

THE HEART'S CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Third Congregation of Adidam

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Meeting Adi Da Samraj in Person

by Carolyn Lee

The time was 1986, and the place was Maria Hoop, a village in southern Holland. I was in my late thirties. I had an academic career. From my childhood, I had traveled widely and I was familiar with the highest intellectual and artistic achievements of Western civilization. But I was quite unprepared for the power of what now occurred.

I was seated in the chapel of a former monastery with about one hundred other people, waiting for Avatar Adi Da to come into the room and take His seat in front of us. He was offering Darshan—a traditional word for the sighting of a Spiritually Awakened being. I had no experience of Darshan, or any real sense of what to expect. I was there because I had already read some books by Avatar Adi Da, and His Teaching had moved me to want to see Him in person.

Before Avatar Adi Da came in, we waited a long time—hours of devotional chanting and listening to recitations from His Teaching. This is how such great beings have been honored by their followers for centuries. But I had no real framework for that tradition of devotion to the

Spiritual Master—except as it was reflected in Christianity, where the Master had been alive two thousand years ago. And so it felt somewhat strange to me.

When Avatar Adi Da entered the room, the whole room changed. He was of another Place, not of this place. At the same time, He seemed extremely human, and almost frail. He was dressed very simply in indigo, with His hair down to His shoulders.

I had never had a Spiritual experience in my life, never seen anything except the ordinary material reality. But the minute He sat down, His eyes held me and His face began to “melt”. Another Reality was unveiled. Apparitions of Spiritual Masters of different times and places flowed over His features. I had no idea who these beings were, but I could see their distinct qualities—Chinese, Tibetan, Indian.

Eventually, the faces passed, and there was just His face. No more apparitions. But then I became aware that His whole body was a locus of Light. There was a Radiance around Him—but it wasn't just an aura. His body was dissolving in the Light. The Light seemed to be the source of His body, not an emanation of the body.

I blinked numerous times, but the process continued. It wasn't something happening inside me, a kind of mystical experience within, or a meditative vision. This event was happening right there in the room. The Light filled the room, and the shape of Avatar Adi Da's body disappeared and reappeared in the brilliant golden and white Light. The Light was not like ordinary light—electric light or daylight. It was infinitely more refined, and it seemed alive. It was Bliss, Radiant Feeling—heart-Feeling to infinity. The room was full and deep and bright, an unbounded space of Joy. And everything in the room had a fluid quality, not solid at all. I lost my sense of being located at a particular point in space, and I seemed to be

viewing Him and everything else from different places in the room.

I was “gone” in amazement, and my heart was on fire. I was undone with a force of recognition. My heart said, “You are God” —the Divine Light in human form. And I loved Him—I felt that I had always loved Him, had always known Him, and yet not until now. I wept with an aching ecstasy in every cell of my being. And that was the real beginning of my relationship to Him as His devotee.

The next day, Avatar Adi Da sat with us again. This time, there was no noticeable magnification of Light but just the vision of His Form, as tender and exposed as that of a baby lying in its crib. I was shocked at His vulnerability. I could not comprehend the paradox. The previous day, I had seen His body as an appearance coalescing into Form out of pure Light. And now He was almost painfully present as a totally vulnerable human body, simply Radiating Love.

I felt unable, in that moment, to receive that intensity of Love—and immediately my life flashed before me, as people say happens at the moment of death. I saw everything unloving about my life from my earliest memories to that moment. I saw what I had done in all my relationships—with friends, family, lovers—that was all about my own satisfaction, my own agendas, the competitiveness, the anger, the heartlessness, the failure to be sensitive to anyone except myself. The intensity of this reflection grew and grew, until I felt I would explode. I wanted to run from the room.

Then I looked at Avatar Adi Da. His eyes were half-closed in Bliss, and it was obvious to me that He “knew” everything about me. And He did not care how it looked. He was there to Draw me beyond all of it. I knew that some profound, pre-verbal longing in my being had been boundlessly answered and satisfied—and that the rest of my life would be devoted to the Revelation that had just been given to me. It was the undoubted Revelation of God, yes—but not the “Creator-God” of my childhood religion. The “God” that was shown to me on those occasions was not apart, not separate, not a great “Parent”. That One was simply Light, the inseparable Source and Substance of everything. He was Bliss, Love, and Joy—humanly Present and yet Radiating from Infinity.

What Is Avatar Adi Da Like?

There is no pattern in any of our previous human record for Avatar Adi Da’s Spiritual demonstration. Rather, you will find hints of His demonstration in every tradition. He does not conform to any conventional image of a “holy man”, whether that image is ascetic and pious, mysterious and magical, or robed and ceremonial.

Avatar Adi Da has never withdrawn from the sphere of human impulses and desires. Instead, He has worked within it His entire life, so as to be able to show ordinary men and women what is required, in all the dimensions of human existence, to live in right relationship to the Divine.

Great struggle is also part of His Life’s story, because the process that Awakens and Enlightens human beings to Real God does not occur by magic, and certainly not via intellectual discussion. The genuine Spiritual path requires the aspirant to go beyond everything, including (eventually) our very and inmost sense of “self”.

As Avatar Adi Da’s story shows, to attract ordinary people into going beyond “self” required everything of Him—His genius, humor, and love—as well as His Divine Powers, which go beyond any explanation. The import of this story is that, through the Life and Work of Adi Da Samraj, the Divine Being is literally “Emerging” into (or Spiritually Pervading) our world with unprecedented force.

In a face to face dialogue with His devotees one night, Avatar Adi Da spoke of how He was moved to Incarnate—to Descend from the Divine Domain and “Emerge” into this realm in a human form. He described the immensity of this Process of Avataric Descent:

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: Thousands of years of Sacrifice, and Endeavor, and Purpose, and Spiritual Practice, and Realization, and Love, and Compassion were required for My bodily (human) Birth. Some day, you may understand My Birth. It was no casual gesture. And it could never have happened before now. Some day, you may understand that My human Lifetime is a unique moment in the history of humankind. Even in all these “eons of shaking”, the Impulse of the Divine Person to Incarnate persisted, undaunted, and could not be destroyed or ruined. Real God is willing to Love you and all beings, and that Divine Purpose must be Fulfilled. That is My Unique Impulse. Here I Am, Incarnate, to Do That Work. A thousand years may pass before anyone

understands anything about My Appearance here. So much suffering accompanies It, so much was required of Me to Submit to your company.

DEVOTEE: How was that Decision made?

AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ: By Love. To Encompass the totality of existence, in Love—That is the Sign of My Appearance here. By Appearing here bodily before You, I have Submitted to Love all-and-All, to be Compassionate toward all-and-All, to Serve all-and-All. And, in My Embrace of all-and-All, I have utterly Submitted to this mortal circumstance of sorrow and death. Such Submission never destroyed Me. It cannot destroy Me, for the One Who I Am can never be destroyed. But Love, the Impulse to Kiss you—just to Kiss you, to not deny you—made Me a Body to Live with you. [September 9, 1987]

*For a relatively brief history of Adi Da's Life and Spiritual Work, please read *Adi Da: The Promised God-Man Is Here*, available from Adidam Spiritual Center and Bookstore, 7215 Arlington Rd., Bethesda MD, 301.656.6277.*

He Appears As Every Kind Of Persuasion

In 1973, Alan Watts, author of *The Way of Zen* and *The Wisdom of Insecurity*, was given a copy of Adi Da's spiritual autobiography, *The Knee Of Listening*, and asked to write a foreword to it. His response was not only to write the foreword but to ask to meet Avatar Adi Da. Sadly, Watts died suddenly three days prior to the scheduled meeting. Though his foreword has since been replaced with those of still-living authors, an excerpt from his original appreciation still appears on the cover of *The Knee Of Listening*: "It is obvious, from all sorts of subtle details, that he know what IT's all about . . . a rare being". Watts was especially impressed by the epilogue, which, he noted, was "worth the price of the book".

Here, we offer you a few passages from the Epilogue to *The Knee Of Listening*.

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.

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7215 Arlington Rd., Bethesda MD, 301.656.6277
Calender of Events

Regularly Recurring Courses and Events

Introductory Guided Meditation

Mondays 7:30 to 9:00 PM

Saturdays 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Step out of your daily routine and step into a heart-awakening, joyful period of consideration and meditation in The Way of the Heart. This introductory evening begins with listening to a talk given by Adi Da, followed by a brief introductory meditation, and ends with questions and answers. **FREE - RSVP recommended.**

Introduction to The Way of Adidam

1st Thursdays - 7:30 to 9:00 PM Saturdays 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

Do you wonder about life, death, suffering, truth, reality and more? Avatar Adi Da has revealed profound answers to these questions. Come to consider WHO Adi Da Is, and the profundity of His Wisdom Teaching. **FREE - RSVP recommended**

Ongoing Study Group

3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Join us for this ongoing, guided study of The Wisdom Teachings of Avatar Adi Da Samraj. A new topic will be presented each month. Each study group is followed by a video Darshan sitting with Adi Da. Attending one of our free introductions first is highly recommended. **\$7 - RSVP recommended**

Documentary Film - “The Outpouring of Divine Brightness”

4th Thursdays 7:30 to 9:00 PM

This video contains footage of Adi Da relating to devotees and working on his Image-Art, and is filmed on location at the Hermitage Sanctuary of Adidam Samrajashram, in Naitauba, Fiji.

FREE - RSVP recommended

Course Offerings

2nd Thursdays - 7:30 PM to 9:00

We now offer 2 new courses! These courses are a guided study of the 2 new introductory books called Adi Da and Adidam, and Adi Da the Promised God-Man is Here. These courses are a "must" for all those who wish to gain a comprehensive overview of Adi Da and Adidam. Contact Margy Dell at margy_dell@adidam.org or 301-656-6277 for details.

Bookstore Hours

Saturdays 12-6 PM

Sundays 3-6 PM

Browse, read, watch a video, listen to a talk at your leisure.



The Heart's Connection is published by the Third Congregation Office of the Advocacy Department of the Avataric Pan-Communion of Adidam.

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NOTE: The Adidam Advocate is published as an inspirational and educational vehicle for contact persons and members of the third congregation of Adidam. The confessions and statements of our contributors are personal responses and do not necessarily reflect the views of Avatar Adi Da Samraj and Adidam.