



His Divine Presence,  
Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
Adi Da Samrajashram, 2008

# The Person and the Way of Reality Itself

*I am not merely “the Spiritual Master for this time”.  
I Am the egoless Absolute Person of Reality Itself—  
Coincident with this time, and Consequential forever. . . .  
There Is a Way—and Reality Itself Is “It”.  
Reality Itself Is the Way—and I Am “It”.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“There Is A Way—and Reality Itself Is It”,  
*The Aletheon*

**A**t heart, everyone yearns for a Truth that transcends the mortal suffering of life. Everyone intuits, in one way or another, that such Truth exists. But human beings have reached toward Truth for millennia, and their desire has never been fully quenched.

The Reality-Way of Adidam—Given by His Divine Presence Avatar Adi Da Samraj—is Revelation of such magnitude, it is “off the scale” of humanity’s longing. During His physical Lifetime (1939 to 2008), Avatar Adi Da Demonstrated and Communicated the means whereby living beings can participate in the egoless Reality that is Truth. His Appearance in human time shifted the pattern of existence at its core, such that beings can directly respond to Reality Itself, even via a personal Form. And, yet, Avatar Adi Da is the One Who Is Always Already Present—ever before and forever after His human Lifetime. His Incarnation in human Form has enabled immediate and real access to the “Reality-State”, the True Context in which everything and everyone is appearing.

Avatar Adi Da's human Lifetime was the hoped-for Divine Intervention—whereby the Ultimate Truth of existence “interrupted” the endless stream of individual and collective suffering and confusion. An intuition of such a One can be found in the sacred meaning of the Hindu term “Avatar”—the One Who has “crossed down” from the Unmanifested Condition into the manifested condition for the sake of liberating beings. His Divine Presence Adi Da Samraj came as the Divine Avatar, to found a new Way of Truth for Real. And He now Offers that Way—the Reality-Way of Adidam—to all.

*I have Revealed the Truth—and I Am the Revelation of the Truth.  
I Am That Truth.*

*The Truth is Given by Me, Directly.*

*The Truth is Given by Me without transition, without medium,  
without “cause”.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“The Way of Zero Bargaining”,  
*The Aletheon*

The name “Adidam” derives from Avatar Adi Da's Name. “Adi” is a Sanskrit word meaning “original”, or “first”. “Da” is a root-syllable in several ancient languages, referring to “the Divine Giver” (or the Source-Condition that Gives ceaseless Grace to living beings) and “the Divine Sound” (or the core Divine Reality of the entire cosmos). Thus, Adidam is the Way that is a Free Gift from the Origin (or Source) of all existence. Adidam is not a religion, nor is it a philosophy or a set of Spiritual techniques. Adidam is, fundamentally and always, the mysterious and transformative relationship to the Eternal One, His Divine Presence Avatar Adi Da Samraj.

To find Avatar Adi Da Samraj is to find What is greater than conventional living, What is beyond all modes of mind. To be attracted to Avatar Adi Da Samraj is to rise above the prevailing indoctrination with “materialist truths” or “religious dogmas”. To feel Avatar Adi Da Samraj is the purest form of “ecstasy”—to “stand outside” the limited presumption of being an individual self. To know Avatar Adi Da is to have the freedom at heart to see His

human Form, and to be spontaneously certain—tangibly and directly—that He is Revealing the Great and Ultimate Truth, even without a single word. To devote oneself to Him is to be drawn into a process of Transcendental and Spiritual Awakening never before known in human time.

The devotional response to Avatar Adi Da Samraj that is the core and epitome of the Reality-Way of Adidam is not a response to a human “other”. In any ordinary relationship, there is a presumption of a “self” and a “someone else”—two separate entities interacting with one another. The relationship to Avatar Adi Da Samraj is of an entirely different kind. He is not limited to a human body in time and space. He is simply the true Nature of every thing and every one, Who mysteriously Appeared for a time in human Form, and can be forever “Located”\* via all the forms of Agency He established during that unique Lifetime. His Divine Presence constantly Transmits direct experience of the Truth of existence—Reality Itself.

Only the profound recognition of Avatar Adi Da’s Nature and Function, given spontaneously in the “Sighting” of Him—via a photograph or other recorded or artistic representation of Him—can initiate the devotional relationship to Avatar Adi Da that is the essence of Adidam.† The unfolding of life on the basis of that recognition is about “getting to know” the Divine Person and Reality, ever more, and on that basis being moved to Him and Awakened by Him to His Divine Condition.

\* In His writing, Avatar Adi Da uses capitalization, underlining, and quotation marks to distinguish between ordinary speech (which describes the conditionally manifested reality) and speech that describes the Non-conditional Reality. With the use of capitalization and underlining, Adi Da expresses a different view of the world, in which Truth and the terms that relate to that Greater Reality are given more significance than the language of the separate ego and the conventional world. With quotation marks, Adi Da often communicates that some ordinary term, commonly presumed to point to something real, is, in Reality, an illusion. He also uses quotation marks to point to a specific, technical meaning He intends. This book also uses some of these conventions in writing about Avatar Adi Da and His Reality-Way.

† Devotional recognition-response to Avatar Adi Da is, of course, also awakened in those whose physical sight is impaired—through response to recordings of Avatar Adi Da’s Voice, His Teaching-Instruction, and His eternal and tangible Presence and Blessing-Touch.

Avatar Adi Da writes, in His great summary and final Text, *The Aletheon*:

*When you recognize Me As I Am, there is no doubt in you.*

*One who Beholds Me As I Am (and with right and true devotional recognition-response) is Beholding the Divine (or Reality Itself) As "It" Is. Every moment of whole bodily devotional turning to Me is simply that—Beholding the Divine As "It" Is, moment to moment.*

*When you rightly and truly devotionally Behold Me, you are in the Divine Self-Domain, you are in the Paradise of Reality Itself, and you have been Given all the Divine Gifts. In the Divine Self-Domain, there is not anything lacking.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“As I Am—and In Plain Sight”,  
*The Aletheon*

**D**EVOTEE: One day in 1974, I was given one of Avatar Adi Da's books. In reading it, I felt Avatar Adi Da Speaking from my own heart, rather than just through the words on the page. I felt that I was awakening from a long, long sleep to the already intimate Presence of my Spiritual Master.

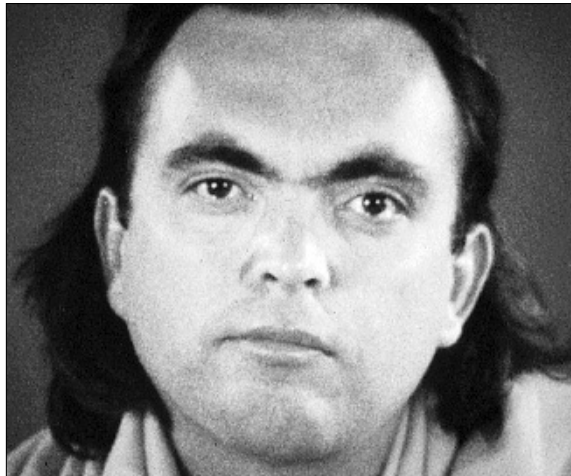
I soon went to San Francisco to join the community of devotees that was steadily growing there around Avatar Adi Da Samraj. As soon as I could, I attended a showing of an introductory film that documented Avatar Adi Da's early Teaching-Work with His devotees. I watched the film with excitement and anticipation, hoping for a special sign of confirmation of my eternal relationship to my Guru. But as the film continued, no such sign appeared.

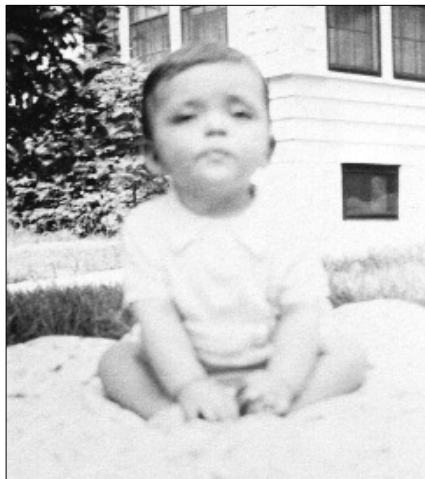
Then, in the final frames, Avatar Adi Da's face filled the screen, His shoulders circled with a deep yellow shawl. He Gazed steadily and simply into the eye of the camera, and far beyond, into the heart of the universe. He was

absolutely Rested, and yet a consuming center of Divine Sacrifice. He was Intimacy itself, and Love itself. Tears filled His eyes. I became absorbed in this Vision of Him, and forgot all about watching for the Divine sign.

Suddenly I lost awareness of the body and mind in a swoon. I was only aware of Avatar Adi Da's dazzlingly "Bright" Presence deep in my heart, even visually. It was penetrating, vibrant, and perfectly delicate and still. I saw Him Standing in my heart, Radiant and Glorious, yet I was "in" Him. He was Delight, and I was delight in the beholding of Him . . . until a well-meaning bystander shook me and brought me back to more ordinary awareness.

This film was my first experience of Sighting Avatar Adi Da. I saw the vision of the Great Reality with my eyes and with my heart. I saw the Divine Reality in the living Form of my Guru. And just to see Him and to feel Him so clearly in my heart began a process that would undo my despairing doubt, and confirm for me the existence of the Divine Reality in the world. ■





Avatar Adi Da as an infant, 1940

## Revealing the Reality-Way of Adidam

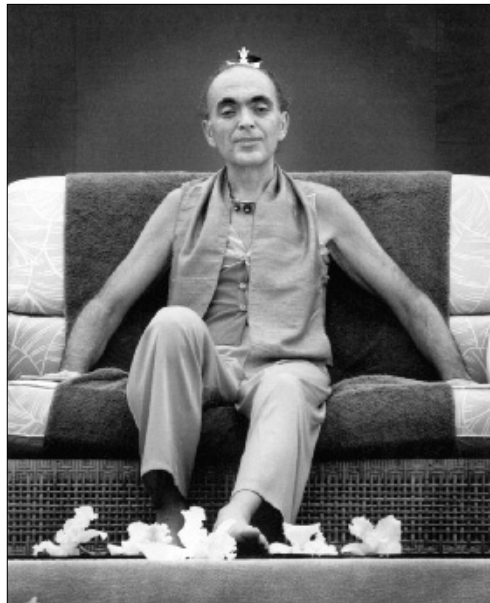
**A**vatar Adi Da's birth in Jamaica, New York, in 1939, was the first stroke in the "Emergence" of the Divine Reality into human time. For the first two years of His Life, the fact of being associated with a human body did not in any way obstruct Avatar Adi Da's awareness of His own Divine Condition. In His Spiritual Autobiography, *The Knee of Listening*, Avatar Adi Da describes how His infancy was simply a Radiant State of Being, full of profound Love and Bliss. As He first acquired language, Avatar Adi Da named this Reality "the 'Bright'".

At crucial times in His Life, Avatar Adi Da Samraj underwent transformational events in His human body, each of which magnified His Power to Manifest the "Bright" in this world. The first was His Submission to embrace the ordinary human life and allow His awareness of the "Bright" to fade, in order to first learn and then transcend the human situation. He made this Submission at the age of two, in a spontaneous gesture of love toward those around Him. Thus began a nearly thirty-year ordeal of learning and going beyond all levels of human experience (both ordinary and extraordinary), until He consciously Re-Awakened to His Native "Bright" Condition (in 1970).

Beginning in 1972, Avatar Adi Da began a new form of Submission to human experience—He spent many years Teaching devotees by addressing their doubts, questions, and sufferings. He exercised every kind of “skillful means” to help His devotees feel and understand the force of their commitment to being a separate self, and to draw them into devotional Communion with Him.

In 1986, after fourteen years of this intensive Teaching-Submission, His Divine Presence Avatar Adi Da suffered a death-like Swoon, in which His Impulse to Teach was spontaneously relinquished, and a new phase of His Divine Work began. This Great Event was the beginning of Avatar Adi Da’s fullest Divine Avataric Self-“Emergence” in the world.

After the Great Event in 1986, Avatar Adi Da’s body-mind was utterly Submitted to His own “Bright” Condition, and He began to “shed” His Submission to devotees’ egoic limitations and resistance. He Stood Firm in the “Bright”, requiring all who approached Him to do so on the basis of devotional recognition of Him and devotional response to His Instruction.



The Mountain Of Attention Sanctuary, 1986



Thus, Avatar Adi Da's Divine Blessing-Work began in full. The "Bright" had acquired His body-mind, as He described it, "down to the toes", Transforming His human Vehicle such that it Communicated His Divine Transmission even more potently. His devotees began to feel clearly that Avatar Adi Da's Work was a Blessing of all beings. He was not just Working with a limited number of people for the sake of establishing His Teaching in the world. He was bringing His Divine Blessing-Transmission into the entire realm of conditional appearances, Working to Awaken all to the Divine Reality, and to bring the most benign changes and forces possible into human history.

On April 12, 2000, at Lopez Island (in the Northwest of the United States), Avatar Adi Da underwent another extraordinary death-like Event, in which He suddenly and spontaneously Ascended to His Pure "Bright" State Infinitely Above the conditional worlds. He was "Translated" beyond all conditional appearances. Miraculously emerging from that Absolute Swoon, He re-associated with His body-mind—but with a completely different connection to active bodily life.

*Since the Lopez Island Event, I have never Re-Integrated with the physical to the extent that was previously the case (before that Event). Such Re-Integration simply did not occur.*

*I Am Where I Am.*

*I am not fixed here.*

*I have a "View" here, but I am not "of" the physical domain.*

*I Am here, it seems, for now. . . .*

*I Am the "Bright".*

*I Am the Means.*

*I Am the Realization.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
"I Am Always Already Transcendentally Spiritually  
Established As The 'Bright' Itself",  
*The Knee of Listening*

Avatar Adi Da named the place in which the Lopez Island Event occurred "Ruchira Dham Hermitage"—the Place (Dham) of

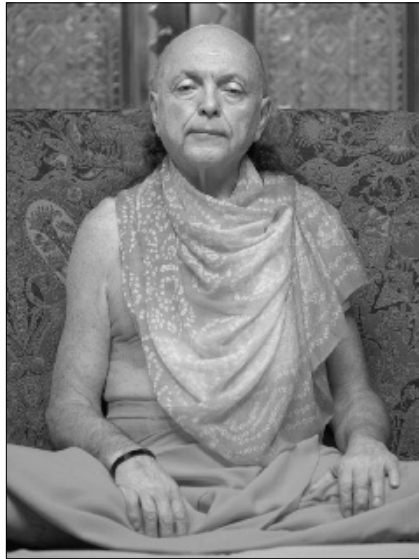


Ruchira Dham Hermitage, 2000

Divine “Brightness” (Ruchira)—and the full name of His Reality-Way (“Adidam Ruchiradam”) reflects the primacy and import of this Great Event. In some sense, Avatar Adi Da said, the Reality-Way of Adidam—in its final form—truly began in the Ruchira Dham Event. It was the Culminating Breakthrough of His Divine State into human existence, and the Fulfillment of His Life’s Purpose to make the Outshining Force of the “Bright” manifest in the world of living beings.

After the Ruchira Dham Event, the purity of Avatar Adi Da’s bodily Revelation of Reality Itself only magnified. Avatar Adi Da was no longer Submitted to the world of ordinary egos in order to create Instruction in the unfolding process of the Reality-Way of Adidam. That immense labor of three decades is recorded for all time in the Divine Scripture of Adidam, and in the ever-living stories of His Work. Instead, the eight years of His human Life after the Ruchira Dham Event were His Free Work to Grant His silent Blessing-Regard to the entire world, to make the fullest Revelation of Reality Itself available through visual and verbal means, and to receive those who formally prepared themselves to approach Him directly for the sake of His Transcendental Spiritual Blessing and His Gift of Reality-Realization.

On November 27, 2008, the final Yogic Event of Avatar Adi Da's human Lifetime took place. Avatar Adi Da spontaneously and instantaneously relinquished physical existence, late in the afternoon while working in His art studio. He had always said that His bodily death would occur suddenly and in its right time—when the signs of the completion of His Work in His physical Form appeared, and when it was time for Him to return to doing only His Great Work Beyond the body. His physical body was laid to rest at His principal Hermitage—Adi Da Samrajashram (the island of Naitauba, Fiji)—the focal point of His Forever-Blessing-Work. Avatar Adi Da is ever Present and Alive in His Eternal Divine Form as Reality Itself. And He is, through the Gift of His human Incarnation-time, forever Connected to and Coincident with every form and being and thing that exists.



Adi Da Samrajashram, November 21, 2008

*I Am The One Who Has Always Been here.*

*I have Taught you how to notice Me.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
*Aham Da Asmi*



*I have Always Been Doing My Divine Avataric Work of Meditating all-and-All and Entering into Perfect Coincidence with all-and-All.*

*I have simply Been Waiting to be whole-bodily-responsively devotionally recognized.*

*I have Already Connected with every one.*

*I Am Already Coincident with every one. . . .*

*I Am Doing the Same Work now That I Will Do forever, even when I am no longer physically Embodied here.*

*My Work Is at the “Root”—not at the periphery.*

*I Am here to Give My Instruction and to Enable people to do the necessary work at the periphery in the “world”.*

*That work in the “world” is not Mine to do.*

*I Am here to Establish the “Radical” Reality-Way of Adidam Ruchiradam and to Establish people in whole-bodily-recognition-responsive devotional relationship to Me, so that the “Radical” Reality-Way of Adidam Ruchiradam can go on forever.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“The Boundless Self-Confession”,  
*The Aletheon*

## The Nature of Reality Itself

**A** most fundamental Revelation Given by Avatar Adi Da is that Reality Itself is the Condition Which is “Always Already the Case”—That Which is the case now, was always the case in the past, will always be the case in the future, and can never not be the case, no matter what happens in the apparent events of cosmic history. Thus, the Reality-Way of Adidam is the Way to Realize Reality Itself, or Truth for Real—the “Always Already” Truth of existence. And the Reality-State of Avatar Adi Da Samraj Is Reality Itself, or Truth for Real—Which always has been and always will be the Case.

Reality Itself—with a capital “R”—is of a Transcendental nature. In other words, it is the Consciousness and Truth that is Prior to all the changes and sufferings that beings experience in physical, emotional, mental, or any other terms. Reality Itself is not in time and space—It is the context in which time and space arise. It is the ground of existence and, in that sense, the True “Self” or “Source” of every thing and every one.

Avatar Adi Da uses a particular analogy to illuminate the Native View of Reality Itself. A single camera takes a shot of a room, and captures an image of the room from the perspective of the camera’s own lens. One could say that image is what the room looks like—but really only from that one viewpoint. Imagine, Avatar Adi Da says, a million cameras in the room, each taking a picture from a different angle or direction. If you added up the visual information from all of those cameras, would you then have a picture of what the room truly looks like? No. You would simply have the collection of many viewpoints. Truly, Avatar Adi Da proposes, to see and know what the room really looks like would require something like infinite cameras in infinite positions in infinite moments of time . . . In other words, Reality Itself is the mystery of the room, just as it is, unable to be captured by any individual “point of view”.

*Reality Itself Transcends every possible “point of view” (or locus) in time and space, and never excludes any possible “point of view” (or locus) in time and space.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“Radical Adidam”,  
*The Aletheon*

Avatar Adi Da also Communicates that Reality is not just a Transcendental State of separate consciousness or being, utterly dissociated from what is apparently perceived and experienced day to day. Reality is also Force, or Energy—Pervading all that appears and lives and changes and dies. This Energy-dimension of Reality is what Avatar Adi Da means by the word “Spiritual”. His Revelation of Reality Itself and the Reality-Way is both Transcendental (or of the Prior Nature of existence) and Spiritual (or of the Energy-Nature of existence, Pervading everything that appears).

The Force of Reality Itself—Which is Avatar Adi Da’s Spiritual Gift—is not just movements of energy in the body, or even a universal cosmic energy, as has been experienced and sought in many traditions associated with Spirit. Avatar Adi Da’s Transmission is Spirit that is Itself Transcendental, or Energy that is not defined by or limited to the time-and-space universe. Avatar Adi Da’s Unique Gift of Transcendental Spirituality Awakens His devotee directly to Reality Itself.

*The Spiritual Divine is traditionally understood in terms of cosmic space, conceived to be an immensity of shapeless size that is filled with the Spiritual Divine. Such is the fundamental (spatial) metaphor by which “Spirit” is traditionally understood in the Great Tradition of humankind. . . .*

*My Divine Avataric Self-Revelation is that the Spiritual Divine Is Prior to conditionality, Prior to the body-mind-“self”, Prior to (space-time-“located”) “point of view”, and (therefore) Prior to any form of cosmic understanding. Therefore, a thoroughly Transcendental understanding of Spirituality and the Divine characterizes My Language of Revelation. . . .*

*The Transcendental Spiritual Divine does not merely pervade time and space. Rather, the Transcendental Spiritual Divine Is the*

*all-and-All-Transcending Context of time and space—Prior to ego, Prior to “point of view”, Prior to all cosmic measures, Prior to anything that goes through change in time, Prior to anything that moves in space, Prior to all limitations. Therefore, to participate Transcendentally Spiritually in the Divine, or Reality Itself, is not a cosmic (or psycho-physical) activity.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj  
“Reality Itself Is Not A Size”,  
*The Aletheon*



Exhibition of  
Avatar Adi Da's  
Art at the 52nd  
Venice Biennale,  
2007

## The Image-Art of Reality Itself

In addition to His Transcendental Spiritual Work of Blessing and Awakening, Avatar Adi Da Samraj demonstrated His absolute commitment to the Revelation of Reality Itself—and to thereby giving all beings direct access to Reality Itself—through His Artwork. Throughout His Lifetime, Avatar Adi Da worked to develop visual means to communicate What Is Beyond the separate “point of view”. He created Artworks at an extraordinary pace, particularly during the years 1998–2008, and His Work has been internationally exhibited and acclaimed. ■

For the story of Avatar Adi Da's unique Work as Artist, see *The World As Light: An Introduction to the Art of Adi Da Samraj*, by Mei-Ling Israel.

Avatar Adi Da's own essays about the nature of His Artwork can be found in *Transcendental Realism: The Image-Art of egoless Coincidence With Reality Itself*, and other compilations. See pp. 236–37 for more information about these publications. You can also visit [www.daplastique.com](http://www.daplastique.com).

People commonly call their experience from day to day “reality”: whether it is the physical reality of bodies and activities, the emotional reality of feelings and relationships, or the mental reality of thoughts and knowledge. It is presumed that what is “real” is what is perceived and experienced from the “point of view” of the “camera-self” (using Avatar Adi Da’s metaphor of the camera in the room). People do not generally feel they have a great deal of control over the fact that they experience things from this “separate-self” perspective.

This reality—of limited conventional experience—is what Avatar Adi Da calls “conditional reality”, with a lowercase “r”. This is because it is conditioned by experience and dependent on the condition of a separate “point of view”. None of the elements of this so-called “reality” are native to Reality Itself—conditional “reality” is only an overlay, or an illusory presumption.

In fact, in reaction to the perception of being associated with a separate “self-position”, everyone literally creates this entire so-called “reality”, moment by moment, through a comprehensive and chronic contraction of attention and life-force at every level of existence (physical, emotional, mental, and even the root-level of presuming to be a “self”).

*All presumption of separateness—and even of bondage—is an illusion.*

*All seeking (or ego-effort, based on the presumption of separateness, and even bondage) is a false (or Truthless) path, without The Foundation of Reality (or Truth) Itself.*

*The Self-Realization of Reality Itself—Embodied by My Divinely-Avatarically-Born bodily (human) Form here—Is The Same Self-State That Is your True (and Intrinsically egoless) Self-Nature and Self-Condition now.*

*However, you do not “Know” This to Be So.*

*Therefore, you presume a separate “self”, a psycho-physically separate persona (or ego-“I”)—and all your “problems” (and all your seekings) arise on that basis.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj

“Radical Adidam”,

*The Aletheon*



Such is the activity of “ego”—and as long as that activity is operative, it rules every aspect of life. The current state of global crisis—relative to the Earth itself, the destruction of the non-human world, and all the conflicts between the Earth’s human inhabitants—is the devastating result of the universal commitment of human beings to the “point of view” of separate and conditional reality.

To know Reality Itself requires an absolute shift from the “point of view” of conditional reality. The Inherent View of Reality is not that of a separate, individual self—and, therefore, by definition, the individual self, or ego, cannot make that Realization occur. In fact, there is no action or technique that can make that Realization occur. There is no earnest aspiration or well-intentioned practice of body or mind that can break through the ego-limit of conditional reality. Only the profound and true response to the Intervention of Reality Itself can break the ego-spell. Reality Itself—instead of the contraction into separate self—must be “Located” and “Known”, at every level of the being.

The immeasurable Gift of Avatar Adi Da’s Incarnation is that He Gave the means to find and “Know” and Commune with Reality Itself, right now—merely by Sighting His bodily Form and turning to Him with devotional recognition. He Gave the full understanding and Teaching of the egoless Nature of Reality Itself. And He eternally Offers the Transcendental Spiritual Means to purify every aspect of the being and transform one’s entire existence into Perfect Coincidence with Reality Itself, even in the midst of apparent human life.

There is absolutely no belief required in order to practice the Reality-Way of Adidam. Tremendous faith in and devotion to Avatar Adi Da Samraj develop for His devotee—but this occurs on the basis of recognition of His Reality-State and the direct experience of His Reality-Transmission, not any belief in a vicarious salvation. Reality Itself cannot be “Located” through the methods of conventional religious belief and practice. Thus, Adidam Ruchiradam is not a religion, it is a “Way”.

*Adidam is not a conventional “religion”.*

*Adidam is not a conventional way of life.*

*Adidam is about the transcending of the ego-“I”.*

*Adidam is about the Freedom of Divine Self-Realization.*

*Adidam is not based on mythology or belief.*

*Adidam is a Reality-practice.*

*Adidam is a “reality consideration”, in which the various modes of egoity are directly transcended.*

*Adidam is a universally applicable Way of life.*

*Adidam is for those who will choose it, and whose hearts and intelligence fully respond to Me and My Offering.*

*Adidam is a Great Revelation, and It is to be freely and openly communicated to all.*

—His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj

“My Word to All Who Would Find Heart-Breaking Freedom”,  
*The Complete Yoga of Emotional-Sexual Life*