

THE ADIDAM

ADVOCATE

August/September 2005

An Issue on the Guru-Devotee Relationship

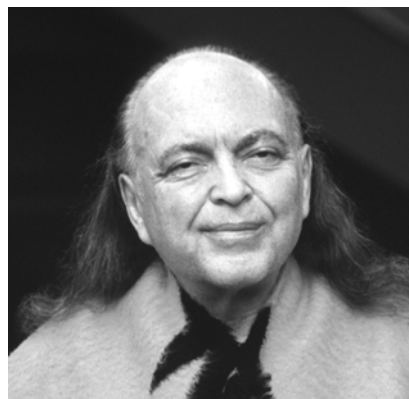
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totally distracted and disturbed and I couldn't sit for any length of time—something that for many years had been an easy daily practice. As the retreat progressed, I became totally frustrated, because I realized that all the efforts of years of meditation had not changed me in my fundamental being. I realized the fruitlessness of self-effort and became sensitive to the necessity of Grace to mature in my Spiritual life.

After the retreat, I realized that I was constantly seeking Enlightenment, realization, happiness, and so on, but that the process of seeking itself was what I was bound by. I had already been involved in the Spiritual search for more than ten years. But still something deep in my heart was missing. I felt this longing for Love in my heart that none of this Spiritual life could satisfy. I realized that I couldn't do it, I couldn't attain Happiness through my efforts. I realized I had nowhere to turn, and I began to simply pray for help, for my Master to reveal himself to me.

A few days later, I received a book by Avatar Adi Da. It was sent to me by a friend from London. At this point, having no direction whatsoever in my Spiritual practice, I was willing to read something that I wouldn't have been open to before. And since it was a gift from a friend, I felt that I should receive it and read it.

Finding My Master by Nahshon Nahumi

I went to India in 1984 seeking my Spiritual Master, though I didn't know who he was. I had a strong intuition and feeling that I did have a Master and that he would reveal himself to me there.

In the middle of May, I went on a one-week, self-directed meditation retreat at the center of a Tibetan Buddhist refugee community in India. The retreat had perfect conditions for meditation: a peaceful and beautiful Himalayan hill. Yet even though the conditions for meditation seemed ideal, I couldn't find peace. My mind was

I knew very little about Avatar Adi Da. I had a good feeling and intuition about Him, but He was an American, so I did not give Him much attention, for it seemed obvious to me that America could not produce One of Great Realization.

So I took the new book and went out to the top of the hill, which had been my favorite place of meditation and a place used by the Tibetans for worship. I sat down on the ground and started reading. Soon I was awestruck by what Adi Da was revealing to me. Until that moment, I never believed that anyone could write that way. He was communicating the intuition of absolute Truth in words. I had felt that only God could do that, and yet here I was reading that in a book. Energy started to rush through my body, and tears of joy ran down my face.

Suddenly, there was no limitation, no self-contraction—only Divine Freedom. And this was the most simple and obvious thing in the world. At the same moment, I could see the whole of my ordinary life as the result and effort of my own separative activity.

My heart was broken by the unbelievable Love of Avatar Adi Da. It was the first time in my life that I truly felt loved without any limitation whatsoever, loved to and from infinity. I felt like God in Person was loving me and I tacitly knew that Avatar Adi Da was my Master and had been my Master before all time. His Presence was so familiar and so personal that there was no way I could deny it. I felt liberated from the seeking and dilemma of my life and reunited with my Beloved. And I knew that this moment was the true beginning of my Spiritual life. I was so grateful that my Master had revealed

Himself and drawn me to Him. There was nothing else I could ask for.

I am a servant and devotee of the Great One, Who has Revealed the Truth and the Secret of Life to me. I bow down at the Feet of Avatar Adi Da Samraj.

The Prejudices Against the Guru-Devotee Tradition Which “Westerners” Must Overcome

An Essay by Avatar Adi Da
from *Ruchira Avatara Gita*

Certain chronic (and typical) difficulties tend to be expressed by conventional Westerners (of little or no true Spiritual experience or inclination) relative to the Divinity (versus the mere humanness) of the true Guru, or the Divine (versus the merely human) nature of the powers and the Realizations of Gurus, and so on.

The typically Western point of view is (characteristically) ego-based, body-based, essentially materialistic (or anti-Spiritual, anti-mystical, and, as such, anti-religious), fixed in the third stage of life (or the yet unresolved total complex of the first three stages of life), rather adolescent (or reactively, and even willfully, independent, and indiscriminately opposed to all authority, and even to all that is rightly prominent, or highly excellent, or, in the truly developmental sense, really advanced), and tending to think that everything traditional, mystical, Spiritual, esoteric, or Eastern must be re-interpreted (or, it should be said, reduced) according to the (current, or, otherwise, characteristic) reality-models of Western (and, especially, scientific) culture.

Such are the kinds of prejudices (and other limitations of point of view) every “Westerner” (whether of the East or the

West) must overcome (in himself or herself) if his or her relationship to a true Guru (or Sat-Guru) is to be fruitful

Quotes on the Guru-Devotee Relationship

Man may seek the fountain of life by himself. He may seek to discover the principles of spiritual regeneration through his own efforts. But this endeavor is in vain and will never bear fruit unless the master is present together with the discipline which only he can impart. . . . Only the power of the *shaykh* can deliver man from himself—from his carnal soul—so as to enable him to behold the Universe as it really is and to rejoin the sea of Universal Existence.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr (Sufi)

Having found [a teacher and guide], cleave to him with body and spirit like a devoted son to his father and from then onwards obey all his commands implicitly, accord with him in everything, and see him not as a mere man, but as Christ himself. . . . Is it therefore possible to think that a man leads a Divine life, in accordance with the Word of God, if he lives without a guide, pandering to himself and obeying his own self-will?

Writings from the Philokalia
(Russian Orthodox Christian)

[A] meditator, having no instructor and being entirely dependent on book knowledge, will be as cautious and hesitant as a traveler who has never been on a particular journey. Therefore, it is obviously not very easy for such a person to attain the paths and fruitions of nirvana if he goes on striving without a teacher to guide and encourage him. This being so, one who is really keen to meditate until he attains his goal, nirvana, must find a teacher who is fully qualified by his own attainments to guide him all along the way from the lowest stage of insight to the highest

knowledges of the path and the fruition of nirvana. This advice is quite in accord with what is stated in the scriptures: “A teacher should be sought for knowledge about decay-and-death as it really is.”

Mahasi Sayadaw (Theravada Buddhist)

When you have found [a guide], do not look on him as a mere man nor trust in him as such nor in his human knowledge but in God who will favor you and speak to you by means of this man, putting into his heart and into his mouth whatever shall be requisite for your happiness so that you ought to listen to him as to an angel who comes down from heaven to conduct you thither.

St. Francis de Sales
(Catholic Christian)

The zaddik stands between heaven and earth. His relationship is twofold. On the one hand, he is the means by which heaven reaches the people. On the other hand, he is the means by which the people reach heaven. He brings heaven to earth and raises earth to heaven.

Rabbi Yaakov Yosef of Polnoy
(Hasidic Jewish)



August and September Events

Wednesday, August 24th

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Adidam Spiritual Center & Bookstore

FREE Introductory Event – Awaken to Brightness – The Divine Gift of Avatar Adi Da. We will show recent video footage of Adi Da Samraj answering devotees' questions.

Friday, September 9th

7:30 PM

Adidam Spiritual Center & Bookstore

FREE Film Series – Two recent talks by Adi Da Samraj:

- *The Unity of Humankind*, about the universal existence shared by all humans and
- *Taking Out the Garbage*, about our attachment to spiritual experiences.

Saturday, September 17th

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Adidam Spiritual Center & Bookstore

FREE Introductory Event – Awaken to Brightness – The Divine Gift of Avatar Adi Da. We will show recent video footage of Adi Da Samraj answering devotees' questions.

Late in September we will be offering a seminar on Adi Da's wisdom about the "non-humans" with whom we share the planet. Please check our Seattle website, www.adidamseattle.com, for details!

SAVE THE DATE: October 7 – 8

Join us At the Mountain of Attention Sanctuary in Northern California for an enactment of Adi Da's *The Mummery Book*. It is a work of astonishing poetry and deeply evocative archetypal drama. It is the story of Raymond Darling, his growth to manhood, his finding and losing his beloved (Quandra), and his ultimate resolution of the heart-breaking "problem"

of mortality. It is each person's story and the potential for all of us. We invite you to participate in this epic adventure. Call the bookstore if you would like more information about how to attend.

Ongoing Introductory Class

7:30 - 9:00 PM \$150 for 6 weeks or \$25 per class (includes study materials)

Adidam Spiritual Center & Bookstore
Join us for this in-depth examination of Adi Da's Life based on the authorized biography *The Promised God-Man Is Here*, by Carolyn Lee, Ph.D. Call us at (206) 527-2751 for more information.

If you are interested in participating in a local area study group, please contact us at 206-527-2751. We have groups meeting in a number of cities in the Northwest and encourage you to consider this as a way to grow in your understanding of the teachings of Adi Da Samraj.

Adidam Spiritual Center &
Bookstore

1429 N. 45th Street
Seattle (in Wallingford)
(206) 527-2751

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday to Thursday: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Friday: 12:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM

www.adidam.org
www.adidamseattle.org

Please notify us if you would prefer to receive notification of upcoming events via email or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.