

*"The Heart has a question.
The Heart must be Satisfied."*



Avatar Adi Da Samraj



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WEBSITES

Adidam

Fear-No-More Zoo
Gift Shop

The Dawn Horse Press
"The World As Light"

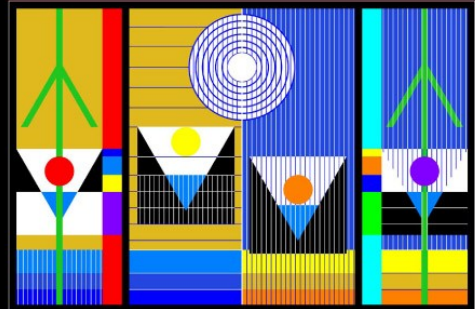
Book One of "The Orpheum":
"The Mummery Book"

Florence Exhibit

Video Introduction:
The Art of Adi Da Samraj



This Is Not An Object



THE WORLD AS LIGHT
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF
ADI DA SAMRAJ

BY MEI-LING ISRAEL

"Adi Da's art is meant to call into question the most basic presumption of ordinary human life: the 'fact' of existing as an independent 'self', the 'fact' of every 'self' being separate from every other 'self', the 'fact' of the 'self' being separate from the world of 'everything else'. Indeed, Adi Da intends His art to communicate the profundity that is known when all presumptions of 'separateness' are relinquished." – Jonathan Condit, Senior Editor, the Dawn Horse Press

CONTENTS P1 Web Links / The Art of Adi Da Samraj P2-4 The Orpheum at Oxford
P5 Leela by Fred Olivastro P6 Local Events Calendar

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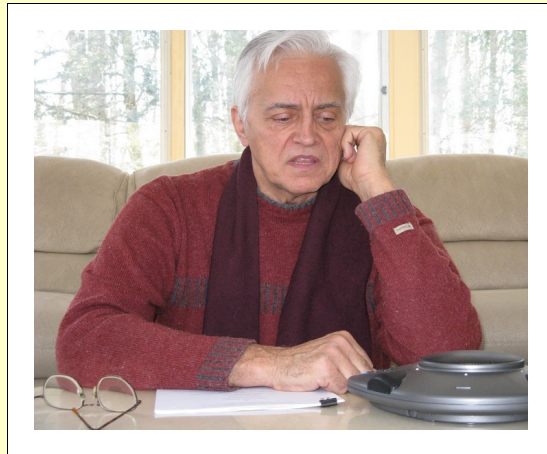
Oxford Round Table 20th Anniversary



The Orpheum¹ at Oxford

**A Presentation of Beloved Adi Da's
The Orpheum at the Oxford Round Table
July 2007**

In November 2006, Askold Skalsky, a devotee of Adi Da Samraj from the DC community, and an English professor at Hagerstown Community College in Hagerstown, Maryland, received a mysterious letter of invitation from the Oxford Round Table, an academic society at Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, Oxford, England. He was invited to take part in a special session at Oxford in July 2007 on the topic "Allusions to God in Literature and Poetry of Britain and America since 1750: Informing Global Religious Conflict". In an explanatory paragraph, the letter stated: "Differences in religious beliefs are among the prominent causes for the clash of civilizations that we witness worldwide today. Literature and poetry are laden with ecclesiastical references to the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths that have shaped and influenced western culture. Moreover, the post-Enlightenment literary treatment of the secular and sectarian, temporal and spiritual, has surely affected the international order, as well as discord." This special session of the Round Table would address the ramifications and education policy implications of this matter. As part of an interdisciplinary group of 36 participants, Askold was also invited to write a paper on a relevant aspect of the topic. The paper, he was told, could be submitted for publication in the



Askold Skalsky telling his story.

Forum on Public Policy, *the official journal of the Oxford Round Table, published in both hard-copy and on-line formats. This is Part One of a two-part series. Askold speaks:*

The invitation was a total surprise to me and seemed to come out of nowhere. I had no connection whatsoever with Oxford University, or with anyone associated with it. I did not attend academic conferences nor did I publish scholarly papers. It was a complete puzzle to me why I was invited. My first impulse was to turn the invitation down. I had no desire to write an academic paper on the topic, and indeed the whole trip to Oxford struck me as requiring a lot of time, money, and effort that could be more usefully expended elsewhere. But in the next few days, as I began to think more about this mysterious invitation, I felt that it might be part of Beloved Adi Da's Work and His Emergence in the world and a great opportunity for me to serve Him. The Round Table's discussions, the letter stated, would be wide-ranging and largely exploratory, but a list

of suggested topics was included, one of which was “God, freedom and liberty”. I therefore wrote to Beloved Adi Da, stating my intention to accept the invitation and present a paper on His literary masterwork, *The Orpheum*, at that time titled *The “First Room” Trilogy*, under the above rubric. I didn’t yet know what the specific topic of the paper would be, but I knew it would present Beloved Adi Da’s revelatory literary work, and therefore Him, in His “radical” originality and transcendent power, in suitably academic trappings fitted to such a forum. I wrote that I would consider various approaches and send my ideas later to Adi Da.

I could not wait very long because the Round Table was requesting an abstract of my presentation by the second week in January 2007, and it would be this abstract that would decide whether or not the Round Table would accept my paper for a presentation before the conference in July. Having no idea as yet of what the actual paper would be about, I nevertheless set out to write a general paragraph with the help of a number of devotees. A week before the due date, I sent the abstract to Adi Da Samraj and asked His Blessing that the committee of the Round Table accept it as the basis for my presentation at the session. (I also kept in mind that, if accepted, the paper could also be submitted for publication in the *Forum on Public Policy*, and thus ensure a wider distribution of the article.)

After reading a book on the subject of “the death of God” and a slew of contemporary articles alluding to it, I decided to use that popular theme and to link Beloved Adi Da’s *The Orpheum* to it, and to that particular phrase, which seemed to me to symbolize something of the present state of the world. My title became *The Death of “God” and the Inherent Conflict in the Presumed “Self”* and my abstract consisted of a fairly long paragraph, half of which was about Avatar Adi Da. I did not hear anything from Adi Da about the abstract or, indeed, about the whole project. My communications were always with Adi Da’s principal attendant, Adi-Dasya Quandra Sukhapur, right up to and beyond the confer-

ence. Not knowing whether or not Adi Da approved of my paper or my participation would considerably heighten my anxieties as I prepared for the conference in the coming months. In the meantime, I asked the worldwide Prayer Guild for a Prayer of Changes² that the abstract would be accepted and I could read a paper before the conference. (I may add that this was the beginning of many such requests to the Prayer Guild, all through the year and even into the present one.)

On January 19, 2007, I received notification that, on the basis of the abstract, my proposal for a paper at the conference had indeed been accepted. Now I had only to write the actual paper. Over the next five months I racked my brains, trying to expand the original paragraph abstract into a presentation on *The Orpheum*, fitting a discussion of Beloved Adi Da’s Work into the frame of the “death of God” idea. The task was not helped by my misreading of the directions and assuming the paper was to be about 40 minutes long. When, by the end of May, I had succeeded in producing 12 single-spaced pages, I was relieved. But when I checked the directions again, I found to my chagrin that every presenter was limited to no more than 20 minutes!

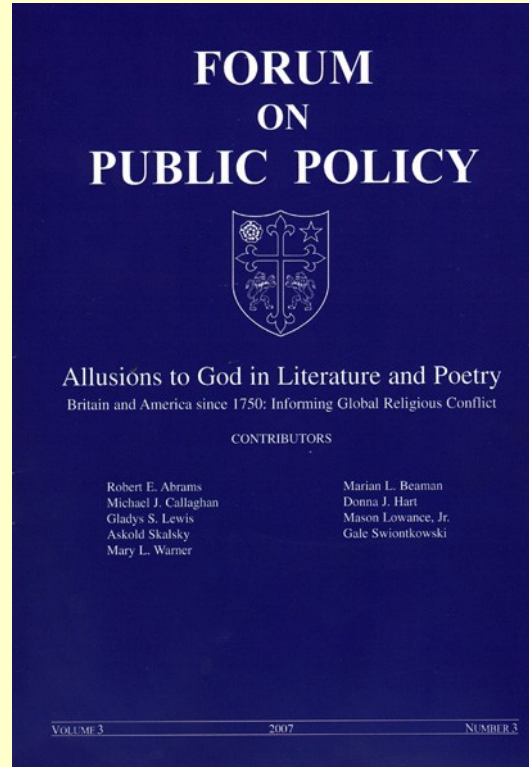
Now I had the opposite task: to cut the paper in half, to about seven typed single-spaced pages. And I subsequently learned that presentations were to be further distilled to 15 minutes. Again, with help from fellow devotees, and after a reading the manuscript-in-progress to my community on a Sunday retreat day phone conference, I finally had a manuscript that I felt was more or less acceptable. It was also read by Adi Da’s principal editors, Jonathan Condit and Carolyn Lee, which resulted in further refinements. I communicated the final copy to Adi-Dasya Quandra Sukhapur and asked for Beloved Adi Da’s Blessing.

As a “side leela” to this process of bringing Beloved Adi Da’s *Orpheum* into the world, it should be noted that, almost immediately af-

ter I informed my college of my wish to participate in the Oxford conference, it agreed to pay my costs. This was no small matter, as the fee amounted to nearly \$3,000, and my college was not known for underwriting such expenses for professors. Also, significantly, in the previous year it had turned down a considerably smaller request from a professor to attend a conference at an American university – because the topic was a “religious” one. However, these considerations apparently played no part in the granting of my request for financial help, and I saw this as more evidence of Beloved Adi Da’s Grace and of His using His devotees in His Emergence on the world stage.

As devotees of Avatar Adi Da have often observed, He acts spontaneously, and in ways that don't necessarily fit with our plans or egoic considerations. And so I mention another detail, and a characteristic one, from the period just before I left for Oxford. Several weeks before the conference, Beloved Adi Da changed the name of His Work from *The “First Room” Trilogy* to simply *Orpheus*. This change necessitated a frantic last minute rewrite of the manuscript in order to comment on the title and accommodate it to my text. But despite the difficulty involved in making these last minute revisions, I also immediately felt that the title change was a truly masterly one. I had long felt that this literary work of Adi Da’s possessed the poetic scope and power of a secular work such as *Ulysses*, but that it surpassed such fundamental classic literature in its transmission of revelatory, seventh-stage teachings in a literary form, and thus it was truly a universal gift to humanity, and an unprecedented one. So, after submitting my manuscript one more time to Adi-Dasya Quandra Sukhapur, and asking the Prayer Guild for a final Prayer of Changes for my presentation, on July 21, 2007, I departed for Oxford.

To be continued.

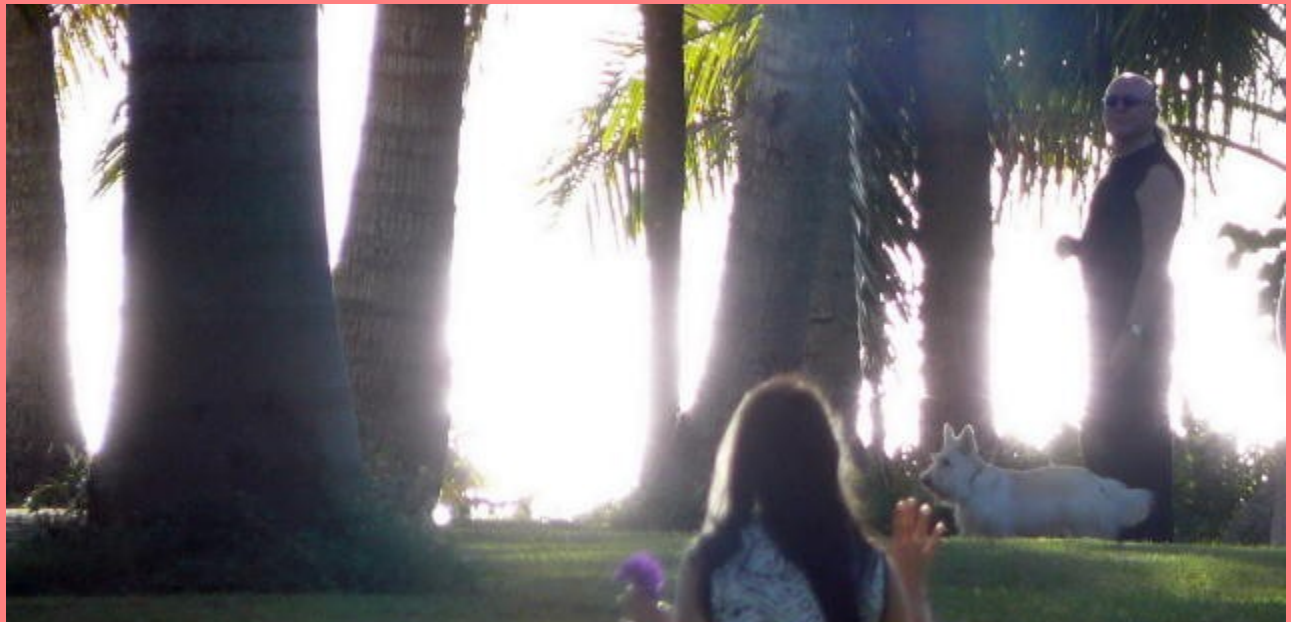


Askold's paper is published in the Forum on Public Policy, the journal of the Oxford Round Table, Vol. 3, No. 3, 2007: LITERATURE AND POETRY: Allusions to God in Literature and Poetry of Britain and America since 1750: Informing Global Religious Conflict. Hard copies can be ordered online at <http://www.forumonpublicpolicy.com/forms.htm>. The Table of Contents can be viewed by clicking on "Journals". The online edition is not yet available.

¹*The Orpheum (The Tragic History of The Recent Return of Orpheus, or, The First Room In Three Books)* is Adi Da's consummate literary Revelation comprising *The Mummery Book*, *The Scapegoat Book* and *The Happenine Book*.

²*The Devotional Prayer of Changes* is a practice Given by Adi Da Samraj based on Invocation of Him using conscious breathing and visualization to effect positive change.





“One never knows How, When or Where the Master may ‘visit’ us.”



A Leela

by Fred Olivastro
Philadelphia, PA

Divine Master Da has written:

“One who Beholds Me searchlessly simply waits for Me to happen.”

(from *No Seeking / Mere Beholding*)

In late 2007, I made a telephone call to Jim Lloyd, another devotee.

“Jim”, I said, “I understand you’ve moved to the Mountain Of Attention.”

“Yes”, he replied, “I’ve given Him (Master Da) my life. In fact, I’m just getting back from the Sanctuary now.”

Jim’s words were understated and sincere, and they resonated within me just as music can strike a chord within the listener. It was as if I myself had done a moment of selfless devotion – and Jim’s use of the empowered Sanctuary only added to the Availability of the Divine Master Himself.

The following morning, as is my custom, I awoke and immediately began brooding in bed. I remembered the words of Master Da:

Self-Contraction or differentiation is the prismatic fault that breaks the light or envisions It as seeming two or more.

Real God is the Indivisible Oneness of Unbroken Light.

And suddenly I saw before me a spectrum – not of colors – but a spectrum of suffering. Now, every part of the spectrum was suffering. Typically I could see that old age, death, sickness and loneliness were suffering, but now even youth, wealth, sex – even these things were revealed to be suffering by another name – additions waiting to be suffered. So I said to myself, “stop searching the spectrum of objects, get before the egoic prism!” Suddenly there was only God in the room – no self, no subject, no “other”, no objects, no fear, no suffering. Only God! It was like a non-moving but absolute wind that blew everything else out of the room. Indeed the Master’s ‘Visitation’ as Only God was so pure that I was surprised to find myself saying tacitly, “Oh! It’s Master Da!” I had recognized the Presence of Only God without realizing It was the Divine Master Himself. The Master had revealed His Real Identity though another devotee’s use of His Sanctuary, then over the telephone line to me!

I made sure to write a letter of thanks to Jim Lloyd. Perhaps I should write one to Cavalier Telephone as well. Better still, I should forget everything in Eternal Love of the Divine Master Adi Da Samraj, Who Is Only God.

Da! Da! Da

LOCAL EVENTS

Leelas of the Divine Grace of Adi Da Samraj

Avatar Adi Da recently requested that His Leelas, or Stories of His Divine Life and Work, be told as a means of conveying the Grace of His Person everywhere in the world.

Steve Reed, a long-time student of Adi Da and CEO of the Avataric Pan-Communion of Adidam, will tell the story of his recent retreat in the Company of Avatar Adi Da at Adi Da Samrajashram and recount his trip to Italy to see the exhibition of Beloved Adi Da's Divine Image-Art in Florence. Steve is currently on a tour of Adidam regional centers worldwide and would like to meet as many devotees as possible during his visit to Washington, DC. **When:** Thursday, May 1, 7:30-8:30 PM. **Where:** Adidam Revelation Bookstore, 10610 Falls Road, Potomac, MD, and via teleconference: 605-475-6100, Code 54#.

Irene Bruce, a resident of the Maryland Adidam community, will tell of her recent 10-day retreat at The Mountain of Attention Sanctuary in California. **When:** Saturday, May 17, 5:00-6:00 PM. **Where:** Adidam Revelation Bookstore, 10610 Falls Road, Potomac, MD, and via teleconference: 605-475-6100, Code 54#.

A \$5 donation is requested.* *For those attending by phone, checks made out to "Adidam" can be mailed to: Howard Rontal, Adidam Revelation Bookstore, 10610 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD 20854.* For further information call 301-983-0250.

The Adidam Revelation Bookstore Has Moved!

OPEN HOUSE at the NEW MISSION CENTER

Visit the new Southeastern Region Mission Center and Reading Room

When: Sunday, June 15, 4:00-6:00 PM **Where:** 1707 Glastonberry Road, Potomac, MD

Adidam Study Groups

Ongoing Study of The Wisdom Teaching of Avatar Adi Da Samraj

Each session includes a video Darshan (sacred sighting) of Adi Da Samraj

Chapel Hill, NC

Contact: Elizabeth Ragland
919-619-7369

Richmond, VA

May 15 & June 19, 7:00 PM
Contact: Jackie Harwood
804-282-8770 or richmond@adidam.org

New Orleans, LA

Contact: Sean or Leanne
985-645-0556

St. Augustine, FL

Contact: Brenda Dyson
443-244-3719

Potomac, MD

May 15 & June 19, 7:30 PM
Contact: Michael Dustrude
301-983-0250 or info@adidamdc.org

Introductory Occasions

Introduction to the Life and Teaching of Avatar Adi Da Samraj

Format and time varies by region. Please call for more information.

Atlanta, GA

Leslie Connell
404-378-0874

Gainesville, FL

James Rebstock
352-219-3984

Orlando, FL

Karl Kaiser
321-277-4763

Tampa, FL

Nancy Kemper
813-831-4987

Kentucky

Stan Harris
606-256-2020

Washington, DC

Michael Dustrude
301-706-7958

Third Congregation

Monthly Teleconference Gatherings for Southeastern Region Third Congregation Members

Sunday, May 18, and Sunday, June 22, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. The call-in number will be sent by e-mail prior to the call. No Charge. Questions: Irene Bruce, 301-983-0250 or info@adidamdc.org.



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