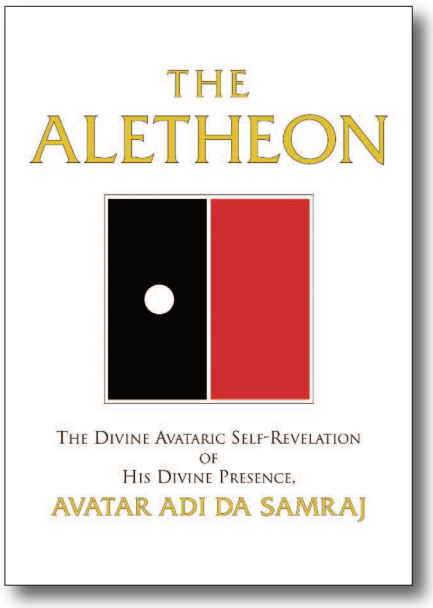
Beyond The Cultic Tendency In Religion and Spirituality, and In Secular Society

A selection from the Reality-Teaching of His Divine Presence, Avatar Adi Da Samraj

An excerpt from the book



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Beyond The Cultic Tendency In Religion and Spirituality, and In Secular Society

This essay presents Avatar Adi Da's essential criticism of the tendency to create "cults" around Adept-Realizers and His call to observe, understand, and transcend the cultic tendency as it operates in every area of human life.

In My Reality-Teaching, I Speak critically of the conventional (or childish, and, otherwise, adolescent) orientation of "Guru-cultism". Such cultism is a tendency that has always been present in the "religious" and Spiritual traditions of humankind. Anciently, and in the present time, both true Spiritual Masters and ordinary Wisdom-Teachers have been "cultified", and (thereby) made the merely fascinating "Object" of a self-contained popular movement that worships the Spiritual Master as a Parent-like Savior, while embracing very little of the significant Wisdom-Teaching of the Spiritual Master.

The error of conventional cultism is precisely this childish, and (otherwise) adolescent, and (altogether) ego-based orientation to fascination with Spiritual Masters, Wisdom-Teachers, "God"-Ideas, myths, sacred lore, inherited beliefs, traditional propaganda, and psycho-physical (or merely body-mind-based) mysticism. And the cultic tendency in "religion" and Spirituality is the essence of what is wrong with conventional "religion" and Spirituality.

The "problem" is not that there Is no Real God, or that there are no true Wisdom-Teachings, or that there are no true Spiritual Masters, or that there should be no devotion to any true Spiritual Masters. The "problem" with conventional "religion" and Spirituality is the same as the "problem" of all ordinary life. The "problem" is the childish, and (otherwise) rather adolescent, egoism that is the basis of all forms of ordinary existence.

Yet un-Enlightened (or, otherwise, not yet Most Perfectly Enlightened) people are ego-possessed. Therefore, egoity is the "disease" that all the true Spiritual Masters come here to cure. Unfortunately, those who are merely fascinated by Spiritual Masters are, typically, those who make (or, at least, transform) the institutions of the Way of their Spiritual Masters. And true practitioners of any "religious" or Spiritual Way are very hard to find, or develop. Therefore, "religious" and Spiritual institutions tend to develop along lines that serve, accommodate, and represent the common egoity—and this is why the esoteric true Teachings of true Spiritual Masters tend to be bypassed, and even suppressed, in the drive to develop the exoteric cult of any particular Spiritual Master.

The relationship to Me that is Described (by Me) in My Reality-Teaching is not an exoteric cultic matter. It is a profound esoteric discipline, necessarily associated with real

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and serious and mature (ego-surrendering, ego-forgetting, ego-transcending, and Divine-Guru-Oriented) practice of the "Radical" Way (or "Root"-Process) of Realizing Real (Acausal) God (Which Is Reality Itself and Truth Itself). Therefore, I am critical of the ego-based (or "self"-saving, and "self-guruing") practices of childish, and (otherwise) adolescent, and (altogether) merely exoteric cultism.

The common "religious" or Spiritual cult is based on the tendency to resist the disciplines of real (and really ego-transcending) practice, and to opt for mere fascination with extraordinary (or even imaginary) phenomena (which are, invariably, not understood in Truth and in Reality). Apart from the often petty demand for the observation of conventional rules (generally, relative to social morality, or merely social "religion"), the cult of "religious" and Spiritual fascination tends to become righteously associated with no practice—that is, with the even "official" expectation that there be no real (or truly right, and full) practice of "religious" and Spiritual disciplines (especially of Spiritual and meditative disciplines of an esoteric kind). Likewise, the cult of "religious" and Spiritual fascination tends to be equally righteous about maintaining fascinated faith (or indiscriminate, and even aggressive, belief) in the merely Parent-like "Divine" Status of one or another historical individual, "God"-idea, "religious" or Spiritual doctrine, inherited tradition, or force of cosmic Nature.

"Religious" and Spiritual cultism is, thus, a kind of infantile collective madness. (And such madness is equally shared by secular cultists, in every area of popular culture—including politics, the sciences, the arts, the communications media, and even all the agencies and institutions of conventional "officialdom" relative to human "knowledge", belief, and behavior.) "Religious" and Spiritual cults (and, likewise, all secular cults) breed "pharisaism" (or the petty righteousness of conventional thinking). "Religious" and Spiritual cults breed "substitution" myths (or the belief that the personal transcending of egoity is, both generally and ultimately, impossible—but also unnecessary, because of what "God", or some "Master", or even some "priest" has already done). Indeed, "religious" and Spiritual cults (and, likewise, all secular cults) breed even every kind of intolerance, and the chronic aggressive search for exclusive social dominance and secular power. "Religious" and Spiritual cults are, characteristically, populated by those who are, generally, neither inclined toward nor prepared for the real right practice of "religious" and Spiritual discipline, but who are (and always seek to be) glamorized and consoled by mere association with the "holy" things and beliefs of the cult itself.

This error of "religious" and Spiritual cultism, and of ego-based culture in general, must be examined very seriously—such that the error is truly rooted out, from within the cult and the culture itself (and not merely, and with equally cultic cultural righteousness, criticized from without). Cultism of every kind (both sacred and secular) must be understood to be a kind of ritualized infantilism—bound to egocentric behavior, and to the embrace of "insiders" only, and to intolerance relative to all "outsiders". The cultic tendency, both sacred and secular, brings about (and has always brought about) great

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social, cultural, and political trouble—as has been seen, in this "late-time" (or "dark" epoch), in the development of worldwide conflicts based on the exclusive (or collectively egocentric) orientation of the many grossly competitive "religious" traditions, political idealisms, and national identities.

All cults, whether sacred or secular, thrive on indulgence in the psychology (and the emotional rituals) of hope, rather than on actual demonstration of really ego-transcending action. Therefore, when all egos meet, they strive and compete for the ultimate fulfillment of searches and desires, rather than cooperate with Truth Itself, Reality Itself, or Real (Acausal) God, and in a culturally valued and rewarded mood of fearless tolerance and sane equanimity.

Clearly, this cultic tendency in "religion" and Spirituality, and the egoic (and, thus, cultic) tendency in life in general, must become the constant subject of fundamental human understanding—and all of humankind must constantly be put to "school", to unlearn the "method" of egocentrism, non-cooperation, intolerance, and dis-ease. ■

An excerpt from the book

The Aletheon

by

Avatar Adi Da Samraj

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