



The Avataric Great Sage, Adi Da Samraj

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An Essay by Adi Da Samraj
from *Religion and Reality*

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*We have waited for this
moment in history for
countless lifetimes. Adi
Da Samraj is the True
Heart of the world.*

Roger Savoie, PhD
Philosopher, writer
and translator



The following essay appears in *Religion and Reality*, Book Two of the newly published “Perfect Knowledge” Series, which comprises the complete text of Avatar Adi Da’s “Source-Text” *Is: The Perfect Knowledge of Reality and The “Radical” Way to Realize It*.

The Culturally Prescribed “God”-Idea of Exoteric Religion Is Not the Divine Itself but Only a Cultural (and Entirely Conditional) Means for Turning to the Divine

From Religion and Reality by The Avataric Great Sage, Adi Da Samraj

In the Hindu cultural tradition, there is a great variety of forms of exoteric religious worship—each of which is centered around a particular culturally prescribed Divine image, idea, and mythology. That focus of worship (however conceived, in any particular branch of the Hindu tradition) is regarded as one’s “Chosen Form” of the One Divine Absolute. The understanding within the Hindu cultural tradition (in its most profound developments) is that whatever “Chosen Form” a person may worship (in the exoteric manner) is the construct through which he or she is moved to turn to the One Divine Absolute. Thus, it is understood that one’s (exoterically worshipped) “Chosen Form” is not the One and Absolute Divine Itself, but is (rather) the culturally prescribed means whereby one turns to the One and Absolute Divine—because the One Divine Absolute Itself is (within the most profound developments of the Hindu cultural tradition) understood to transcend all constructs (and, altogether, all limiting conditions).

This understanding of the nature of exoteric religious worship is correct. Indeed, all the various modes of exoteric religion (not merely in India, but in all parts of the world and in all periods of history) should (rightly) be understood to be varietal forms (or variant possibilities) of (exoteric) devotion to a “Chosen Form” of the Divine—or to a particular culturally prescribed (and, in accordance with tradition, described) Divine image, idea, and mythology.

Westerners often (mistakenly) presume Hinduism to be (irreducibly) a form of polytheism (and, as such, of non-monotheism)—or the worship of many different (or separate) gods, rather than the worship of One God (or of the One Divine Absolute). However, the right understanding of the Hindu religious tradition is not that it allows for a great number of separate Absolute Divinities (or otherwise disallows the One Divine Absolute). Rather, the right understanding of the Hindu religious tradition is that it, without prejudice, allows for the approach to the One Divine Absolute via (or by means of) any of the many possible “Chosen Forms” (or “Chosen-Form” traditions). The many different “Chosen Forms”—worshipped (in the exoteric manner) by different families or different local or regional cultures—are all presumed (within the Hindu cultural sphere) to be virtuous, because they are all understood to be means for turning to the Ultimate Divine (Which is everywhere understood to Be One, and to Be the Absolute and Only Reality).

(continued on page 2)

The writings of Adi Da Samraj are the most doctrinally thorough, the most philosophically sophisticated, the most culturally challenging, and the most creatively original literature on radical nonduality currently available in the English Language.

Jeffrey J. Kripal
J. Newton Rayzor
Professor of Religious
Studies, Rice University
Author, *Kali's Child:
The Mystical and
the Erotic in the Life
and Teachings of
Ramakrishna*

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The potential problem with conventional (exoteric) religious traditions (in general) is that any such tradition tends (or may tend) not to understand that its particular focus (or cult) of worship is simply one among many possible “Chosen Forms”. Thus, any such tradition may tend to presume (or insist) that it is the tradition—the one and only true and right (and “officially” allowable) tradition. Such is the origin of fundamentalism. To the fundamentalist mind, the prescribed images (and the otherwise described ideas) of the cult define the Divine—as if the Divinity (or Reality Itself) has been “copyrighted”, subject to exclusive “ownership” by a particular tradition of images and ideas.

When the exoteric traditions (themselves) thus replace the Divine (Itself) with their own contents, the result is (in effect) idolatry—which is what (characteristically) even the exoteric traditions themselves say should not be done. Rightly understood, the traditional admonitions against idolatry are not a matter of forbidding the worship (or worshipful use) of material images in temples. The “sin” of idolatry is any and every act (either personal or collective) of replacing the Divine Itself with the constructs of approach to the Divine.

All the exoteric religious traditions of the world—with their many and different images, ideas, and mythologies—are (each and all) true and right (insofar as they are, in fact, oriented to ego-sur-rendering worship of the Ultimate Divine, Which Is Reality Itself). But all exoteric religious traditions are themselves (in every sense of their nature and origin) constructs—whether a given tradition has, in the case of any individual, been inherited from one’s family (or one’s local, or regional, or national, or even international culture) or has been intentionally embraced (from among any number of studied or somehow experienced alternatives) in the course of one’s life.

Ultimately, the process of truly maturing in religious life requires the transcending of all constructs. It is not that there must be no use of constructs whatsoever in one’s approach to the Divine (or the One and Absolute Reality Itself). It is simply that all mere constructs must be understood to be such (and embraced only as such).

Ultimately, exoteric religion must become (or otherwise be superseded by) esoteric Spiritual practice—the ego-transcending, body-mind-transcending, construct-transcending process of entering (by esoteric—and, in due course, Perfect—Means) into That Which Is Inherently Beyond (and Prior to) all constructs and limitations.

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The Adidam Revelation Magazine is an online publication offering new articles and excerpts from Adi Da Samraj’s most current literature, DVD clips, CD excerpts and stories from devotees about life in relationship to Adi Da Samraj.

With a subscription to the magazine, you will receive e-mail notification each time new material by and about Adi Da Samraj is posted. New to the site at the end of December 2006 is a DVD segment from the Divine Avataric Discourse, “Transcend the self-Knot of Fear”. In this talk Avatar Adi Da explains that the root of fear is the same as the root of all suffering: the “self-contraction”. Rather than avoiding the fear inherent in the body-mind, Avatar Adi Da calls us to understand and transcend the self-knot by turning to the Divine.

Use this address to subscribe to the magazine: www.adidam.org/subscribe/

There's an Area Study Group Near You!

Adidam area study groups meet once a month. Join others interested in exploring Avatar Adi Da and His Way of the Heart. Watch videos and DVDs of Adi Da, hear recorded stories by devotees about their life with their Master, listen to recitation of Adi Da's Word, and meet and talk with others attracted to the transformative relationship with Adi Da Samraj.

Your first visit is free. There is a minimal charge for subsequent meetings. Call the coordinator listed below for details about time and place for study group meetings in your area.

Olympia, WA

Contact Tom Stiles 206.963.9248
Next meeting - Monday, January 8

Vancouver, BC

Contact Cage 604.575.7455
Next meetings - Monday, January 29 & Monday, February 26

Portland, OR

Contact Barbara Lane 503.975.1112
Next meetings - Sunday, January 28
& Sunday, February 25

From Bookstore to Reading Room

In December we sold the building where the Adidam Spiritual Center and Bookstore was located. (The sale of the building, which happened very quickly, will help us purchase a new ashram in the Seattle area!) We now have a new **Adidam Reading Room**, housed in the library on the ground floor of the Adidam NW Ashram, at 5600 11th Avenue NE, just north of the University District in Seattle. Please join us for an open house in our new space on Saturday evening, January 20, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

In the new Adidam Reading Room, you'll find Adi Da's current books, DVDs, and CDs for sale, as well as incense, devotional music, and journals. Books from the Great Tradition of Religion and Spirituality, arranged according to Avatar Adi Da's schema of the seven stages of life, as well as many out-of-print Adidam publications, are available for browsing from the library shelves. We will also be offering introductory events here over the next few months.

Give us a call at our old number – 206.527.2751. We don't have regular "hours" in the reading room, but you may make an appointment with Kay Witt or Katherine Gantz to visit, study, watch a DVD or video, or talk about Adi Da's Radical Way of Perfect Knowledge.

We look forward to seeing you!



Complimentary Offer From the Adidam Reading Room

Good for a 10% discount on any book, DVD, or CD in stock
Call for an appointment to talk, browse, or watch a video or DVD!

Adidam Reading Room
5600 11th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105
206.527.2751

Offer good through
March 31, 2007.

AVATAR ADI DA
SAMRAJ): Everybody
suffers, everybody
dies, everybody has
their complaint, their
problems—all this petty
peripheral business,
this superficiality of
consciousness. Realizing
that it is endlessly
disturbed, reach toward
Me and live the Great life.
There is not a thing you
can do about this natural
passing. It is inevitable.
Not fun. I understand.
And I am not trivializing
this sorrow. This is 'why'
to do the sadhana in My
Company. This is not a
paradise, and it is not
forever. It is a play, a
show, in the Infinite Space
of Consciousness. And
Freedom is Realization of
the Condition in Which
all of this changing is
appearing.
Wake up and get hungry
for That, or persist in
your suffering. That's it.
[December 21, 1996]

Please let us know if you would prefer to be notified about upcoming events via e-mail (and give us your e-mail address) or if you would like to be removed from our distribution list for any reason.

The Northwest Adidam Advocate

5600 11th Avenue NE

Seattle, WA 98105

January/February 2007 Events Calendar

Open House at the *New* Adidam Reading Room

Saturday evening, January 20

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Help christen our new reading room! Browse the for-sale books, CDs, DVDs, and library publications, watch recent footage of Avatar Adi Da, meet with devotees and enjoy refreshments and live cello accompaniment.

No charge

The Incarnation of ‘The Bright’

The Divine Revelation and Spiritual Offering of the Avataric Great Sage, Adi Da Samraj, Described in His Own Words

This new introductory presentation includes recent darshan footage and video excerpts of Adi Da answering devotees’ questions.

Wednesday evening, January 31

Adidam Reading Room

7:30 – 9:30 pm

\$5

The Incarnation of ‘The Bright’

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This new introductory presentation includes recent darshan footage and video excerpts of Adi Da answering devotees’ questions.

Wednesday evening, February 21

Adidam Reading Room

7:30 – 9:30 pm

\$5

Easy Death Course Starting in Vancouver, BC **Join a class on Adi Da’s Masterpiece, *Easy Death—*** ***Spiritual Wisdom on the Ultimate Transcending of*** ***Death and Everything Else.***

Learn...

- How to grow beyond fear.
- How to serve family and friends who are in the dying process.
- How right grieving is necessary not only for the living, but also for the one who has died.
- What really happens in the after-death states.

5 Monday meetings over 10 weeks

January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19, & March 5

7:00 - 9:00 pm

At Melissa Lee and Denise Cotton’s home in Vancouver
(Directions with registration.)

\$150 CF

To register, e-mail or call Katherine Gantz, NW mission
manager

katherine_gantz@adidam.org 206.354.5027