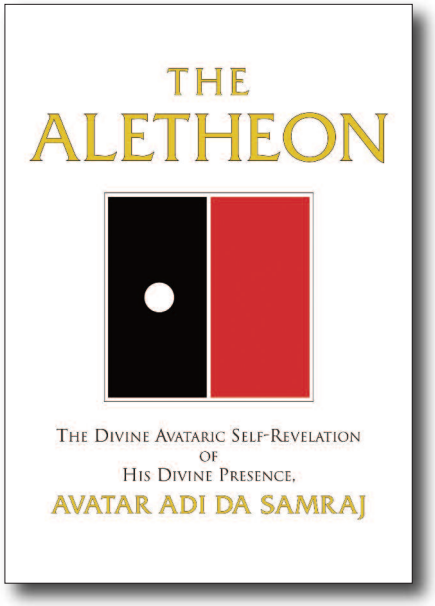
Cultism Is The Beginner's Level of Human Existence

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

An excerpt from the book



Book is available in Europe at www.adidambookshop.eu
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Cultism Is The Beginner's Level of Human Existence

Avatar Adi Da clarifies the real (and non-sensationalized) meaning of "cult" and calls all of humankind to move beyond the superficial (childish and adolescent) approaches to life and religion, and to enter into the profound, esoteric domain of universal Truth and Wisdom.

The word "cult" means, simply, a system of externals (such as beliefs, rites, and ceremonies) related to the worship of a deity (or any deified person, "object", place, or event). Therefore, all formally organized exoteric "religious" institutions or communities are cults. Cults are at the "root" of all human cultures.

By extension, any organized gathering of people associated with a common source of enthusiasm and commitment may be called a "cult". Therefore, cultism is associated not only with "religion", but also with politics, intellectual studies, science, the "professions", entertainment, sports, the news media, and even flower-breeding societies!—every area of human endeavor tends to produce the centralizing phenomenon (or centripetal motion) of cultism.

The negative tendency in cultism is the tendency to forget that mere enthusiastic association with an "object", an idea, a person, or whatever, is basically a superficial (or "beginner's") state of mind. All mere enthusiasm, or belief, or ritualized consciousness is at the novice level of human existence—and, if enthusiasm, or belief, or ritualized consciousness persists beyond its appropriate term, it inevitably becomes an expression of either childish or adolescent neurosis. (Such is true of individuals, and also of human groups, including entire cultures and nations.)

When participation in the "outer circle" of life is prolonged, and the more advanced (or esoteric) culture (the "inner circle" of life) does not begin, then all the classic signs of human failure are (inevitably) in evidence. Human beings need their childhood, and even a kind of adolescence—but they must eventually "put away childish things", and enter into the mature and more advanced domain of human possibility.

This transition to human maturity requires profound and "self"-critical understanding on the part of the individual. And, if such a crisis of "self"-understanding does not characterize the greatest number of human beings alive at any one time, the social order of humankind tends to be more or less childish and adolescent, expressing all kinds of irrational dependencies and equally irrational needs for ambivalent independence.

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But this is precisely the situation in the human "world" at the present time. Everyone is clinging to the "outer circle" of human existence. The popular "religious", scientific, political, and other cultural and social characteristics of this "late-time" (or "dark" epoch)* are all generally immature, aberrated, exclusivistic, and bereft of the greater Wisdom of true developmental and Spiritual acculturation.

In the domain of "religion", . . . many cults claim exclusive possession of the absolute Revelation (or ultimate degree) of Truth. But exoteric "religion" is not, in any case, in possession of Truth Itself. Exoteric "religion" is only the "outer circle" of Truth.

The childish neurosis that characterizes exoteric cultism is precisely the clinging to superficial levels of understanding (or even mere belief, without much understanding), coupled with a righteous sense of exclusive possession of Truth. And, in this "late-time" (or "dark" epoch), this frame of mind is in evidence in every area of human occupation. That frame of mind characterizes the cults of science and politics just as much as it does the cults of conventional "religion".

It is time for everyone to awaken from the spell of childish, subhuman, ego-possessed, "subjective" (mental, emotional, and physical) obsession. It is time to grow up! The Truth can become obvious to human understanding, and the cultural situation of humankind can become harmonious and benign. It is a matter of entering into the yet hidden (or esoteric) domain of awakened intelligence, "self"-restraint, acceptance of life-positive disciplines of physical, emotional, and mental activity, and conversion <u>from</u> the separative and ego-possessed disposition <u>to</u> the truly ecstatic moral and Spiritual disposition of ego-transcending devotional Communion with the Divine Self-Nature, Self-Condition, Source-Condition, and Self-State of all beings and things. Only the life of Divine Communion permits the child to grow into maturity. That Way of life is the ego-transcending Way that is hidden within (or natively built into) the psycho-physical structures of the human being.

. . . Freedom from false cultism depends on human growth, from the exoteric (or superficial levels of understanding) to the esoteric (or Spiritually Awakened levels of understanding). Exoteric "religion" must <u>everywhere</u> become nothing more than a means of preparation for greater developmental and (in due course) Spiritual acculturation.

Therefore, every "religion" must be submitted to the <u>universal</u> Truth and the <u>universal</u> Wisdom of Adept-Realizers, who (to one or another significant degree) have Realized the Spiritually Awakened Way through actual practice of It. Conventional "religions" must abandon all things superficial and separative—and they must surrender to the Transcendental, Inherently Spiritual, Intrinsically egoless, and Self-Evidently Divine Truth.

Likewise, all other popular cults—such as the cult of scientific materialism—must abandon the irrational exclusivism of their preferences and understand that Wisdom is senior to "knowledge".

*Avatar Adi Da Samraj uses the term "'late-time' (or 'dark' epoch)" to describe the present era, in which doubt of anything at all beyond mortal existence is more and more pervading the entire world, and the interest of the separate individual "self" is more and more regarded to be the ultimate principle of life.

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Everyone—in every field of human endeavor or commitment—must be awakened to a greater intuition, and to a critical understanding of all the superficialities of conventional and popular human awareness. ■

An excerpt from the book

The Aletheon

by

Avatar Adi Da Samraj



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