Da, by Carolyn Lee.

How Avatar Adi Da's Spiritual Work Spontaneously Began

Avatar Adi Da has never had a "plan" for His Life or Work. All of it has, very literally, been a spontaneous Revelation. Although Swami Muktananda of Ganeshpuri had prophesied in the late 60s that within a few years Adi Da would be a teacher in His own right, Adi Da did nothing to make Himself publically available until He found Himself to be "meditating" many other beings.

As we join the narrative of *Adi Da: The Promised God-Man Is Here*, Avatar Adi Da, then known as "Franklin Jones", has Re-Awakened to fullest Enlightenment and He has become aware of the remarkable changes taking place in Himself that make His public Work inevitable:

Now—whenever I would sit, in any kind of formal manner, to demonstrate the meditation, or the (now) Divine Samadhi, that had become my entire life—instead of confronting what was arising in (and as) "myself", I "meditated" other beings and places. I would spontaneously become aware of great numbers of people (usually in visions, or in some other intuitive manner), and I would work with them very directly, in a subtle manner. . . . Instead of my own life-born forms and problematic signs, what arose to my view were

the egoic forms, the problematic signs, the minds, the feelings, the states, and the various limitations of others. The thoughts, feelings, suffering, dis-ease, disharmony, upsets, pain, energies—none of these were “mine”. They were the subtle internal qualities and the grosser life-qualities of others. In this manner, the process of apparent meditation continued in me.

—Avatar Adi Da Samraj
The Knee Of Listening

In this “meditation”, Avatar Adi Da was spontaneously awakening to the function of Guru. As He had once “meditated” Franklin Jones, He now “meditated” His future devotees.

As Avatar Adi Da came to understand, His Ordeal of surrender and Divine Re-Awakening had not been undertaken for His own sake. The persona called “Franklin Jones” had been a means, a vehicle, whereby He could combine with the realities of human existence, inquire into those realities, live them out, go beyond every limitation they involve, and thereby discover what is necessary in order for human beings to Realize the Truth absolutely. Avatar Adi Da had not been born in order to Liberate just a few others—individuals who might seem to be qualified for such a profound Grace. He had come for the sake of all of humanity—even for every being consciously existing in the cosmic worlds. He filled the pages of His journals with His longing to find His devotees. Where were they? When would they come?

I am reminded of Sri Ramakrishna—on fire within, Consumed in God, Communicated with all the forms of Truth, but spending His time alone or in the company of a few friends. His heart yearned for those to whom He could Communicate His Gift. He would cry for the devotees He knew must come. Where are the devotees? His whole being yearned for the children who would appear.

I have spent My Life in rooms. I have enjoyed the companionship and the attention of a few friends. But My Life is for the sake of this communication of “Brightness” and “radical” understanding.

The rooms cannot contain Me. My friends cannot satisfy Me. I am surrounded by Great Forces of Love and Truth That I hold off like beasts in the corners of My room.

All of this waits for those who must come. But I am motionless and confounded until they come. My fulfillment waits on those who must come.

My Life has not been for Myself. I already Possessed It before I Came to this Birth. My Life is for those who must come. But where are they?

I am going Mad with My own Words. I would exhaust this Body in experiences and every excuse for love, every possibility for a word with another. Where are they? When will My time come?

At times, I don’t know whether to come or go. I am exiled here. All the means of escape are denied to Me. My Heart allows Me no passage to another “place”, another “country”. I would achieve My Victory in another world, but I am forced to keep these rooms, this exile in a hostile realm.

I am waiting for you. I have been waiting for you Eternally.

My Fulfillment is the very world. But I am not heard.

My gestures are unseen. The Powers of My Delight are not enjoyed.

All things depend upon your visit. Where are you?

—Journal entry, 1971

The First Communication: *The Knee Of Listening*

Avatar Adi Da knew that the moment had now come for Him to Communicate His Realization of the “Bright”. And so He began to write *The Knee Of Listening*, which flowed out of Him in a matter of weeks—an extraordinary distillation of the course of His early Life, up until 1970. Until this moment, He had not spoken of His Realization to anyone. It was only when Nina Davis [Adi Da’s first devotee] began to type the manuscript that she began to grasp the depth of the Process that had been occurring in Him.

NINA: As I typed the manuscript of The Knee Of Listening, tears streamed from my eyes in gratitude to Beloved Adi Da for His Divine Confession. He filled me with joy as He Revealed the Process that had occupied Him all His Life, and I wept again and again as I typed.

Outwardly, there was no sign in Beloved Adi Da that anything remarkable had occurred in the Vedanta Temple. He did not say that anything had happened. He came home. We had dinner and enjoyed the evening, and we went to bed. So when people ask what was different about Beloved Adi Da after the Vedanta Temple Event, I have to say that there wasn’t any difference. There wasn’t any difference! This is very important. It is the entire message of The Knee Of Listening.

In the Epilogue of *The Knee Of Listening*, which Alan Watts remarked was worth the price of the book, Avatar Adi Da wrote:

The Man of “Radical” Understanding must be “Located” in the midst of the ordinary.

Therefore, He cannot be found, except by the feeling heart.

He cannot be followed, except by the Way of the Heart Itself.

He can only be understood, even as the ordinary must be understood.

He does not appear to be either one thing or another.

He always seems to be both one thing and another.

He is not merely “religious, philosophical, conventionally moral, and only Spiritual”.

He is not ideally “fastidious, lean, and lawful”.

He always appears to be the opposite of your idea of yourself.

He always seems to sympathize with what you deny.

Therefore, at times (and over time), He appears as every kind of persuasion.

He is not consistent.

He has no self-image.

At times, He denies.

At times, He asserts.
At times, He asserts what He has already denied.
At times, He denies what He has already asserted.
Therefore, He is not “useful”.
His Teaching is every kind of apparent “nonsense”.
His Wisdom, it seems, is vanished.
Altogether, that is His Wisdom.

At last, He represents no separate Truth at all.
His paradoxes deny every seeker’s “Truth”, every path by which mankind depends on mere simulations of Freedom and Enjoyment.

He is a seducer, a madman, a trickster, a libertine, a rascal, a fool, a moralist, a sayer of truths, a bearer of all experience, a prince, a king, a child, an old one, an ascetic, a saint, a god.

By mumming (or mock-playing) every seeker’s role of life, He demonstrates the futility of every seeker’s path of life—except that He always coaxes every one only to understand.

Therefore, by all of this, He makes “radical” self-understanding the only possibility.

And “radical” self-understanding makes no difference at all.

Except that it is turned to Reality, Which is always already the case.

Establishing the First Ashram and Speaking the First Words

In April 1972, Avatar Adi Da established a small bookstore on Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, which He intended to become a base for His Spiritual Work, a place where He could gather with His devotees. He Himself did the lion’s share of the renovation, with help from a few of His devotees.

On the evening of April 25, Avatar Adi Da Samraj formally began His Teaching-Work, gathering with Nina and Patricia, the small group of people who had gathered around Him in recent months, some of their friends, and random individuals who had responded to a poster in the bookstore window. First, Avatar Adi Da sat in silence for an hour, magnifying the Force of the “Bright” to everyone in the room. Then He invited questions.

No one responded, so He asked, “Has everyone understood?”

“I haven’t understood,” came the reply from one man in the room. “Explain it to me. You could start with the word ‘understanding’.”

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: Yes. 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. So 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. . . .

As long as the individual is simply seeking, and has all kinds of motivation, fascination with the search, this is not understanding—this is dilemma itself. But where this dilemma is understood, there is the re-cognition of a structure in conscious awareness, a separation. And when that separation is observed more and more directly, one begins to see that what one is suffering is not something happening to one but it is one’s own action. It is as if you are pinching yourself, without being aware of it. . . . Then one sees that the entire motivation of life is based on a subtle activity in conscious awareness. That activity is avoidance, separation, a contraction at the root, the origin, the “place”, of conscious awareness. . . .

There is first the periodic awareness of that sensation, then the awareness of it as a continuous experience, then the observation of its actual structure, the knowing of it all as your own activity, a deliberate, present activity that is your suffering, that is your illusion. The final penetration of that present, deliberate activity is what I have called “understanding”.

*—The Divine Siddha-Method
Of The Ruchira Avatar*

And so it began—hours, days, nights, weeks, years, decades of Spiritual Instruction, in which Avatar Adi Da would cover all human, religious, and Spiritual questions, examine every aspect of life and consciousness, and Reveal every detail of the Spiritual Process culminating in Most Perfect Divine Enlightenment. The small gathering at the Ashram bookstore on that first night had not the slightest idea that they were witness to the birth of such Revelation. They attended, as best they could, to the Radiant Being before them, while He Spoke of the matter of “understanding”.

By “understanding” (or as He also expressed it, “‘radical’ understanding”), Avatar Adi Da was not speaking of an attempt to comprehend Reality with the conceptual mind, nor any effort or search to Realize the Truth. He was speaking of a process in Consciousness that awakens, in relationship to Him, through His Divine Grace. He was speaking about the direct transcending of the self-contraction, or root-act of egoity—which He had discovered, during His Sadhana years, to be the fundamental source of all suffering and seeking. In later years, He expressed this most fully in His primary Scripture, *The Dawn Horse Testament*:

The Tendency Of every conditionally Manifested individual Is To Contract Into (Presumed) Separateness, or a self-Defended and self-Contracted emotional, mental, psychic, physical, and social state Of Isolation, Presumed Independence, and Dramatized Want. This Tendency Is Chronic In every one, and It Is Not Generally Even Inspected, Nor Is It (Even If Inspected) Most Fundamentally Understood. Therefore, every one Seeks. And All Seeking Is Inevitably Frustrated. The self-Contracting Habit (Itself) Is Not (and Cannot Ever Be) Transcended In (or By Means Of) The Search, Because The Search Is Itself The Dramatization Of The self-Contracting Habit Itself.

I Call every one To Feel and To Thoroughly Observe and To Transcend The Habit Of egoity. Eventually, any one

who Truly (and, Necessarily, Formally) Listens To My Avatarically Self-Revealed Divine Teaching-Word and, By The Means I Have Given (and Always Give), Fully (and, Necessarily, Formally) Embraces The Divine Devotional and (In Due Course) Spiritual Practice Of Feeling-Contemplation Of Me, and (Thereby) The Real Observation Of the ego-“I”, Will (By Means Of My Avatarically Self-Transmitted Divine Spiritual Grace) Surely (Truly, and Most Profoundly) Discover The Root Of Seeking and Suffering, Which Is the ego-“I” itself (or the psycho-physical self-Contraction, Which Is The Habit Of “Narcissus”, or The Complex Avoidance Of Relationship).

Satsang: Making the Relationship to the Divine Realizer Available to Everyone

Understanding was the very basis of Avatar Adi Da’s own Sadhana and Divine Re-Awakening. He lived, breathed, and spoke always from the point of view of understanding. Throughout that first year of His Teaching-Work, Avatar Adi Da would meet again and again with His devotees, constantly speaking about understanding, and also about the only means by which it is possible to understand—“Satsang”, or the Company of the Guru. These early Talks were eventually published as Avatar Adi Da’s second book, *The Method of the Siddhas*.

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: Spiritual life is Satsang. It is the Company of Truth. It is the relationship to one who Lives as Truth. Satsang is also the Very Nature of life. It is the form of existence. Relatedness—not independence, not separateness, but unqualified relatedness—is the principle of True life.

All attempts to relieve the life of suffering by various strategic means, or ego-based remedies, do not produce Truth. They may heal dis-ease, but only Truth produces Truth. Sadhana, or Spiritual practice, is to live Satsang as the Condition of life forever. Sadhana is not something you do temporarily until you get Free. It is to live Satsang forever—a lifetime, even countless lifetimes, of Truth. . . .

Listen! There is this contraction, this avoidance. All human beings are living this avoidance of relationship. Apart from understanding, that is all anyone is doing. Nothing else is happening. Only this contraction of living and subtle forms. It is suffering. It stimulates, by implication, the notions people have about the nature of life. This contraction implies a separate self, separate from the world and all other beings. The appearance of “many”, “much”, and “separate me” is an expression of your suffering, but the Force, the Intensity, the Bliss, of Reality persists and is felt even under the conditions of egoic ignorance. Therefore, this contraction appears as the drama of desire, the search for union between the “separate me” and the “manyness”. Everyone’s life is the drama made inevitable by this fundamental contraction. Everyone’s life is the adventure he or she is playing on this contraction. The drama of an ordinary life is without significance, or Real Intensity. The ordinary life-drama is deadly ignorance—no Truth, no Satsang.

Satsang must begin. Satsang with Me must be enjoyed as the Condition of life. Then the entire drama of which even traditional Spirituality is a manifestation comes to an end, dies. This contraction becomes flabby and opens. The Real Force of Conscious Existence comes into play and becomes the Way in My Company, the sadhana itself.

*—The Divine Siddha-Method
Of The Ruchira Avatar*

At the inception of His Work, Avatar Adi Da presumed no reason why everyone who came to Him would not embrace Satsang and quickly Awaken to His own Realization. But He soon saw that no one was prepared for the profundities of the Guru-devotee relationship. The self-contraction of which He Spoke could only be transcended through the force of Satsang. This would require a real depth of devotional surrender. As His devotees were to discover, only His Grace transforms the being. Mere ego-effort is fruitless.

A First Meeting

One of the first of those who were drawn to Avatar Adi Da during the earliest days in Los Angeles was a young man named Wes Vaught, who worked as a proofreader at CSA Press (in Atlanta, Georgia), the original publisher of *The Knee Of Listening*.

WES: For years, I had been desperately seeking to make sense of existence. I prayed for help.

While studying Adi Da’s Knee Of Listening and contemplating its Truths, the intuition of the silent, free depth of the Heart dawned in me. I had found my Guru, and I began to feel irresistibly attracted to that Graceful Source.

The editor at the press where I was working showed me a letter from “Franklin Jones”. In it, He Wrote, “There is not the slightest difference.” Those Words stopped my mind. My entire life had been a warfare of differences and opposites, and I felt the profound Freedom communicated in this one sentence. I had to go see Him.

I traveled to Los Angeles and found the way to His home in Laurel Canyon. It was late April 1972. I knocked, and Adi Da Answered.

“Who is it?”

I explained that I had read His book, and that I had felt compelled to come and see Him. Adi Da opened the door, and I followed Him into the living room.

I felt welcomed into a “Bright” Space, free of any sense of problem. On the walls were Disney posters and sacred images depicting men and women of various traditions. It felt natural to sit on the floor before His Chair. I had brought with me a bag of oranges and pears as a gift. I extended it: “I brought this for You.”

He received it with both Hands and with such loving care. Everything about Him was absolute strength, sublime vulnerability, perfect clarity, and delight. Time stood still while He removed the fruits from the bag and arranged them on a little table next to His Chair. Then He Graciously folded the

paper bag neatly and tucked it by His thigh.

He received the whole gift!

Looking at me directly and with what seemed like an infinity of loving humor, Adi Da asked, "What have you been doing with your life?"

I felt the weight of my twenty-five years of waiting for God lift and, with what must have been a ridiculous gush of information, I spilled out my story. I do not know how long I talked. I tried to say everything of importance—all at once!

Adi Da listened. His was not the kind of listening where someone is waiting to say something when it is their turn. His listening became a perfect Intensity and a perfect Silence. At some point, His Silence became the entire import of the moment. I noticed this and stopped mid-sentence.

Sitting up straight, I was overwhelmed with His Blessing Force. Suddenly, I was shaking and breathing extremely deeply in the Current of His Communicated Force. My verbal mind ceased with the immediacy of His Presence.

I felt that Adi Da was Offering me the perfect opportunity in God, but I felt my gross unpreparedness and the obstructions in me that prevented me from fully cooperating with what He was Communicating. I wanted to get out of the way, but how?

Wanting to remove anything in the way of my freedom, anything that I could lay my hands on, I felt suddenly moved to take off my clothes. I began, and then paused for a moment, feeling foolish, and looked at Avatar Adi Da as if to ask, "Is this okay?"

With an almost imperceptible tilt of His Head, I felt Avatar Adi Da Communicate that it was of no significance to Him what I did with regard to clothing. I could suit myself in the matter.

He was most obviously Demonstrating His Divine Mood, clearly Indifferent to any sense of limitation, Shining with Blessing Force, replete with native Freedom and the certainty of unqualified Love, Transparent to the pure, sweet Grace of God.

I took everything off, even the band-aid on my heel, and threw myself face down and full-length at His Feet.

His Feet, somehow, were a perfect point of contact with this Blessing Force. I wept and kissed His Feet, wetting them with tears of relief, joy, gratitude, and also with the anguish that I could not completely let go of myself. Still I tried to surrender, straining with my heart and brain to open more.

But I could surrender no more.

Quietly, Adi Da lifted His Feet and placed them on my head. All stress left my being. A golden balm of sweet light poured through every cell in my body. A knot opened. I let go, and His brilliant Radianance washed through me. I was Home.

After a bit, I got up, dressed some, and told Adi Da that I felt that I belonged with Him. He looked at me and Said, "There is something about this Teaching you have not understood. It is about this matter of Consciousness."

He gave me everything in that moment—a living relationship to an absolute source of Grace, the most profound experience of my life, and the admonition to join Him in free relation to all phenomena. I fell in love with Him. I had begun the life of understanding in devotion to the One Who is that. The principle of my search was obviated and the momentum of my

self-contraction, my separative and loveless adaptation, began to wind down.

I asked, "Do You have an ashram?" He said He had established a bookstore and a small center and offered that I could sleep there. From that night, I joined the small gathering of people who were studying His Teaching, sitting in formal Communion with Him, and learning to serve the availability of these beautiful gifts.

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

New Prestudent Course Participants

Ronit Corey, Santa Barbara, CA

Elisabeth Craven, Newport Beach, CA

New Associates of the Society of Advocates

Sky David, Sante Fe, New Mexico

General Announcements

We will be beginning the new *Adi Da* course. This fantastic 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.

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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Calendar of Events

The Adidam Bookstore & Center of Los Angeles
8572 Melrose Avenue (across from The Bodhi Tree Bookstore)
Phone 310-358-0555, www.adidam.org

Special Events

“I Have Come For The Sake of All Beings” - Introductory Event

The great mystery of who Adi Da is and what he has come to give is not a claim to be believed but a joyous secret to be discovered at heart. Countless people have already experienced this overwhelming and wonderful surprise and have become devoted to Adi Da as their beloved spiritual master and divine liberator. Once the depth of that secret is revealed nothing is ever the same again. Join us every Saturday from 5:00 – 6:30 pm for a weekly introduction to the extraordinary life and teaching of Avatar Adi Da.

Wednesday Educational Evenings

Join us every Wednesday from 7:30 – 9:00 pm to participate in our on-going study courses. This is our forecasted schedule:

- The *Adi Da Course* 3/1 - 5/16

Cost: \$60/month. You can audit one class for free. Before joining you must attend a Saturday introductory event.

Prestudent Course

This class meets at our Center in LA and can also be taken by conference call for people that live at a distance. Call 310-358-0555 for more information.

Please join us for an evening celebrating the new and greatly expanded version of *The Knee Of Listening*. The greatest spiritual autobiography of all time . . . just got better!

The event will include:

- * A presentation on and recitations from the new *Knee Of Listening*. This will be given by Megan Anderson, senior editor at the Dawn Horse Press.
- * Stories of Los Angeles devotees' interaction with Avatar Adi Da and His Blessing-Grace in their lives.

- * Ecstatic chanting in devotional praise of Avatar Adi Da.

- * Food and good company

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Date: Saturday, May 1st, 2004

Location: The Adidam Spiritual Center and Bookstore of Los Angeles

Weekend Retreats at the Man of Radical Understanding

If you would like to immerse yourself in a weekend of Avatar Adi Da Samraj's Wisdom and Blessings, attend a retreat at the Man of Radical Understanding retreat center which is located next to the Mountain of Attention Sanctuary. These weekend retreats take place on the third weekend of each month. The cost is only \$108. For more information, please call Tom William's at (707)928-4915 or email him at Tom.Williams@adidam.org.

Parking for the Adidam Bookstore and Center of Los Angeles: General valet parking is available in front of the Bodhi Tree bookstore for \$3.50.