



The Seven Stages of Life

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

An excerpt from the
The Basket Of Tolerance
Booklet Series



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In the literature of Adidam, Which is the Way That I have Revealed and Demonstrated for the sake of all-and-All, I have Described the seven potential stages of human life. Briefly, the seven stages of human life may be summarized as follows:

In the context of the first three stages of life, the gross body-mind-complex is developed and coordinated. First, the gross physical is developed, then the emotional-sexual functions are developed and coordinated with the gross physical, and (finally) the mental functions and the function of the will are developed and coordinated with the emotional-sexual and gross physical functions. Optimally, all of this is nurtured, guided, and done in the context of love, trust, and surrender in relation to the Living Acausal Divine (or the all-and-All-Pervading and all-and-All-Transcending Real Acausal God, or Truth Itself, or Reality Itself).

In the context of the fourth stage of life, this now complex psycho-physical being is surrendered beyond itself, to and into the (all-and-All-Pervading, and all-and-All-Transcending, and Self-Evidently Divine) Source (or Source-Condition) That Pervades (and, yet, Transcends) it and the total "world". This surrender is done to the point of conditional union with That Divine Source (or Source-Condition). In due course, such conditional union becomes, by Means of Divine Grace, conditional union with the Spiritual Presence (or Spiritual Current) of That Divine Source (or of That Divine Source-Condition, Truth Itself, or Reality Itself)—and this in occasions of tangible (descending) Bliss that involve and (simultaneously) transcend the body-mind-complex.

In the context of the fifth stage of life, this process is continued, but the plane of conditional "self"-awareness ascends, to become dominantly subtle (or psychic), rather than gross (or merely physical)—and the Realization of conditional union with the (all-and-All-Pervading and all-and-All-Transcending) Divine Source (or Source-Condition) involves the ascent of attention, that eventually goes beyond physical references, and (at last) even beyond mental references.

In the context of the sixth stage of life, attention (which is the causal "root", or base, of the mind) is introverted (or, by one or another means, surrendered), away from gross and subtle states and "objects" of the body-mind-complex, and toward its own "root", even the Ultimate "root" of the ego-"self"—Which Is the Witness-Consciousness (when attention is active), and Which Is also (Ultimately) Consciousness Itself (Prior to "objects", and Prior to the sense of separate "self"). The Ultimate result of this exercise is conditional Realization of the Transcendental Self-Condition, or the intuition of Self-Existing Transcendental Being—which intuition remains strategically (and, otherwise, tacitly) dissociated from all "objects" (even if, as in the case of sixth stage "Sahaja Nirvikalpa Samadhi", the natural perception and conception of phenomenal "objects" is freely allowed).

In the only-by-Me Revealed and Given seventh stage of life, there Is Prior and Non-conditional (or Inherent, and Inherently Most Perfect) Self-Identification with Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Transcendental (and Self-Evidently Divine) Being, or the Divine Conscious Light (Itself)—the Ultimate (Divine) Identity of all beings (or "subjects"), and the Ultimate (Divine) Self-Nature, Self-Condition, and Self-State of all conditions (or "objects"). This Prior (or Inherent) and Inherently Most Perfect Self-Identification (or Divine Self-Abiding) is directly Realized (by Means

of My Divine Avataric Transcendental Spiritual Grace), entirely apart from any dissociative act of introversion. And, while Divinely Self-Abiding (Thus), if any conditions arise (or if any states of body-mind arise), they are simply (Divinely) Self-Recognized in the Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Self-Nature, Self-Condition, and Self-State of Being (as transparent, or merely apparent, and non-necessary, and intrinsically non-binding modifications of Itself). Such is seventh stage Sahaja Nirvikalpa Samadhi—and It is Inherently Free of any apparent implications, limitations, or binding power of phenomenal conditions. If no conditions arise to the notice, there is simply the Self-Existing and Self-Radiant Self-Nature, Self-Condition, and Self-State of Transcendental, Inherently Spiritual, Intrinsically egoless, and Self-Evidently Divine Being. Such Is Absolute (or Inherently Most Perfect) Realization of That about Which nothing sufficient can be said—and there is not Anyone, Anything, or Anywhere beyond It to be Realized. . . .

In the Great Tradition (or common Wisdom-Inheritance) of humankind, the characteristic (or grossly ignorant) orientation of the first three stages of life (in themselves, or engaged for their own sake) is always everywhere displayed in the common "world" (to date), and every age (or epoch) displays its own unique convention (or style) of materialistic purposiveness.

In the Great Tradition of humankind, the characteristic orientation of the fourth and fifth stages of life is found (first of all) in the traditional popular "religions" (such as Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism), and in all the esoteric traditions of fourth and fifth stage mysticism and mystical Spirituality (or descending and ascending Yoga).

In the Great Tradition of humankind, the characteristic orientation of the sixth stage of life is found in its first (or ascetical) form in such traditions as Samkhya and Jainism, and in its second (or moderate and "self"-pacifying, or "Middle Way") form principally in the traditions (or schools) of Buddhism (and also in the schools of Taoism), and in its third (or final, and Non-conditionally, or Perfectly Subjectively, Self-Affirming) form principally in the traditions (or schools) of Advaitism (or "Non-Dualism"), especially that of Advaita Vedanta (and, secondarily, or with less directness, within the schools of some varieties of Buddhism, especially within the "Mahayana" and "Vajrayana" traditions, and also, but with even less directness, within some schools of Taoism).

In the Great Tradition of humankind (previous to My Divine Avataric Appearance here), the characteristic (or Divinely, or Most Perfectly, Enlightened) "Orientation" (or "Disposition") of the seventh stage of life has not been Realized and Demonstrated. There has been occasional seeming (or suggestive) evidence, in the Teachings of a random few unique individuals and traditions—especially within the schools of Advaitism, and, secondarily (or by a less direct and characteristic expression), within some schools of Buddhism, and (but with an even less direct and characteristic expression) within some schools of Taoism—of limited foreshadowings (or partial intuitions, or insightful, but limited, premonitions) of the characteristic (or Divinely, or Most Perfectly, Enlightened) "Orientation" (or "Disposition") of the seventh stage of life. However, that evidence is only verbal, or limited to expressions of a philosophical persuasion only, and a philosophical persuasion that is (itself) founded on the sixth stage orientation, practice, and possible Realization that preceded (and still limits, in every case) the apparently "seventh stage" expression or Teaching. . . .

By Means of My Avatarically Full-Given Divine Word, I have Revealed the characteristic and the (to one degree or another, and in one manner or another) always limited design and the (to one degree or another, and in one manner or another) always ego-based nature of each and all of the first six stages of life (in and of themselves). Therefore, in order to Enable all of humankind to practice and to Realize the Intrinsically egoless Truth and Way of Life, I have, by Means of My Avatarically Full-Given Divine Word, Revealed the Unique, and Universal, and Inherently Perfect Way for all-and-All—Which Is the Way of Reality Itself. . . .

The Great Tradition of humankind (previous to My Divine Avataric Appearance here) must generally be understood only in the (necessarily, limited) terms of the first six stages of life. Whenever (even previous to My Divine Avataric Appearance here) the sixth stage of life has been entered, the seventh stage of life has been, in principle, also the potential of human Realization. However, the seventh stage Adept-Revelation was not then Given—and It is only now Given, by Me. The Divine Secrets of the true devotional and Transcendental Spiritual Reality-Process of the "radical" transcending of egoity and the Divine Secrets of the Divine Reality-Process of the Most Ultimate (or seventh stage) Demonstration were not Given previous to My Divine Avataric Appearance here—and They are only now Given, by Me. The (always potential) seventh stage Realization and Demonstration did not Appear until I Appeared, in order to Fully Reveal and to Fully Demonstrate the seventh stage of life and, by the Very Act of My Fullest Divine Avataric Appearance here and everywhere (and by Means of all My Unique Divine Avataric Work of Adept-Service here and everywhere), to make the seventh stage Realization and Demonstration possible for all who devotionally respond to Me, and who practice (ego-surrendering, ego-forgetting, and intrinsically ego-transcending) devotion to Me, and who (altogether, and firmly) embrace and practice the only-by-Me Revealed and Given Reality-Way of Adidam.

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