

Spirituality and Prosperity - III

KARMAYOGI

THE MOTHER'S SERVICE SOCIETY

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Introduction

What is the Spirit in Life?

Spirituality is related to other life or moksha, not to Prosperity. **The idea that Spirit can play a role in life and bring in Prosperity is alien to our tradition, Indian or Hindu.** People in domestic life are wary of yoga, Spirit, etc., as they smack of sannyasa. This is meticulously shunned and children are taught accordingly. They are right.

A family in 1934 had a thousand acres of lands in seven villages and the six brothers of the family occupied the entire main street of the village. Suddenly they found an ochre clad samiyar in their house. They were glad of his visit and all of them paid their respects to the saint. He showed an inclination to stay there at night. Everyone felt as if they had received an electric shock.

Each of the brothers, under the impression that the sannyasi had been invited there by one of the other brothers, exercised a self-restraint of an extraordinary kind and kept quiet. The sannyasi stayed there that night to the

utter dismay of everyone. And he stayed on for thirty days. Finally, it came to light that he had not been invited by anyone. He left the house. It is our true belief that if a sannyasi stays in a house overnight, that family will be ruined. This family soon lost their all. Our traditional belief is valid.

Our being – the embodied being – has a body, a life (vital), a mind and a Spirit. This is one of the four parts of our being which when released from its embodiment by tapas seeks moksha. This is the Spirit which shuns life and is therefore inimical to householders.

The Upanishads have declared, ‘Sarvam Brahman’ — all is Brahman. So our bodies, lives and minds, too are Brahman or Spirit. Our Spirit is known as jivatma, the Sakshi Purusha. It has its parts in each of our parts. Thus our minds, lives and bodies too have a Spirit, Purusha. They are called respectively Manomaya Purusha, Pranamaya Purusha and Annamaya Purusha. These too share the characteristic of the jivatma. All of them are immutable, changeless. **There is Prakriti. She too has a soul, Spirit or Purusha.** It is the evolving Purusha, called the Psychic Being. It carries the essence of the experiences of Prakriti. That too has its representatives

in our different parts. They are called mental psychic, vital psychic, and physical psychic.

Our tradition knew of the Psychic Being but never considered it as an evolving being. The evolving psychic being is the Spirit I speak of. It is this I ask to be evoked. As the mind is more powerful than the body, Spirit is more powerful than the mind. This is a benevolent Spirit which enriches the mind or life or body. This is a new concept in yoga, introduced by Sri Aurobindo. At the end of the following hundred articles as an appendix there is an article “How to Invoke the Spirit”, where the method of invocation is described in detail. It is this Spirit that

- ✧ can overcome karma;
- ✧ respond readily to one’s deep call;
- ✧ solve your daily problems;
- ✧ give an Inner Fullness that is richly Spiritual, and
- ✧ make life on earth one of marvel.

In the New Indian Express column I am raising various aspects of this Spirit briefly with examples of devotees' experiences. The entire theory of karma or even punctuality cannot be discussed there. Readers write to me raising several questions that need longer treatment. I refer them to the original sources giving in my brief reply the essence of the originals.

In the Express articles I confine myself to the issues of daily life that can be readily solved by the Power of the Spirit. I rarely speak of availing of the opportunities the Spirit brings the readers because of the Invocation.

Spirituality and Prosperity - III

Pondicherry
20.3.2003

Karmayogi

1. Fear of Death

Youth has no fear. Death is not an idea that will ever enter the minds of youth. There was one who was possessed by a fear of death from a tender age. **The possession was real. It was a preoccupation.** Living with such a fear is living death. He would not even take his parents into confidence, which could have mitigated the fear a little. The one thing he feared more was marriage and the responsibility it involves.

Much against his wishes, he was forced to marry. The one mission in his life was to go to every temple in the hope of getting rid of this curse. He spared no temple, big or small, famous or not. The sought for solace eluded him. He joined the army and travelled far and wide. **Wherever he went, he visited the temples everywhere.** The fear seemed to increase slightly with every passing year.

On a tour arranged by the army, they visited a spiritual centre where he felt a substantial relief. This place was over a thousand miles from his work place. He looked for a job near that place and secured one in a Public Sector Unit. Having received relief, he visited the place frequently to be charged. It never occurred to him to secure a lasting benefit by learning how to invoke the Spirit.

Once some foreigners came to his company. One of the people they met was the Chairman of the school that this employee had started in honour of the institution which afforded him substantial relief. That Chairman sent this man to get the address of those foreigners to secure some support for his school. That made this man come into contact with one who was a Spiritual Individual who regularly invoked the Spirit. His contact offered a little more relief, as it was a personal human contact. The Spiritual Individual took interest in the school and offered to visit there once in 15 days. In between, this fear ridden man would visit him and copiously corresponded with him, as such letters were a source of relief. **He once told the Spiritual Individual, “I get panicky if I don’t get a letter for more than three days.”** Being an impatient person, he never offered to learn till his retirement the art of invoking the Spirit.

2. Lending Money to a Friend

Money lent to a friend is lost. It also helps you to lose the friend is the wisdom of the world. Many rediscover this truth in their own experience. There is another side to this phenomenon which is perceived by wise people. Sometimes one lends a large sum to an intimate friend which he cannot afford to lose. When his family sees it is not coming, they press him to get it back. The friendship being such, the man refuses to act and tells his people, “Don’t exercise your minds on this issue. The money will not be lost. God will suitably compensate me.” The family gets irritated beyond measure, but refuses to see the events that made his words true.

Money is power. Lending to a close friend is a generous act of compassion. Power when extended to another strengthens his hands and naturally leads to his assertion. **He takes no initiative to part with that extra dose of**

power on his own. Necessity makes the lender ask for the money back. Sometimes it is returned. At other times due to bad temperament, the relationship is broken and the money lost. Compassionate or cultured people are unable to bring themselves to ask for the money and keep quiet. As the money is power and power acts according to its rule, the original act of lending is a generous one and evokes a generous response from life, which brings in very generous return to the lender.

In one case when the receiver felt the full power of money and vulgarly asserted against the lender, the lender vowed **NOT** to ask for it back. After a few years the entire amount came back unasked. The lender’s capacity not to curse the friend inwardly had a far more beneficial effect. A sum exactly ten times the amount was put into the lender’s hand by a friend of his for an investment. In view of the fact that that sum was a thousand-fold his present salary, he was able to appreciate the generosity of Life. To be able to see several sides of a known phenomenon extends the mental perception to spiritual insight.

3. Romance is the Adventure of Consciousness

- ❖ **Romance is the Eternal emerging in the ephemeral.**
- ❖ The adventure of seeking the unattainable is Romance.
- ❖ Romance never dies. It cannot die. It has never died in the history of man.
- ❖ The seeking is the adventure. Attaining is the fulfilment.
- ❖ The seeking is an eternal flame that knows no death. Attaining is a fulfilment that leads to higher seeking. It gives higher life to the unattainable. **Death is nowhere on the agenda. Neither decay nor diminishing intensity is permissible here.**
- ❖ The Eternal extends itself into the ephemeral.
- ❖ The Eternal does so, so that the ephemeral can acquire eternity.
- ❖ The strength, rather the infinite strength, of the ephemeral is so great that it ardently sets to work to

convert the Eternal into the ephemeral. Mostly it succeeds or thinks it succeeds.

- ❖ The Eternal never dies. It withdraws temporarily.
- ❖ The Eternal eternally presents itself to the ephemeral for its valid acceptance. That is why Romance rears its head all the time at all ages. It knows no death.
- ❖ Man misses no opportunity to be false, to falsify anything. The greater the Truth, the more vehement is his effort at falsification.
- ❖ **When he utterly fails, he falsely announces a victory to falsehood.** Thus an ideal gets organised.
- ❖ Organisation is death. Romance is said to die when it is organised into marriage. What dies is not Romance, it is the dead organisation that gives life to its death.
- ❖ Romance cannot die, it has never died. It emerges to give life to death and dead habits. They smother Romance to death and triumphantly announce their own death as the death of Romance.
- ❖ Romance is described to have nine expressions in life. The most perfect expression **of them is seen in Man seeking the woman or the woman longing for the Man, which culminates in the spiritual concept of Ishwara–Shakthi.**

4. 'The Last Englishman to Rule India'

Nehru once described himself thus. **He combined in himself the very best of both the traditions.** Writing on the Future of Freedom, Fareed Zakaria, the editor of 'Newsweek International' reviews the practice of democracy with an accent on the post-war period all over the world. He sees them as liberal democracies and illiberal democracies. India receives great attention from the writer.

The Congress Party and the British constitutional institutions were the bulwark of the democratic tradition during the Nehru years. Indian Parliament, even the 'Question Hour', the cast of committee life of the Congress Party, the independence of the judiciary, the personal integrity of the leadership, and a host of other things were exactly modelled on the British experience. The Englishman was the model down to the right pronunciation

of his language. Prime Minister Lloyd George, speaking next to Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, said he was shy to speak his own mother tongue after listening to Sastri's chaste delivery.

Nehru's father was fully Anglicised. Sri Aurobindo's father never wanted his children to hear Bengali spoken and put them into English schools at the early age of 7. The Europeans, especially Englishmen, are men of character, integrity, self-respect, individuality, and independence. They practise the work ethic of Protestantism and work tirelessly. Modern science, the several empires, post-war development, and conquest of disease are the direct result of **these VALUES, all of which are spiritual in origin and content.** Nehru was an embodiment of these values on the foundation of what is sacred in the Indian Spirit, the quest for Truth, or the seeking of Brahman. Young men who desire to be practical will do well to be practical idealists, which is the Idealism of the Spirit in Life.

5. Science of Life

A man of foresight ensures the outcome before the doing of it. He demands an assurance of his party or the alliance he is in that he would be made the Chief Minister before the elections commence. **He fails to get elected as an MLA.** Another in renting a house demands he be given the best rooms there. On hiring it, a far more important member arrives and the room goes to him. When we look around us, we see several instances of this description but do not stop to think that there may be a law behind them or this may be a phenomenon.

Each time I go to my sister's house, I see my brother too is there. It surprises me, but I do not go beyond. I bring three or four books from the library but return all of them having read only one of them. Whatever my efforts I am unable to read the second book after finishing the first. It never strikes me that after reading the first book I need, in my scheme of things, an interval of twelve

days to start the second one. Nor do I note that just on the 12th day another book, maybe the book I returned to the library, comes on its own to me. **Reading is a rhythmic process of mental energy that requires fixed intervals for that energy to gather again.**

Indian tradition, of which we are an integral part and which we have forgotten, has given to us the laws behind human and social events as dharma, which is really **a Science of Life**. We know of life sciences but are not aware of a richer Science of Life. We are shy of recovering it when we get striking glimpses of it, as it smacks of superstition. At best, we categorise them under an obnoxious label **KARMA**. Surely, karma, as we understand it, is part of what I call Science of Life. It is a treasure the world will definitely discover in the coming decades.

We may take to it if such a knowledge becomes a fashion outside India. We often do and have acted so in the past several decades. Before dismissing every 'superstition' of our past, let us scrutinise it, examine it, study it in detail and then when our rational mind discards it, we can do so with impunity, not before. **Otherwise, we will lose, by default, a valuable patrimony.**

6. Darshan in the Subtle Plane

The guru appearing in the dream and initiating the sishya has happened many a time. An old freedom fighter who had heard of Bhagavan Sri Aurobindo had a very vivid dream of Him one day. The next morning the radio announced the passing away of Sri Aurobindo. The man started from Salem to Pondicherry determined to have the last darshan, **as he felt it was a call of the departing SOUL.**

Many devotees, especially women, frequently dream of The Mother or Sri Aurobindo. Such visions occur even in meditation. An estate owner was enjoying his leisure one afternoon while a friend was entertaining him with anecdotes of his own truancy during his school days. On the wall appeared a very distinct purple figure of the Master Sri Aurobindo. On seeing this vision, the owner of the estate, which was in a very tight corner, went towards the wall, fell flat on the ground, made his obeisance and returned to listen to the verbiage.

His estate turned the corner and exactly one year later, it made a name, though it did not become cash rich. The reputation of the estate for efficient labour and excellence in cultivation grew among 500 such sister establishments.

A devotee used to see Sri Aurobindo and The Mother in the sky at a great distance. Years later circumstances compelled him to frequently visit a Public Sector unit over the place in which the visions had appeared. The accumulated loss of that unit was 60 crores of rupees, which began to dwindle year after year and traversed along a curve that swung upwards until the profits posted were 60 crores of rupees.

Long before something happens, God arrives at that place or on that person. The naked eye is unable to see it, even as a bright boy is not seen by his dull parents as one who holds promise. They understand him by his scores at the exam or his usefulness at home. The subtle vision never fails to discern it. **All aspects of the Spirit are subtle. That which man holds sacred is the inner voice that guides, guides unfailingly, if only the mortal mind would pay heed to it.**

7. Prosperity not Austerity

A widow with two sons was pious. A relative of hers came forward to take her and her younger son into her household. Her piety did not save her husband's life but secured her this asylum. The elder son remained with the husband's family that was less than poor. Of course, she could not even wish for her relative to offer to support the elder son too.

Both the boys were dull. The elder failed in the 8th standard a second time. The school refused to allow the boy to continue there. **The destined path was clear. The boy must earn his livelihood from then onwards.** The lady's prayer was in the form of vrata, sloka, fasting on Mondays and on every auspicious day. The days rolled on slowly. The austerity of the lady increased in intensity. The elder boy joined another school without missing a year and passed the next two classes in the first year, but failed in SSLC.

An unheard of help came unsolicited. Herculean efforts were made to see him through SSLC successfully. She was introduced to a benevolent angel, the daughter of the chairman of an automobile producing company. On hearing of the unfortunate boy's ardent efforts and the various helps he had attracted, this angel secured this poor specimen of a boy a good job in the premier company over which her father presided. The boy himself used to be sorry for his mother's frequent fastings. Her other son too settled well. She alone knew the rewards her austerities had brought her.

Whether the austerities are practised by yogis on a bed of nails or by ladies at home, **they are powerful and yield the results aimed at.** Mother says austerities mortify the flesh to stir the deeply buried soul. They are meant for the child-soul. Mature souls seek spiritual prosperity, which is not a mere release of the soul, but an evolution of the Spirit, a flowering of the Soul. For the householder, the difference between austerity and prosperity is that one solves problems while the other attracts higher opportunities. **In an atmosphere where opportunities sail in, problems find no soil to strike roots.**

8. A Further List of Spiritual Truths in Life

- ❖ Desire for survival opens a door in life making it possible.
- ❖ **Truant children can be mended, but surely not according to your pet ideas.**
- ❖ Greatness of faith is seen as light in the feet.
- ❖ There is no greater source of luck than one rooted in Spirit.
- ❖ **Mind should grow in humility expressing it in the body's submissiveness.**
- ❖ The straight path is the illumined one.
- ❖ Arrogance erodes spiritual treasure.
- ❖ When great men seek you, do not attribute it to your own greatness.
- ❖ When the highest moves towards you, do not activate the lowest in you.
- ❖ The closest persons need not be angels; they can be incarnate devils.
- ❖ Intimacy does not ensure integrity; it may be integrated sin. Examine closely.
- ❖ No height is barred for honest capacity.
- ❖ Accepting only Truth makes work take wings.
- ❖ Having known Mother, you can't be away from luck.
- ❖ **Constant GOODWILL attracts luck from all sides.**
- ❖ Constant remembrance of Mother is unfailing consecration.
- ❖ One cannot escape luck, if in his heart he wishes others well.
- ❖ Mother becomes Luck in the **SOUL** when your heart swells at others' success.
- ❖ The idea of an important disciple ends in betraying the Guru.
- ❖ Compelling ritual contains obstacles at every turn.
- ❖ **Accomplishment through secrecy is like the illiterate's ambition to be a writer.**
- ❖ Mother's entry into a hut transforms the hut into a mansion.
- ❖ What enters as Grace goes out of man as Love.
- ❖ Receive Love and express it as Luck.
- ❖ We say 'Mother's Grace'. **Mother is GRACE.**
- ❖ **Truthfulness of a devotee to you is Supergrace.**
- ❖ Passive knowledge never fulfils itself.
- ❖ Scarcity is the desire **NOT** to see the abundance around.
- ❖ **Humility is the rich fullness of inner life of Truth and Peace.**
- ❖ The Origin and End is **MOTHER.**
- ❖ The world thinks of you as you think of yourself inwardly.

9. “The Hound of Heaven”

Sri Aurobindo speaks of this as a great poem. It is by Francis Thompson. When Mahatma Gandhiji was in jail, he read this poem and Rajaji sent him some notes on it. Later when Rajaji met his leader, Gandhiji, in jail they discussed this poem extensively. A police officer was posted to record their conversation and report to the government.

‘The earliest pre-occupation of man was the quest for God, Freedom, Light and Immortality’ says Sri Aurobindo. **Man dreads what he longs for, especially when it is granted to him.** This is often witnessed in weddings. Everyone gets married; but some are in a hurry to get married or insistent on a particular person. It baffles people when such persons exclaim on the eve of the function, ‘I wish somehow this marriage is stopped’. **This contradiction is one of the basic characteristics**

of human nature – the capacity to reject what one longs for.

In “The Hound of Heaven”, God comes on earth in response to the ardent call of a devotee but fright takes possession of the devotee. He seeks asylum in every object of his adoration, in his wife, children, friends, etc. but all of them refuse to help him, as he is rejecting the call of Heaven. Finally God overtakes him. Rajaji and Gandhiji had a lengthy, lively discussion on this poem. The police officer faithfully wrote his report to his superiors that **Gandhiji and Rajaji had discussed dogs.**

We understand God’s intention in life, as the police officer comprehended the holy discussion of these pious souls. The Spirit is no longer distant or elusive but is at our doors. In its divine compassion, the Spirit awaits our call. We are human. **We love the Divine from a distance and our love is true, pure bhakti.** We love our families and friends more. It is there we hide ourselves when our call is answered. Can we shed our reservation and let the Spirit emerge in our lives? When it so emerges it will be heaven on earth.

10. The Significance of the Insignificant

To know the significance of the insignificant is to discover the Infinite in the finite. Spiritually there is **NOTHING** which is without significance. We do not know the significance of several significant things because we are unconscious.

Duelling was banned some two hundred or three hundred years ago but it was practised in a few European countries. Englishmen who sought to duel therefore went to Belgium where it was still in vogue. Duel was resorted to vindicate one's violated honour. Two Frenchmen got themselves locked into a duel 20 times in their life. One of them was passionately devoted to the art, while the other acquiesced in the game as he could not refuse with honour. When an American filmmaker desired to film that historical event and did so, he found out he had unconsciously chosen the same French village where

such duellists had lived long ago. We take it as a coincidence. It is not so.

Places, dates, hours, names, events, and persons all have their significances. Only that we never notice it. A man was hounded for long more by friends whose jobs and honour he had saved than by his rivals. The virulent abuses of the erstwhile friends matured into a hostile act and he was removed from service. He approached a friend of slight acquaintance who acted like a brother, went out of his way to move higher up and offered to reinstate the victim in seven days.

That kind officer's extreme goodwill acted in the subtle plane and the unfortunate prey of these hounds was reinstated, while he was in conversation with that noble minded officer. **The magnanimity of the distant friend was long a puzzle to the victim. In his past consecration he was thinking of an event where he had been forced to do a heinous crime to another. He had flatly refused. Suddenly it struck him that the name the helpful officer bore was the same as the name of one whom he had refused to injure. That name remembered the act of benevolence and came back to the victim through the NAME of this officer.** There is nothing INSIGNIFICANT in life if you are awake inside.

11. What Do We Mean by Taking to the Spirit?

A governor is governed by protocol. He is not a free individual. A Zen Master said to his disciple “When I eat, I eat; when I write, I write; whereas when you eat, you think about writing; when you write, you think about food.” **To live fully in the present without the mind wandering to the past or future is the discipline of Zen.** We live in time, i.e. the past holds us in its grip and the future peeps into the mind. One who lives in the Timeless dimension lives in the ever present. He is a Rishi in tapas.

There is a further dimension of time, first mentioned by Sri Aurobindo. It is the Timeless functioning in Time. Let us call it the third dimension for our purposes. He calls it Simultaneous Time. This is Supramental Time. To put these philosophical ideas in the common man’s phrase, one needs to resort to analogies. We live a domestic life which is in Time. The Rishi lives in the Timeless

Eternity during his trance. **If the Rishi chooses to live a domestic life according to his exalted standards of Timeless stillness, he enters the Simultaneous Time, the Supramental Time.** Life at home lived according to the pristine purity of yogic trance raises human life to that of divine life. Then man rises to the level of the Supramental being.

If that is the goal of a long journey, the first step into that life at its lowest level is to live in Spirit. How do we know whether we are here or there? All religious worship we have followed up until now will be shed like the snake’s skin. It will be forgotten. **The days of religious worship are over. The Future is for Spirituality.** One will be incapable of uttering any falsehood. Life at government offices, bazaar, at home and everywhere steeped in falsehood will bow its head and will **NOT** demand of you compliance. Instead, people will put up an honest behaviour towards you.

The work done by such a one will be completed in a fraction of time. Whatever we have so far sought after will gravitate towards us, often unsolicited. This is the semblance of the Spirit moving Matter. All problems in life will vanish. Opportunities will rush from all sides. **A Joy which no success can give, a Peace unavailable even in death will saturate us.**

12. Self-Giving

Selfishness is universal. It often goes with meanness. We witness Selflessness often in action. It leaves its expansive touch on the onlooker. To be selfless is good, **but to practise self-giving is to be SPIRITUAL.** It is said that after creation, **LOVE** was thrown into the scheme to bridge the gap between heaven and earth. Self-giving expresses love, receiving it as grace from above. We are what our parents and ancestors were and what our soul was in the previous birth. The spiritual destiny couched in the inherited *swabhava* accepts family training, college education and social requirements.

Jayaprakash undertook a tour of South India in 1973. He visited almost every ashram while he was on his Sarvodaya Mission. While he was at one such sacred place, many visited him and he too visited several of them. In one place, a VIP of the local institution came to Jayaprakash with a very big pile of books. Taking out each book, the VIP presented a succinct summary

of it. He told Jayaprakash that he had brought those books as a present to him in honour of his visit. Jayaprakash was charmed by the scholarship that could speak out the central idea of so many books so readily.

Several others were waiting to meet Jayaprakash who switched over to the next person who had a long description of his project to deliver. After finishing the descriptions of the books, the VIP, instead of leaving, waited to listen to the other man's narration. When that was over, the VIP took up all his books with great difficulty and began to depart. Jayaprakash smiled, called the VIP, "Are you not giving the books to me?" **Startled at this gentle reminder, the VIP handed over the books to the honoured guest.**

It is not natural for some people to give, even when the ostensible intention is to give. There are families of landlords who over the generations have been giving to their dependents. There are others who for generations have been receiving. Nurture gives way to nature. One who sees in himself the impulse of Self-giving will do well when his self-giving is directed to the Divine instead of to those around him. Those who discover in themselves an incapacity to give have the opportunity of transforming it, if the Spirit is invoked on that *swabhava*.

13. Knowledge is Power

In the realm of Spirit – the Divine Mother – whatever you **KNOW** well, as a well-formulated idea, **is Power**. That is why when you **DECIDE** to do a thing you know very well, it happens immediately. **An American devotee used to smile unbelievably when this idea was spoken.** He was laughing at the superstition of the Indians, though before his very eyes it was happening. Returning from a six month visit to USA, he reported several incidents from his own experience that proved it was so.

Surrender is the principle in integral yoga. It is so complete and so consummate a principle that one who surrenders becomes the Absolute Brahman. No one except Sri Aurobindo and The Mother followed it. **He surrendered to HER and She surrendered to HIM.** She never wanted anything if it did not come to **HER** through Sri Aurobindo. Once **SHE** fell ill and her temperature rose to 107° F. The local doctor could not diagnose the cause. A doctor from Madras came and

diagnosed that **HER** heart was weak. The temperature remained at 107° F. The human body does not reach such a high temperature. It could not remain there for long.

A telegram was sent to a physician disciple of Sri Aurobindo in Midnapore requesting him to come. It was a long journey from Midnapore to Pondicherry via Calcutta and Madras. Sri Aurobindo's brother met the doctor at the railway station and said, "There is a French lady who is a disciple of Sri Aurobindo. She has extraordinary occult power. She can cure any disease in anyone. **She can cure Herself. For some reason She is not using Her power. Doctors here are unable to diagnose HER. Without knowing what the cause of illness, Sri Aurobindo's power does not act.**"

The doctor went up directly to the patient and then came down. On the staircase he met Sri Aurobindo coming up. He made pranams and wrote on a paper 'gout' and gave it to Him and went for his bath. Before he came out of the bathroom there was jubilation outside and disciples were shouting "The temperature is coming down. It is one degree less." The Himalayan Powers of Sri Aurobindo could not work in the absence of knowing. **The feeble power of our mind too can let the Force work when it knows.** Knowledge is Power, especially the knowledge of one who is spiritually awakened.

14. The Upanishads

God is the ONE, creation is the Many. The Rishis know the One and all of us know the Many. How did the One become the Many or how did the One create the Many is a question that is not answered. The Upanishads ask us, 'Who can ask the One that question?' Yes, Sri Aurobindo says, no one has the right to question the One. In His book *Upanishads* where **HE** explains the Absolute, Maya, Parabrahman as the Upanishads laid down, He raised the above question and answered that we do not have the right to ask that question.

In *The Life Divine* where He explains the Theory of creation, not according to the Upanishads, but according to His own spiritual vision, He raises the same question and gives a philosophical explanation. The explanation is a long theoretical exposition. Its essence can be briefly stated. The Infinite **ONE** seeking delight in Self-discovery

hid Himself and emerged out of it. He says it was done by Self-conception, Self-limitation and Self-absorption.

My interest here is not so much the philosophy of it but whether it has a practical extension in life. Yes, it has. Man's existence and his social life are based on the same truths, which in essence makes him master of his own life, even as God is the Master of creation. Man is now **NOT** a master of his life. He has acquired greater and greater mastery over Nature and lives more comfortably than before. But it is not yet full mastery. Sri Aurobindo's theory gives him a knowledge of that full mastery conquering death and disease. I would like to confine myself to its application to daily domestic or business life. The theory offers us complete mastery, but we can certainly be satisfied with greater mastery than we enjoy now. It means solving our problems and availing of opportunities that present themselves to us. Such a mastery is a near approach to Luck.

15. Greater Mastery of Human Life

When the ancient authority of the Upanishads had refused us the right to question the **ONE**, which Sri Aurobindo endorses, a question arises in our minds about how He answers that question. The highest instrument of Man is mind, whose vision is partial. Mind can see the **ONE**. It can also see the Many. Mind has no faculty to see both simultaneously. He rose above the Mind, reached Supermind, which is capable of a total vision. In *The Life Divine*, Sri Aurobindo explains His spiritual vision describing how the **ONE** evolved into the Many by the instrumentation of Supermind.

Let me try to catch the essence of it that directly applies to human life through an analogy. We human beings live in Time which is bound by the laws of Karma. Hence our life at every turn faces a limitation. The Rishi moves into the plane of Timelessness which is limitless

on all sides. But the Rishi is one who gives up life. Sri Aurobindo explains that there is one more dimension of Time apart from Time and Timelessness. He calls it the co-existence of Time and Timelessness. To us it means **living our human life by the high standard of the Rishi**. To put it simply, Man choosing to live by utter truthfulness will be in that third dimension of Time.

People in business are practical persons readily adjusting to the changing social environment. How can they ever dream of a **TRUTHFUL** life. A few took to the idea and tried their very best. One has a small business submerged in debts and harassed by every circumstance. The other has a business of a few crores beset with all the possible problems of business. It was not easy for me to give this idea to them. Nor did they readily take to it. Weeks passed into months After so many frustrating messages one day I learnt the small businessman had received a big order of one crore of rupees. A week earlier, the other had received an order about ten times his turnover. **It gives immediate relief from unbearable pressure and opens up faith in the practical power of TRUTH**. Truth is no mere concept, but a **POWER** to lift man out of the morass he is in when he cherishes it.

16. Failure Leads to Greater Success

Failure and success are one of the many twins or dualities in life. No one can claim that he would never fail. Nor can a man report that he has always faced only failure. The proportion of failure and success varies, but it is a law of life that both will be invariably present. Of course, we appreciate a greater measure of success. A proverb speaks of two successes in five attempts.

Laws change or change their content as we rise in the scale of life. Government employees are given a certain number of days as casual leave. When one enters the Cabinet the rule is somewhat different. It is he who chooses his working days according to the needs of work. The banker lends money to the needy, but with those who need no credit, he seeks deposits. The character of life changes the character of laws.

When two contending parties go to court, one succeeds and the other has to fail. But, for the judge there is no

failure or success. His duty is to give his judgement on the plaint. Life can be considered as a graded existence from low to high with an average in the middle. Below the average level, one alternates between success and failure. Above the average, one has no failure. There is only small success leading to greater success.

The one who invokes the Spirit ushers himself into a life of that description. In such cases, failure in one attempt clearly means a greater success.

- ✎ One who failed to get a dealership for a product ended up as the director of the company that produced it.
- ✎ A boy who was rejected by three banks to which he applied for a clerkship, secured the officer post in a bigger bank.
- ✎ When the local land mortgage bank received an application for a loan of Rs.25,000, it was reluctant to sanction it. A nationalized bank took the papers from that bank as it sanctioned Rs.1,50,000.

I talk of Spirit in life, not spiritual life. If you seek that and meet with failures, **KNOW** something more wonderful awaits you.

17. *The Life Divine*

A retired I.A.S. officer in Andhra was struck by paralysis. He was an ardent devotee of Sri Aurobindo and he knew the mantric power of His writings. He asked his son to read out from *The Life Divine* for an hour every day. On the 20th day, he was cured of his ailment. This book is Sri Aurobindo's magnum opus, though the other four books He wrote simultaneously are of great significance. A French writer said that no writer had ever attempted to write five serious books simultaneously.

- In this book, He explains that **MAN** need not suffer from Karma if he chooses.
- God, He says, has not created pain in the universe. It is man's ego that feels the pain and the moment one emerges out of ego, there is no pain or suffering for him in life.
- Our belief is Brahma created the world. Sri Aurobindo says Brahma is a god of the Overmind. He cannot create the universe. He explains that

the universe was created by Supermind which is above the Overmind. The Overmind and the Supermind are separated by a golden lid.

- This book is divided into two books of three parts with 56 chapters.
- Each chapter here is a unit by itself and can be considered a book by itself, especially the last chapter '*The Divine Life*'.
- The gist of each chapter is usually given in the first paragraph.
- Most of the paragraphs will be given as a summary of one sentence in the last sentence.
- One of the main ideas here is Jivatma is Paramatma, which is different from our traditional belief that Jivatma has no eternity.
- We know of two sides of life – positive and negative. Sri Aurobindo says there is nothing that is negative. We take a whole and divide it into two and call them positive and negative.
- In this book, Sri Aurobindo offers a Theory of creation and offers logical and rational arguments in support of it. The general assumption is God has made man as the potter shapes his pot and breathed life into it. Sri Aurobindo says that it may pass as theology but cannot be offered as a rational argument.

18. Demand for Proof

In our ardent fervour to be rational, we refuse to accept things without sufficient proof. **It is a welcome attitude that outgrows the superstition that readily swallows any statement.** There was a belief among the sailors of Europe that the world ended at Cape Bojador, midway down the Western coast of Africa, and the ship that crossed that point would tumble into the abyss. Before Science came to be accepted widely, it was believed that God created the world in seven days. To those who believe in the existence of hell and heaven, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan said heaven and hell are conditions of mind and are not places of resort.

When an unbeliever told a priest that he would believe in God only when God was physically produced, the priest retorted that he would believe that he had brains only when it was physically produced. In the film 'Contact', the heroine Dr. Ellie Arroway constantly demands proof

for everything. Her frustrated father says, "This is my scientist." Her priest friend asks her if she could prove her affection for her father. Proof is in the physical plane. It is valid there. To demand proof for events is rational. But life is not all physical. There is emotional life, mental life, spiritual life.

Each plane has its own laws. The law of one plane is invalid in another plane. Ellie is a scientist and a very eminent scientist at that. All her life she demanded proof. Life takes her through many ups and downs. She receives messages from outer space and after trials and tribulations she travels into outer space, has the most magnificent experience and returns. She explains her experience to others which is fully valid to her. The audience demands proof. She has no way of offering proof unless they take her words to be true on the strength of what she says. **She never imagined that life would come back to her in that fashion.** Unable to offer proof, she seeks consolation in smiling children. When we push logic beyond a permissible limit, it has a way of coming back at us to reveal our illogical thinking.

19. Incommunicable JOY

Often we feel a new emotion which we are unable to express. We try our best and fail saying, “Well, one has to experience it for oneself. It is inexpressible.” How can you explain the taste of an Indian sweet to a foreigner? Those who realised Brahman said it is ineffable. They added that one who had realised it could not express it. If one explains Brahman, we can be sure he had not experienced it. Life is full of such experiences that are not communicable.

Sachchidananda is Parabrahman. We understand it has three aspects. The third aspect is Ananda or Bliss. Beauty rules human imagination because the mind that sees Ananda does not see it as Ananda, but feels it as Beauty. For Mind is one that sees **FORMS**. So, Ananda reveals to the Mind in the Form of Beauty. The same Ananda becomes Love when it lands on the soul. To

the nervous sensation, Ananda is **JOY**. It is incommunicable, as the other person to whom you seek to convey it has no previous experience that can serve as a reference. Hence, it remains inexpressible or ineffable.

As elsewhere, when the Spirit is evoked the atmosphere changes. Ananda is Bliss when it is static; it is Delight when it is active. **With the Spirit on the surface, Bliss changes into Delight.** The evolving Spirit, the Psychic Being, is infectious. It is not incommunicable, as the other person **FEELS** it when you feel it. Though you do not find words to explain, the vibration of Joy communicates itself and the other person says, “Yes, I do understand what you mean.”

It is true it is not communicable in words, but it is equally true that the **JOY** felt in your nerves reaches the other person without words. In our life, when we evoke the Spirit, though we do not know **what happens, the results issue.** Life is content with the results. It is possible for us to know the process of the Spirit expressing itself so that one can invoke it at will.

20. Invisible Profits

When a company is at a loss, it will have two halves — one avoidable loss, another unavoidable loss. **Avoidable loss must be avoided. By doing that, the company will NOT be a losing concern anymore.** Coming to the other, it is common knowledge that what is considered unavoidable in one company is not so in several other successful companies in the same town. Unorganised people will be known as clumsy by others. To them, what they do not want to do is described as unavoidable.

No company need lose money in the market climate of India since 1990. Recently a big setback is there, but to those who are **ORGANISED** in their work, the Indian market does not offer a loss even today. There are those who neglect the business, others who simply trust the manager who is dishonest, whose purchases are not in relation to their stocks, who never collect their arrears,

who borrow indiscriminately and spend it on non-business items and several others who **unintentionally destroy their businesses.** I am **NOT** talking about these people.

There are others who are devoted to their work, who have earned the title of experts in the work, who have initiated many others into the same business, who do not squander cash, and who are right by many standards but exclaim, “I wonder why I lose at the end of the year. What has gone wrong? Where?” **There are people who think they are efficient and that thought is the source of their inefficiency.**

They will carefully do a work **SLOWLY** and all work will be done so. Time wasted is money wasted. In a section where three persons are working, they will take a 4th person for an emergency work and he will remain after that work is done. That pattern would have spread all over the company in a few years, which means there will be 25 percent more employees than necessary. At least there are 20 or 25 ways which a trim work will not admit. In any good company, a few such methods would have crept in. Trim **ALL** of them. Profits will double or even treble.

21. Profits in a Small Business

Someone had earned a good reputation in making pickles. His outlook was service. He initiated several people into the same business. **He had fostered competition instead of fighting it.** A few decades ago, he was making a handsome monthly income from it. On meeting someone and discussing about his business he heard, “Your present profits can be doubled.” Being enamoured of the proposal, he engaged her in the hope of increasing his present annual profit of one lakh of rupees.

Spirit is a high aspect of life or business. When the Spirit is released into play, it can always work wonders. Doubling the present profits is a small goal, the tiniest of goals in expanding a business. We hear of soap makers, powder producers, bathi rollers, etc. sometimes expanding their work phenomenally. When everyone sells locally

keeping the scope within 10 or 20 lakhs, we see a talented entrepreneur rising to several crores and even reaching several hundred crores. **True expansion in a business is the expansion in sales.** Before attempting to create a model sales organisation as a primary unit which can be multiplied over Time and Space, there are innumerable small but significant things one can do. So she started with the idea of avoiding waste. She saw several hundred rupees could be saved every day.

Launching the plan, she discussed the idea with the owner. “I am here for 15 years. I am an expert in every aspect of the trade. Rs. 100 is a big sum to be saved everyday. It is not possible,” said he. She returned to her place. His manager was absent for a month. On her subsequent visit the owner admitted, “It is really surprising to see for myself. During the absence of my manager, I have done all that you told me. **I saved Rs.1000 per day. I could not believe it!**” She mentally calculated what this one thousand rupees a day worked out to for the year. **Once a person is a success and earns a reputation, that OPINION prevents him from exploring the real possibilities in the work.** The possibilities are limitless.

22. Income of the Family

Families consist of husband, wife and children. Often several such families, though living apart, function together as one unit for every major aspect. **Increasing income of the FAMILY is a desirable thing.** No one confuses *greed* for money with the steady rise in income commensurate with the rising needs of modern life. Government Officers who, 30 years ago, were on a couple of thousand rupees salary are now earning Rs. 15,000 or even more. It hurts no one's conscience that he is growing greedy. Modern life demands more. One finds it essential to earn more and more.

In a business, there is a product. At home, there is no such product. Money is spent on living. What can one realistically do to raise his family income?

Time and energy are MONEY. To save them is to pay attention to them. Time saved, in principle, is money

saved. It is true of energy, too. To save TIME, one needs to ORGANISE one's work. To organise means to become efficient. Efficiency, as a rule, even as a principle, increases money. He who saves time and organises the work for that purpose, is NOT outside. He is inside. Doing so seriously, his outer life gradually gets transferred inside. It finally becomes inner life. Inner life is necessarily a life of concentration. It has a point of reference. We refer each work to that point of reference.

Such an inner life does not permit a man to shout or even speak loudly. His movements become measured. He refers his work to an ideal of his or to a value. Surely such a value can be a Divine Value. Referring each work to a divine value or to the Divine is known as consecration. For a family man, his own family is that divine. To refer every work to the inner divine, for a domestic person, means to have GOODWILL. It can be a goodwill of emotion and be intense. One's intense emotion of goodwill for his family can be extended to all his friends and relatives. It becomes powerful when he decides that any good that he desires can come to him after they all receive it first, even if it is LUCK. It is a silent way and a sure way of steadily increasing one's family income.

23. Positive Value of the Negative Person

Positive people are of positive value. What can we do with negative person? One who overhears, gossips, abuses, carries tales, sets one person against another, neglects his own work, and feels an intense jealousy, is impossible. **The best course for us with such personalities is to avoid them, or at least NOT to give them scope to train their guns on us.**

In the scheme of God, nothing happens to us which we do not invite. When someone knocks me down on the road unintentionally, does it mean something in me desired it? Spiritually, the answer is *Yes*. An abominable person around me in the office or at home, by that definition, is there because something deep in me has a spiritual need of him. I feel like saying, "It is too much! I am not in need of such spirituality."

In our meditation we concentrate, pray. **We see at some point our concentration turns into POWER. We tell ourselves that our prayer is heard.** At that moment, we know our prayer is sanctioned in the subtle plane. Results actually come to us a little later. When does concentration become power? Concentration is mind concentrating on the inner knowledge. There is accompanying Ignorance inside. Increasing knowledge is decreasing Ignorance. When a little of our Ignorance consents to transform itself into knowledge, a spark of light is seen in the mind. It is at that point our concentration becomes power.

As long as I avoid a bad person, my inner knowledge keeps the inner Ignorance at arm's length. **Avoidance is austerity; acceptance is prosperity.** Ignorance does not transform into knowledge as long as we avoid it or avoid the person in our life who represents that Ignorance. He is there for us to make a progress. When we make that progress, mysteriously he vanishes. He tells us by his jealousy that there is jealousy in us. We are not aware of it, or we are unwilling to concede it. **That is the positive value of a negative person.** The moment we recognise it and exhibit a willingness to give up the bad trait, that man disappears.

24. Increasing Accomplishment

Every new technology makes us more efficient and accomplish more. Our education aims at it; our upbringing has that as a goal. **The one MOTIVATION of man is to be constantly better than before.** Spiritually it is a great ideal. If so, how do we achieve that?

Spiritual energy is superior to vital or mental energy. In a work replace mental energy with spiritual energy and the result will be greater, just as replacing the oil lamp by the electric lantern. Spiritual atmosphere accomplishes more by its silent presence than mental atmosphere. Imagine the **CEO** present at the dispatch of a shipment instead of the floor supervisor. A lot more gets done. While you are reading, if you can, you can give up the mental intelligence in favour of spiritual intelligence. Then you read faster, understand better and are able to reproduce it with greater effectivity.

For every skill, capacity, ability, talent, energy, faculty, tool or instrument, there is a corresponding

spiritual one. Using the spiritual counterpart, one ends up with far greater results. If you have no trouble with this argument, the only question is how to do it? A common sense reply is to evoke each time a corresponding spiritual faculty and employ it. Mother has given a method for that. An insane person unfortunately made a man his target and harassed him. The man was at his wit's end and complained to Mother. She advised him to call Her. By following Her instructions, the poor man was relieved of the attentions of the madman at the first call.

She has also advised devotees to send 'Mother' to their work. A wife was in great tension when her husband was to tour India for 20 days in a month. She started sending Mother to all his destinations ahead of his visit. **She was free; his work was smoother.** The figure of the Mother imagined has all the spiritual faculties concentrated in it. One who goes for an interview can send **HER** to the interview. If you have a speech to deliver, try sending **MOTHER** to the speech in the head. It will flow out smoothly. If a child is naughty, send Mother to the child or better still to the temperament of the child continuously, and the child will cease to put up its nasty behaviour. The very best is to send Mother to yourself, your inmost Being.

25. Proverbs of Tamil Nadu

Proverbs are repositories of wisdom. Those who want to study a foreign culture often study their proverbs. A work like *Thirukural* is famous all over the world. **Its great wisdom is found in the proverbs of the land.** The joke about the proverbs is, “Wise men wrote them; fools repeat them now.” Proverbs go to the secret depths of life and enshrine the secret in a short pithy saying. **However great the proverbs are, they are confined to Life which is presided over by karma.**

Proverbs of an alien culture are striking when they voice a new aspect. So is the English proverb, “If you want to be happy for one year buy a house; if you want to be permanently happy, be a good man”, and the Chinese one, “Today’s friends are tomorrow’s enemies”. My interest is in the Spirit and how it disproves the age-old wisdom of the proverbs. One proverb says, “Even an elephant will slip sometimes.” It is true. No one is infallible. When

the Spirit is on the surface, life cannot fail because that which fails is **NOT** Spirit.

The conflict between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is age-old. At least I know one mother-in-law who treats her daughter-in-law as her own daughter. This is so because both have chosen to live by The Mother. Once I tried to write down over a hundred proverbs of Tamilnadu and think of their version in Spirit. That made me appreciate the role of Spirit more. I give a few of them here.

1. Moments of danger brush aside rules of orthodoxy.
There is no moment of danger in Mother’s Life.
2. Money in the hands of a woman is lost.
Women are better preservers of cash than men.
3. One does not know one’s own back.
The Spirit knows both sides at once.
4. The crop that is not sustained by rain will not be sustained by the dew.
The crop grows better in the dew if Spirit is there.
5. A labour of a mountain yields the result of a rat.
In Spirit, a rat can damage a mountain.

26. Unconscious Oblivion

Unformed vital personalities are ready to adore the first dominant person they meet. They look for a leader. When one comes their way, they are ready. In such a population, hero-worship thrives. Such people easily switch over from one leader to another. **All that they want is someone to worship, adore, hold up as an ideal.** The longing heart finds an adorable ideal, not necessarily that there is something to be adored.

Sometimes such people meet with a rationally cultured person of benevolence. In his benevolence, he offers to shape the personality of the other with ideas or material monetary help. The man readily accepts it and makes a career. Encountering his friends, he explains all his exploits, how he overcame the obstacles, availed of opportunities, employed talents, rose to the occasion, snatched the opportunity by the forelock etc., etc., etc., **but the one thing that is not on his mind is the MAN who set**

him up in the new life. Of course, he never fails to come to him for further assistance. It may happen over the decades but the snob will never remember the benefactor.

We may have the satisfaction of describing this phenomenon as ingratitude or selfishness, but there is another phenomenon of ***Mistaking the Effect for the Cause***, which is a tragedy. An ungrateful man or a selfish person can awake one day to the Reality, not the one who consciously mistakes the effect for the cause. Those who invoke the Spirit enter the market and the market booms. After some time they lose interest and the market slumps. They in their modesty do not see that their own attitude is the cause and the market the effect. They exclaim, “The market is in a slump. There is nothing I can do.” It is not the single person who enters the market who can egoistically claim the credit of the boom, but it is the Force of the Spirit for which he was an instrument. Unless they see things in the proper perspective, there is no solution for them. In the meantime, they can philosophize. **Not to see the power of the Spirit is not human goodness of modesty but an unconscious darkness in their Spirit. Usually they are the ones who value and cherish ceremonies and rituals.**

27. Pieces of Good Fortune Come Together

It is a common experience of those who are in luck to see the phenomenon of several GOOD things happening one after the other. At such times people say, “These things are happening in quick succession, each one of them is more than a miracle. Even if it is written as fiction, no one will believe it. Why, I myself will not believe it. Life is too good to believe.” This is a truth very well known to the world, but it is known as ‘misfortunes do not come singly’. There is a Tamil proverb that just echoes this idea.

Sri Aurobindo called His magnum opus “*The Life Divine*”. That work contains **ALL** such Truths as yogic principles. It is our misfortune that this book is not widely read or its ideas comprehended. Shakespeare’s works contain all the universal truths of life even as the

Mahabharatha does. Life was **NEGATIVE** in Shakespeare’s time. Therefore, his best works were tragedies. After 1956 when the Supramental Force has descended into the subtle atmosphere of the earth, **life has become positive in potential.** The positive nature of life is not there on its surface as a Power of Life for us to readily draw upon. One who invokes the Spirit converts the potential into actual power.

In comedies, we read the ending which solves all the problems raised in the story. Sometimes critics call it a fairy tale ending. Whatever happens – good or bad – does not happen singly. It comes in bunches, in quick succession as if Fortune is determined to make one lucky. Sri Aurobindo explains this phenomenon as absence of waste in Nature. Nature, He says works on several things at once, which appear as waste to us. But the work of Nature is occult to our naked eyes. When the time comes, we see one item is completed. That is followed by all the other items of work Nature was working on. **He who invokes the Spirit can witness that phenomenon in his life. A lady celebrated two weddings for two of her daughters, raised her income fivefold, and sent both the daughters to USA, all in about a year.**

28. Why Good People Suffer

We do not ask why tall boys fail or handsome persons are sometimes foolish. **We know tallness is unrelated to good performance in exams and pretty faces have nothing to do with mental brilliance.** But we often expect that good people should be rewarded with prosperity. We fail to see that handsome looks are a physical characteristic and success in life is an ability to organise a productive work. We also see that some good people are poor, neglected and are the butt end of unjust treatment.

It is possible to enumerate most of the reasons for this phenomenon: 1. First of all, those we consider good people are good in their behaviour and are not really **GOOD**; 2. Most of them are inefficient and some of them are lazy; 3. There is a belief that pious people are naturally good which is not true; 4. The first qualification for a pious man is truthfulness. Very few of them or none of them will qualify under this head; 5. In our

society harmless people, i.e. people endowed with no talents, are considered good, as they do not meddle in others' affairs. It may be good behaviour but not real goodness.

The spiritual definition of goodness is knowledge of Truth. When Truth acquires knowledge, goodness is born. If we find one who fits this description, he will be a shining star in the society, endowed with strength and abundance. There is one more characteristic of the popular belief. Those who are ritualistic and given to ceremonies go down as **GOOD** people in the eyes of the public. In modern times, rituals and ceremonies are partially outdated. **By definition, those who believe in rituals and ceremonies are not rational** but traditional. As tradition is yielding place to modern life, tradition is in conflict with present day life. Naturally, when conflict arises, suffering too arises. There is a greater conflict in them. While they do not give up rituals, they ardently seek all the modern aspects of present day life — higher education, modern food, modern house, the latest entertainment and much more importantly, modern beliefs. Thus by their active preferences they intensify the naturally inherent conflict. **Conflict means suffering, lower efficiency, poor income and moving to the margin of the society, as social growth is by HARMONY.**

29. The Children of The Mother

The future belongs to Spirituality, not religion, says The Mother. The time of religion is over according to Her. Religion is many following the inspiration of one enlightened person. **Spirituality is each one seeking his own illumination.** As Protestantism removed the priest between Man and God, Spirituality will enable each man to seek his own God, seated inside.

The Mother was in Japan during the First World War. She recorded her *Prayers and Meditations* everyday, which was later published. As a preface to that publication, She wrote that there are those who give their souls to God, and others who give their work. Some give their wealth. A few others give their lives to the Divine. There are the rare few who give their souls, wealth, work and lives to the Divine. **They alone are the true children of The Mother and all others are valueless ciphers for the Divine Work.**

In Her scale of values, it may be impossible for us to become even valueless ciphers. Why? Is She a taskmaster and a disciplinarian? When China threatens the borders of India, the Indian leader needs nerves of iron and can no longer indulge in the luxury of non-alignment. Not all people can lead a nation in war. Divine Work embraces the universe where one has to organise new ways of life suited to the Higher Consciousness. For that, one cannot be attached to his work or life. Therefore, **SHE** laid down Her requirement but never persuaded anyone to take to it.

In Her *Agenda* She describes the yoga of the body She tried and said how horrible it was. She said She would **NOT** recommend this yoga to anyone. I ask people to invoke the Spirit for a better life, not for yoga. **A life of utter Truthfulness brings one into the atmosphere of Her Force that is active on earth since 1956.** She said that that Force had organised itself in the consciousness of a person. Yoga is for the evolutionary adult. A life of higher consciousness is for the aspirant of Truth in life, where he can express his own higher values.

30. Letters of Love

Harold J. Laski, the famous socialist professor of The London School of Economics, wrote to his wife soon after his wedding twice a day. Love has an irresistible urge. It finds expression in writing. Passionate natures pour themselves into passionate words of Love. Napoleon from the battlefield wrote to Josephine and he excelled Laski. He would write thrice a day to his object of love. Often, Josephine would not even open the letters and amused herself with other men.

A girl who received letters of love from her love ended up marrying the postman who brought those letters to her. In her scheme of things, the contents of the letters were connected with their deliverer. She must, of course, be deeply in love! Obviously, passion is **NOT** love. It is the energy of the vital nature which is passionate. The lady who happily transferred her lover's emotions

to the postman is a rare phenomenon whom no one desires to emulate. Her love, if it can be called love, is skin deep.

If passion is not love, if youthful ardour is not love, what else is it? Of course, **when one is in love, he flatters himself that his love is Spirit calling to Spirit.** Everyone says that to himself when he is infatuated. Obviously, infatuation too is not love. Is there a characteristic or several characteristics of what we conceive as Love? Love is undying. If one's love dies, he quickly disqualifies himself. That which dies sooner or later is **NOT** love. He who finds his love surviving marriage can describe the emotion he felt as love. It has one more characteristic. It does not depend upon the other receiving it. Love is Love whether it is received or not. It is undying too. Before enumerating the rest of its characteristics, I shall add, in the context of the enterprising lady who ended up with the postman, that it is not transferable!

31. Problem-Free Life

Life is a field of endless problems. One can face them and surmount them according to his capacity. There is no question of life being free of problems. It is an inherent contradiction. **When the Spirit comes to the surface, its essential duty is to resolve contradictions into complements.** Theoretically, if there is someone who lives by the Spirit, he can have a problem-free Life. It is an exalted aim. I wish to have a householder's version of it, manageable by the ordinary man. By this, I mean the serious man whose personality is formed and stands out in a crowd of non-entities.

To invoke the Spirit in a work is always possible. One should equip himself with that capacity to start with. A man's life has a few essential segments such as his work, home, his friends and a few others. One who is employed in an office would very much love to have a problem-free office life. This can be split into his actual

work, his temperament and casual work. In each area, he can practise invoking the Spirit. **It will work splendidly.** To achieve the goal is not difficult, but to maintain it is. I address only those who cherish what they have worked for. When problems are NIL in work, the temperament will go out of control. Anticipation of this feature will help to control it.

Having accomplished it at the office, he must move to the house. Knowledge that he is adding to the carrying capacity of the personality must make him widen the scope of it. Success here too is assured, but one has to proceed slowly and methodically. **The golden rule is that preserving the earlier gain is more important than further conquests.** When his office, home and friends are tackled, he will be able to see the limits of his endurance. Stop there and leave the minor things to themselves. Don't attempt perfection. This is a rare conquest. Life will be Problem-Free within these limits, which may be 85% or 75%. Any serious person can accomplish this much. Further progress is for those who are capable of endless endurance and an unexpectant Patience, a patience that knows no end. Life can shed problems where the Spirit takes over. The above is a method to organise the Spirit in Life.

32. Human Potentialities and Actualities

Potentialities do not become actualities unless they are organised. **What converts the one into the other is the mysterious element called Personality.** The sheet anchor of that personality is spiritual values in the body where they have become physical sensitivities. Knowledge raises the mental horizon and widens its scope. Knowledge becomes practical when it turns into an Ideal. The Ideal inspires one to action when the devotion to the Ideal becomes a mental sensitivity.

Mind is capable of only thoughts, and cannot initiate action directly. So, any achievement of the mind is an achievement of spreading the ideal far and wide. It is the vital that is endowed with energy. Energy releases a social movement inspiring the people to extol the Ideal. The movement is more powerful than the mental Ideal. Still a movement by itself cannot achieve. It needs an

organisation. An organisation achieves when the organisers have acquired the physical sensitivity for the ideal. Accomplishment is given to the organisation, not the mere ideal or the inspiring movement, though they are essential.

In a nation, what accomplishes is a national organisation dedicated to the Ideal. **How can an Individual vastly endowed with rich potentialities convert them into the actualities of his own life?** What plays the role of organisation in his life? I said it is his Personality. What energises that Personality is the spiritual values of his physical body. Its accomplishment rises with the rising physical sensitivities for those values. By invoking the Spirit, one witnesses the Silent phenomenon of the Spirit organising his personality, creating the needed sensitivities in his physical consciousness and physical substance. It is the practical **GOODNESS** of an efficient man of excellent values buried deep in him.

33. The Indian Mind

Sri Aurobindo has said that when the Indian Mind takes up a subject it goes to the very end. Philosophers call this analysis understanding an issue from the first principles. We function from the human mind. Above it is the mind of silence of the Muni; it is followed by the mind of illumination of the Rishi. The yogi is the next level. He is of intuition. Beyond that is the world of the Gods, called by Sri Aurobindo the Overmind. Lord Krishna is an avatar from this plane.

According to Sri Aurobindo, Supermind created the world. The Overmind takes the potentialities of the Supermind and follows them to their uttermost possibility, where each becomes Unique. As Lord Krishna is from this plane, the Indians have the ability to go to the very end of any subject they choose. Winston Churchill, in his *History of the English Speaking People* said that

the enunciation from the first principles has always been an anathema to the English mind.

The material success of the West, particularly the English, is largely due to this practical bent of mind focussing on the practical use of things. It prevents them from inquiring into the fundamental nature of things. Hence the limitation of Science. That way Science will level off into technology. Oddly enough, this great endowment of the Indians, coupled with the poverty of the 19th and 20th centuries, prevented them from exercising their minds on practically usable results.

But the endowment of Indians is a vast foundation of a knowledge that is superior to the analysis from first principles. **That knowledge will enable man to discover practically usable results that are basically sound in theory.** Such discoveries cannot produce negative effects of any description. Indians must pay heed to their heritage. They should be **ORIGINAL** and should not seek secondary inspiration. The nation's soil is saturated with knowledge of the highest description. It is not for them to look for lesser inspiration wherever it comes from.

34. The Leaders of the World

Over a period of a hundred years, the world looked up to London as its capital. The Britisher had conquered several nations and established an empire on which, it was said, the sun never set. It was political power. To be precise, it was military power. By age-old wisdom, Britain was qualified to rule the world as she was conquered by the Romans, the Vikings, the Germans and even the French.

Today the USA plays that role. This is because she is an economic power. Of course, behind it lies the political and military power. USA is a nation of immigrants. Their adventure into the unknown released enormous amounts of human energies. This is particularly so as these immigrants were not like natives of the soil who evolve a society from scratch. They were drawn to the New World from an accomplished civilisation. That previous accomplishment was in their blood. Hence the intense urge to catch up with the mother countries. For that, they had to initiate themselves at a higher velocity, which

by virtue of its own intensity becomes acceleration. **After catching up with Europe, that higher speed enabled them to overtake Europe.** Europe being the entire world, USA overtook all nations on earth.

It is true that neither military might nor economics can lead the world forever. That is not given to money or the sword. That privilege is given to the Mind. Science is of the Mind when it is seeking after the whole or the ultimate cause. When science branches off at the utilitarian level, Science becomes efficient technology.

The future leadership of the world is not even for the Mind. It goes to the Spirit. Whoever goes after the Spirit will qualify for the leadership of the world. There is a further step. **It is not the partial Spirit that seeks to shun life; it is the Spirit that emerges in Life to enrich life spiritually.** Material welfare is highly desirable, but a partial aim. Any partial aim will have the other side that troubles. No partial goal can any longer serve the world. The world needs a whole aim or an aim of the whole which will not have side effects or negative fallout. That goal is the Spirit in life, which makes life *Life*. Spirit in the Mind makes the genius. Spirit in the body gives birth to the yogi. Both are goals of the whole. Let us start with the Spirit in life. The leadership of the world will go to them.

35. Tyranny and Fairness

The Future is for fairness, not for tyranny. Man was physical at the dawn of civilisation. The physically strong man became the ruler. He was not elected or selected. He foisted himself on those who were weak. People worshipped his strength. **The original meaning of the word tyrant was leader.** That was so in Greece, where democracy was born. Today man is not so physical or even vital. Mind has emerged in action, if not in mastery. Cruelty is frowned upon. In the days when strength ruled, cruelty was discipline. Hence the proverb, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child'.

The logic of human existence led the oppressed to worship the oppressor. Five hundred years ago when a husband, on wrong information about the chastity of his wife, desired to kill his wife, the lady in good faith said, "If my Lord will be happy to murder me, I shall

die happily." The dharma of those times was **Tyranny was Fairness.** The wisdom of the ages requires conceding this truth in human relations. The present has bidden good-bye to tyranny and surely the Future is **NOT** for tyranny in any form.

Man seeks the woman for psychological security, whereas the woman seeks the man for physical security. As a rule, tall men find greater favour with all women. What is fulfilling for the feminine heart is that it will be powerfully dominated by the masculine strength. Mother says women can take to yoga when they no longer long for a child or a house and the domination of the male. **The real emancipation of the weak is not so much from the tyranny of the strong, but from their love of the strength in the master.**

The future is not for Ignorance or Superstition. Nor is it for the insincerity of the art of diplomacy. It is for the Truth of Sincerity. In one of Her messages the Divine Mother says, "Men, countries and continents, Truth or the abyss." The Future is not for rituals and ceremonies. It is not for religion or religious worship. The Future is for the Spirit.

36. Teaching and Learning

Teaching is external; learning is a process of self-motivation. Teaching was a service and a great service at that when ignorance was widespread. It was a time when man needed an intermediary between himself and God. The priest will be an anachronism in the coming century. Martin Luther raised his banner of revolt several centuries ago. Examination was the instrument to measure one's knowledge, just as teaching was the method. Those were days when rote memorisation ruled the roost. Great orators like Winston Churchill committed their entire speech to memory. Absence of writing materials in India put a premium on memory. It rose to heights of superhuman proportions in preserving the Vedas in their purity of pronunciation all over this vast land.

Exercises in memory reached miraculous heights. One can remember eight questions asked in succession by eight different people on eight different subjects and

answer them in the same order. **The art rose to the height of answering a hundred questions too.** Those with this ability were called *ashtavadhani* and *sadavadhani* respectively.

The Future is not for memory, however great it is; it is for understanding. All over the world, examinations are being given up. The Future is not for examinations; it is for knowledge and learning. What matters is **NOT** the score in the exam but the equipment that is retained in the mind. So also, the future is **NOT** for externally imposed disciplines that are mechanical. It is for the Self-discipline of values internalised by the child on his own.

The Future is not for the scribe or the typewriter but belongs entirely to the computer. No longer is carbon paper used for making copies, as the xerox machine is employed. **Examinations belong to the sacred age of the Scribes who wrote with a quill pen.** Those were the heydays of memory and homework. Home is **NOT** for work but to enjoy the ever present **hour** when the Spirit surfaces in Love. Beating the child at home or at school belongs to the dark ages. In future, the law will prevent it. The human heart must outgrow the need for beating.

37. SMILE

On November 24, 1967 when Mother appeared on the terrace to give darsan to Her devotees, She said She saw a benevolent Being smiling on Her from Eternity. Smile is the call of the Infinite to the finite to emerge out of its captivity. The size of the skull reveals the size of the brain it houses. The forehead expresses one's intelligence. The face is the index of the heart. The mouth denotes the hunger of the stomach. Emotions are seen just below the eyes. **The eyes are the windows of one's soul.** The smile can express the call of one soul to another. At its lowest, the smile is an index of the mating call.

Charming personalities are great with children. Some people attract the opposite sex. Others attract people of all ages of both sexes. Charm is popular and is adored. Discipline is frowned upon and shunned. The Spirit in life blossoming in a SMILE has the potential of a charming

discipline. Critics of Gandhiji come away from a meeting with him exclaiming, "Of course, he is a great man." **The Spirit disciplines charmingly.** Physical people have an unsmiling face. When they try to smile, they fail or break into a laugh. It subsides as a grin in one who never means to smile. Its tragedy is when the intended smile emerges as a grimace. The mystery of life permits unsmiling goodness too. One may expect that a smile and goodness go together. Life is different.

The hypocrite is capable of a captivating smile. He is the smiling villain. Hypocrisy or villainy, a smile is striking and winning all along. Pretty faces become prettier with a smile. Even to this there is an exception. A very pretty face becomes ugly when a smile comes to it. The physical perfection of beauty has not extended itself to the higher centres of life such as Spirit. Hence the distortion. It is said of Mother that She alone could smile as She did. Some of Her photographs carry that smile of benevolence. **A Smile breaks out on the face when the Self-giving of the Spirit is expressed through the expansive self-giving of the body and its energies in the vital.**

38. Surface Mind and the Subliminal Depth

Idealist leaders of student days often meet with comments when they enter life, “You used to have some FIRE then, now it is not there.” **Age and experience give a quiet which is mistaken for the loss of FIRE. Marriage helps the fire to die down.** Maturity is mistaken for loss of warmth in the personality. The human mind is so constructed that his surface is exactly the reverse of his wider, deeper, truer Mind, called the subliminal. It is said he is compelled by his own subliminal to seek what his surface hates or is disgusted with. It often happens with employment and more often with marriage.

One who is an incessant talker is attracted to a silent wife or a miserly man ardently seeks a spendthrift wife. So begins an eternal divergence in everything he aspires for. He is often consoled by others that marriage is made

in heaven. At a ripe old age, such couples do discover that their marital experience was a rewarding one as each was complementary to the other. There are quiet phases in life suddenly followed by a chain of turbulent events and vice versa. Rarely do people understand such a phenomenon and ascribe it to destiny.

When Sardar Vallabhai Patel was enjoying a flourishing barrister’s life in Ahmedabad, he met Mahatma Gandhiji and gave up his practice to become Gandhiji’s political lieutenant for the rest of his life. Neither Patel nor Gandhiji could foresee such a development in his life. **Rajendra Prasad once said, “If we have an India in which we live proudly, it is because Sardar Patel gave it to us.”** He was a bully in his early life and was almost brutal to his opponents in the court or life outside. The warm heart of Sardar that loved Bharat Mata as a Mother and was tenderly solicitous to his children was known as the Iron Man of India.

Sri Aurobindo says that the very first spiritual realisation is to know that our Surface Mind is inversely moved by the deep-seated subliminal that knows the entire universe.

39. Token Practice

Some people when reading about the Spirit become enthused about availing of it. Knowing that the Spirit is of Himalayan proportions meant only for great souls, one feels intimidated. It is true that it is meant for the great of soul. **It is also true that such a wonder has come down to many now.** We see technology giving a similar boon to the common man. Democracy also does it. We may understand this is spiritual technology.

I advocate trying this universal principle in a small self-contained act such as a single sale in business, or one case in the court, or with one aspect of treating a patient or one meal in the kitchen or a paper in an exam of several papers. One can select a small act, a single act, self-contained – that which is independent of other things. **Follow in this act all the rules of the Spirit, such as silent will, the other man's point of view, soft speech, non-reacting equality, etc.** Remembering Mother

in every single movement deep enough is inclusive of all these methods.

A small cloth shop owner who wanted to teach his salesmen learnt all this. He was selling for Rs. 10,000 a day. Seeing the power of these methods, he himself wanted to practise them. The next customer was a lower middle class lady whom he put down as a Rs. 200/- sundry sale. She readily confirmed his assessment. It struck him that he should not assign any limit in his mind. On listening to him, she felt different, gave him a meaningful look and said, “I came for a Rs. 200 purchase. I have a Rs. 3000 purchase for next month. Now if what I have in mind is available with you...” He went inside and brought out a sari and she said, “This is exactly what I have in mind.” She purchased it. Seeing the power of removing one opinion, he concentrated INSIDE for a moment and decided to follow in his inner consciousness all that he knew. She said, “A wedding is impending. I had no plans of purchase just now. Now that you seem to offer everything, I wish to buy all my requirements of Rs. 50,000 here this evening.”

Token acts are successful only when the results are a hundred times or at least ten times higher than usual.

40. Token Act — Psychological

Abundance, plenty, and opulence have many votaries. It is welfare. Others are interested in well-being more than welfare. **To them, life is inward and psychological.** The rules of welfare and well-being are the same. One is outward and the other is in the inner domain. The same experiment can be recast to suit them. One prerequisite for that is aspiration, a true desire for inner well-being. Such an experiment cannot be started in its absence. Those who have that aspiration can straightaway start it. Others must aspire for aspiration.

As an aid, 'Let Thy will be done, not my will' or 'Mother' can be repeated. It can be done without such oral aids, where the aspiration has intensity. **The work of the Token Act is to reach that inner point of intensity and remain there forever.** For a raw individual uncultured in the art of spirituality, to reach there takes years. Most

of us are endowed with a dormant inner light. Orthodox people, pious individuals, God-fearing persons, good souls, and any Indian has that full potentiality buried in him, unless a wave of westernisation has killed that vibration. **An attitude of utter Truthfulness at once brings that light to the surface.** It acts as Grace of the Spirit and makes possible in days what will otherwise require years.

Reach your thought that urges for expression. Don't express it. Try to consecrate it. Again it is a protracted process. Persevere. One in a hundred times or ten occasions it may yield. Then thought moves away, revealing mental energy. Again repeat the consecration. Feelings and the energy behind the feelings reveal. At last sensation and the bodily energies reveal. Reaching the final point, there will be a shower of Spiritual *Shanti* whose vibration has been growing up till then. **It will afford one the taste of inner well-being, as if one is in celestial felicity for a moment.** Yoga demands that such a depth be reached in all acts. Mine is a compromise for life. To be able to reach such a spiritual depth in ONE act will be enough for the goal of well-being. **Such a well-being is inclusive of all types of welfare.**

41. The English are Wedded to Democracy

There is no valid **Theory of Creation** except what Sri Aurobindo has given to the world. Applying that theory to society, politics, culture, yoga and poetry, He wrote *The Human Cycle*, *The Ideal of Human Unity*, *The Foundations of Indian Culture* and *Savitri*. Theory of Social Evolution outlined by The Mother's Service Society is an extension of this theory to social development. As Sri Aurobindo's knowledge is total, complete, integral and comprehensive, every phenomenon of history, politics, literature, life, etc. must be explained by this theory.

Political theorists have come out with theories of how empires grew up and dissolved. Anthropologists are discovering newer facts. Historians have explained why democracies grew in Europe and dictatorships in Asia. More and more facts, laws, theories are being discovered. Sir Arthur Lewis has described what made England initiate the Industrial Revolution. Writing in 1948, Winston Churchill said, 'England is wedded to democracy, but

we do not know why'. I do not know whether historians have accounted for it since then. **I know the Indian tradition knows the principles behind what Churchill did not know in 1948.** The Theory of Social Evolution can explain this phenomenon as well as all the other unexplained historical phenomena.

There is a businessman in Madras who is fond of repeating, "If you have not lost money, you won't have the business acumen." Sri Aurobindo says unless a nation has been enslaved by another nation, it cannot conquer other nations. England was long ruled by various European nations. England, who was thus deprived of liberty for a long time, has now become the mother of democracy and a champion of liberty. Thus she has qualified herself to gift liberty and democracy to the world.

Suppose someone makes a list of all unexplained phenomena in history, life, literature, and politics, he will be able to find all the answers applying this Theory to those issues, as it is comprehensive. What the Madras businessman knows as practical wisdom has behind it the principle that answers Churchill. **The pity is Indians do not know what they have and know. By knowledge of the Indian heritage and by applying it to the requirements of modern life, the Indians can lead the world in Thought and Spirit.**

42. Coconut Never Falls on a Man

Men injuring themselves in a workshop or workspot is common. It is inevitable. **There are some workshops where a newcomer hurts himself; others will say, “No one gets hurt or injured here.”** To a skilled workman, his tools are sacred. Those tools do not offend the workman as they are his extended fingers. Men who treat the tools as objects often cut their fingers. Farms infested with snakes have long periods, maybe years, when there are no snake bites. The farmer worships his lands, crops, his work, his tools. **Snakes living in such fields are not killed when sighted. Cobras living there are considered good omens.**

Harvested coconuts fall from the crown of the trees. The probability of men being hit by those nuts is great. It is the experience in coconut gardens that nuts do not fall on the men who tend the trees. Not even the heavy

leaves of the trees hurt men living there. It is a rule of life. Objects are alive. They receive the attention of the men who water the fields, use the tools, clean the weeds, etc. Material objects are grateful to the attention they receive and take care NOT to hurt the men.

One of the workers had a severely shaking head. On questioning him, it was discovered that he was employed to clear a coconut garden of its trees so that the land could be converted into plots. No wonder the coconut fell on his head and it was shaking since then. Material objects do not hurt us if we do not hurt them. People from the town visiting villages enter the fields with their shoes on. Pious, traditional villagers will never walk on their fields with shoes on. Often one has to cross fields full of thorns. The villager will not step on the thorns at all. He is in tune with his work and his workspot. Nothing there will offend him, not even the thorns. Farmers have noticed that they run into a mishap – a thorn pricks them – when they are upset about someone or something.

He who runs through his work, living in harmony with his environment will not suffer from it. The environment offends, when MAN disturbs its equilibrium.

43. Proposal

God is difficult to reach. It is years of tapas that get one a glimpse of God who gives the tapasvi the boon of moksha. This is only one aspect of God. **There is another aspect of God that longs for Man's coming to Him.** That aspect is God goes to all places we go ahead of us. It envelops all around and lies in wait for our CALL. Man waiting for God's call is what we know. That is usually known as the CALL. Man does not know HE is after the awakened soul. HE is after Man to awaken his soul.

There is one more phenomenon. At long last, when Man grows aware of his spiritual opportunity and calls, God rushes into him like a cyclone, goes on filling him to saturation. HE enters man's mind and thought. HE fuses Himself with his emotions and sensations. HE forces Himself into man's physical consciousness and further

his physical substance. Man is in rapture. Man forgets himself in ecstasy. All that happens in a trice.

There is one more phase which is yet another phenomenon. **God deserts Man.** Having enjoyed intolerable ecstasy and unflinching rapture, HE goes away forever, leaving man to long for HIM, even as God once longed for man's attention. There is one difference. First it is moksha. It is a release for one part of man's four parts – the Spirit. Second it is to turn man to God and see the spiritual possibilities. Third, it is for man to become God. Sri Aurobindo played all these tricks on Mother until Mother became the Supreme Herself.

In love marriages, it is for the boy to propose. **A girl cannot propose or suggest to him to propose!** Once the man proposes, even when the girl is very willing, it is not easy for man to get her consent. She gives him anxious hours or days. Once she accepts, both decide NOT to agree with the other on anything however small, thus giving marriage its aspect of having been made in heaven. In that sense, Man and woman play the role of God and man after a fashion. No guru easily gets a disciple of his choice. No seeker meets a GURU who will reveal the inner godhead in the disciple.

44. Efficiency

Lumumba was the Prime Minister of the Congo. One of his main qualifications was that he was a graduate. At that time there were 13 graduates in that country. When Indian Freedom was negotiated, it was noted that the five leaders on the Indian side – Gandhiji, Nehru, Patel, Jinnah and Liaquat Ali were all barristers from the Inner Temple. **Apart from other endowments, it is true that English education made them leaders.** When we see in a party one leader is outstanding, or a lawyer in the higher courts stands out, or someone is a shining star in the field of education, we often see he is a holder of a PhD from a foreign university. **Higher education from a reputed university is a source of efficiency.**

Fred Smith started 'Federal Express' in 1971 to make overnight parcel delivery possible anywhere in the USA. By 2001, his company touched 20 billion dollars. Not

all companies succeed like that. Where does his efficiency come from? He was a marine in the Vietnam War. Discipline in the military, especially the US marines, is an article of faith. It is the marine discipline that made Fred Smith a success.

Raja Rao became a celebrated writer in English. He taught in an American university. Radhakrishnan was knighted and was a Fellow at Oxford. He rose high in Indian public life. C.P. Ramaswamy entered the Viceroy's Executive Council at a young age. Behind them all was a spiritual figure or spiritual knowledge. Raja Rao's father used to meditate in the temple until 1 pm every day. C.P. Ramaswamy is the descendent of a famous saint of Tamil Nadu. Radhakrishnan was a scholar in the Vedas and scriptures.

A high level of education, military discipline, or spiritual background make ordinary men rise far above their compeers. One who succeeds in invoking the Spirit in his daily life will see the efficiency in life attained by the above mentioned persons is of the surface. **They are the shadows of the Spirit or penumbra.** Spirit invoked is the Spirit of Life in its fullness, a spiritual fullness in the field of life.

45. Spirit in Action

It is a truism in life and much more so in Spirit that when we give up our due, the rightful right, what the Spirit considers our desert, will come. **I can tell myself I should give up my wrong desire, but it will not work.** To give up my desire has always been an impossibility to me. How can I bring myself to give up my right which I deserve? But life demands that of man when it wants to reward him abundantly. In Spirit, that is the first rule.

A poor college student was an affectionate member of a rich family as he was a classmate of the son of the family which owned a sizeable company. It was a privilege for the poor boy to mix with his friend's family, and for about ten years he was one of them. Particularly an annual feast was this poor boy's entire responsibility. It had been customary that the poor boy would be invited to dine there in the feast. It was an ordinary courtesy in

any house, especially when it was he who arranged the feast in all its details.

The poor boy was talented, charming, and pleasant. Everyone in the family recognised all that. That evoked jealousy in the rich boy who felt the full force of his right to order him about. It was the annual day of the feast. As usual the poor boy had done everything. His friend decided to wreak vengeance on him. **His meanness grew perverse. He decided NOT to invite his poor friend for the dinner that day.** The poor boy was stung. It began to rankle. Now he had to do all the work but not sit at the table. All eyes were on him. He was covered with shame. It was too much, even for a saint.

It was a crucial inner moment for him. He went in and was unable to face the inner misery. He told himself, "Mother is great, greater than this meanness." He tried to shift himself from dwelling on this humiliation to the sweet expansiveness of The Divine Mother. Contrary to his experience, until then, there was a great relief; no longer was the offence real. Just at that moment, the mother of his friend called him to her room and said, "My husband and I appreciate what you are to the family. **From today, you are a director in our company. My boy may not like it. Keep it confidential.**"

46. Interruption of a Speech

There are patient listeners. Others interrupt while you are talking. Often the two are found talking simultaneously, neither listening to the other. In the West, no one interrupts when one is talking. People wait for the other to finish and ask, "Shall I speak?" At home, when the family gathers, one can see two people talking at once, **or all talking simultaneously**. An American embassy official went to a university and invited several professors, having arranged a distinguished scholar to deliver an address. There this phenomenon of everyone talking simultaneously about different topics was witnessed. The speaker of the day stood there speechless. The meeting ended without the speech being delivered. The embassy official said to the foreign dignitary, "I shall NOT think of another meeting of this description."

When I am aware of this trait in myself as a defect and try to rectify it, first of all I find *nothing* in me endorses my decision. **Everything in me wants to talk.**

Unless I am ashamed of myself socially, I may not make a successful beginning. Such a successful beginning will generate frustration in me, sometimes disgust. In a meeting, I find the words come out of my mouth involuntarily and then I take them back. The remedy is, when a strong sense of shame pervades me, I must convince my mind of the truth that speaking destroys the purpose. It is a milestone in one's inner endeavour when the mind is convinced of that TRUTH. **Once the mind is convinced, the urge will be transferred from the mouth to the mind.**

When the mind is refractory, what else can anyone do? He must go to the silence behind the thought in the mind. Similarly, he has to go to the emotion and sensation behind the thought. Now the mastery over oneself emerges as Shanti, Spiritual Peace. Going behind one thought fulfils it copiously. If one can remain there, it is great. At least one must go to such a depth each time an occasion for accomplishment arises. This is not a discipline to shed interruption. **Whatever the work, whichever the decision, this is the only process. Ordinary good manners possess it. I ask for the same inside.** Know these things are not done in a day. If you are in a hurry, don't begin. Wait for endless PATIENCE. Such is the inner attitude and its preliminary stages of invoking the Spirit.

47. Chronic Illness

In our tradition, illness is understood to be the result of past karma. A lady was suffering from asthma for over a decade. In an affectionate family, illness is an occasion for attention. People overcome their resistances and offer unusual help. In other families, where no one feels any emotion for another, it becomes an occasion for the patient to develop immeasurable endurance. Occasionally, someone at home will attribute motives to the sufferer. **This lady was one of extraordinary politeness and was so independent that she would seek no help from anyone except her children.**

Hospitalisation was an annual phenomenon. It sometimes prolonged for weeks or months. To her, the physical suffocation was unendurable. During one such visit to the hospital, the doctors found it a hopeless case and refused to attend on the patient. The faith the patient had in the divine Mother that SHE would save her life and spare her the pain gave way. She could no longer pray to save her life. She shifted in her mind. She thought

of praying that she should no longer suffer. She sent for her children, removed the IV tubes, and refused further medication. To the children she made a profound declaration, “I can’t live anymore. Mother will protect you both. Have faith in The Mother.” They broke out in a wail. A weight was off her mind. She fell asleep.

When she woke up, **there was no suffocation. Her face was bright. Her voice was clear.** To the nurse attending on her it was a wonder. The nurse ran to the doctors and reported. They were unbelieving, and rushed to the patient offering to revive the treatment. The lady preferred to go home. In the next fifteen years hospitalisation was rare and far between. This is negative FAITH. She prayed to die. Mother gave her health and life. A positive faith, though it sees no response, will imply one. It takes the attitude, “I have done my best. The pain is unrelenting. No prayer to Mother will be in vain, even if the results are NOT visible. My duty is to exhaust my prayer of faith and not despair. The best will happen to me.” Such a faith will give the same results but in a higher fashion. No recurrence will ever be there.

A positive Faith brings the positive opportunities of health and the society. A negative Faith wards off the existing problems. One who relates to the Spirit has a greater chance of developing a positive FAITH.

48. Accomplishment of Indians Abroad

Indira Gandhi was asked in the Indian Parliament, “Why is it that Indians who flourish in any country do not do so in India?” The Jews, the Chinese and the Indians are known to prosper wherever they are outside their native lands. The Jews are industrious, passionate about their faith, and extraordinarily intelligent. No wonder they prosper. The Chinese, apart from being industrious in the extreme, are clean to perfection. They are from a subtle civilisation and are loyal to their partners once they forge a partnership. Loyalty, cleanliness and industry are certainly high components of Prosperity. What does the Indian have?

None of the above traits is attributed to Indians in a great measure or in any measure. Hospitals in the US where a large number of Indians work as doctors say, “Indians have a far greater theoretical grasp than practical experience. Perhaps because practical facilities are less available in India.” That is a contributing reason, **but**

it is true the theoretical knowledge of Indians in any subject is considerable. Indians are mental. The mind is resourceful and thoughtful. He who organises his thoughts will be far more effective than he who is endowed with practical skill or knowledge. His mental abilities arise from his spiritual basis.

An Indian and an American visited a French company based in Holland. The American was surprised that with so much of talent, the company was making very little profit. The Indian explained, “Profits go to Paris, and that is why the Dutch are not enthusiastic.” The American was surprised by the insight of the Indian. Insight into human motives enables one to organise better. **Indians are POTENTIALLY great organisers.** In India, the Indian submits to family, social tradition, etc. which prevents him from exercising all his talents. In America, there is no such inhibition. Hence, they prosper. For them to prosper in India, two things are required.

- 1) They must recognise their inner mental potentialities.
- 2) They must cast away social inhibitions.

The first they are not aware of, the second they are not prepared for. **When the Society offers that Freedom and encourages their talents, they will Prosper.**

49. The First Waking Thought

People who get up before 6 am will be active throughout the day. They are not unconscious people. **When you get up in the morning, if you are tired, it means your sleep was unconscious.** If you have been having a big idea as the First Waking Thought, it will come to fruition. If someone who is working as a lower subordinate in a government office sometimes thinks, rather it occurs in his mind on its own, especially as the first thought, that he is an IAS officer, he would become one. Powerful thoughts travelling in the subtle plane enter one's mind and emerge on waking. They will come true.

If there is a nagging problem – delayed wedding at home, oppressive loan, etc. – it may so present itself in the morning. **Such problems become more oppressive.** A thought that occupies the mind is charged with the mental energy. It grows as it is constituted. This phenomenon was used by me for a long time to solve

the problems of devotees. Before going to bed, if one positively dwells on the problem and leaves it to Mother, sometimes it presents itself as the first waking thought. It soon gets solved. The mind's attention energises the problem. Referring it to Mother makes the attention positive. So it gets solved quickly.

A public worker wanting to introduce Prosperity to his village found the Bank Agent presenting himself at 6:30 am to wake him up and inform him that the Chairman of his bank was visiting his village that evening. In a sense, it was the First Waking Act. It was a ticklish project which met with universal resistance. **It became a success as no other scheme had done.** Its success in the future was indicated by its arrival. There are methods that use the power of mind intelligently. One can coin as many. One need not take that trouble. If one goes about collecting such ideas that are prevalent in the society, one can have a handful.

People who are unable to fall asleep are advised to think of the acts they performed that day since getting up, without missing any small movement. It taxes the memory. Before one passes through an hour of activities in the morning, the mind gets tired and goes to sleep.

50. Worry is Absence of Faith

Man seeks intensity. Whatever offers intensity is popular. The reason why functions such as weddings are popular is because a wedding is the most intense occasion in the life of a family. Occasionally we hear a comment in a wedding, “The parents of the boy act as if it is their own wedding.” **In weddings where none of the normal problems are present, there emerges an urge to celebrate the occasion, an occasion for intensity.** The nature of intensity is such that it is welcome whether the occasion is positive or negative. Worry has a way of offering a keen intensity that is deeply satisfying.

In a substantial bunch of job-seeking friends, the dominant emotion is anxiety. It is a fertile field for wild expectations. Some people will be dejected and harassed. It is an occasion for all negative emotions to surface and find vigorous play. Among these people, there may be one of them who is untouched by the wave of depression. To everyone else, he will be a phenomenon. People will

indulge in serious inquiries to know what it is all about. Most will put him down as foolish or insensitive to the dynamic situation. Others may be generous and classify his attitude accordingly. They may say “He is oblivious. That is why he is untouched. Ignorance is bliss. That way he is lucky.” What is it that keeps him cool?

Faith is described as the knowledge of the Soul. His soul knows he will get a job. **The reflection of that soul’s knowledge in his mind is Faith.** The presence of such a faith keeps him calm. He gets his job without any effort on his part. When such a faith is absent, **MAN** still seeks intensity. He begins to worry. His imagination supplies him all possible developments about his future. They are gloomy. It develops in all avenues of life. The imagination is fed non-stop. Frightening pictures arise before his mind’s eye. No consolation will have any effect on such a person. The inner life is intense! He gets what he sought for. Life is fulfilled after a fashion. **The Truth is he was after intensity and he got it.**

Is there help for such a person? Most people will listen to good counsel. When they understand the above truth, gradually their mind will wean itself away from the whirlpool of worry. To those who seek their illusion with ardent obstinacy, there is less hope.

51. Falsehood Prospers

There are people who exclaim, “God is great. He has never left me unprotected. I cannot survive without such divine protection. At the time of inspection, 70% of my work was unfinished. I would have been undone if the inspecting officers had ever come my way. **The point is none of them came to my section.**” These people go scot-free and they gloat over it. There are others who leave 1% of their work half finished. Their experience is different. They say, “I don’t know what it is. Any inspecting authority never fails to visit my section. He goes straight to the file left unfinished, and every time I am the inescapable victim. It is my fate.”

Life is neutral. It progresses through good as well as evil, says Sri Aurobindo. A common saying is that when quarrels end, justice emerges. Good is a shining part, but it is a part. Life is bigger than good or evil. Life is a whole. It needs good as well as evil for it to be complete. If water supply is essential, the sewage system

is equally essential. One completes the other. We like the good part, not the bad one. Life will not be complete in the absence of evil or falsehood. That is the character of human life. When it is complete, it ceases to be human life. It becomes higher life. The fine play that is performed on stage is made possible by the green room that is clumsy and disorderly behind, which cannot be exhibited.

The progress of an honest man lies in his honest work being perfect. That is why life picks at his imperfections. If a false man prospers, he prospers **in falsehood at its level**. Such false people are often enormously successful at a low level of life, such as a vakil’s clerk, a lorry broker, etc. His own compeers who have shunned falsehood rise high in life, inconceivable to the low successful man. V. P. Menon, the architect of united India, the right hand man of Sardar Patel, was known as a ‘fourth form graduate’. Lord Mounbatten said of him, “Menon has never misled me.” He was virtually on the streets and started his life with Rs. 15 lent by a generous unknown man. Such is the progress that is in store for **TRUTH**. He is meant to progress in truth. If one’s being still needs the experience of falsehood, **falsehood protects him from being caught**. It is a matter of choice. India is passing through a phase where **FALSEHOOD** rules. Her leaders are keeping India at the 134th level in the scale of national prosperity.

52. Choice Helps to Invoke the Spirit

The Spirit that I want people to evoke is not the Soul, the witness Purusha, aimed at by the yoga of knowledge. Sri Aurobindo calls it the Psychic Being, the evolving soul. Tradition conceived of the Spirit as immutable, unchanging, having no origin of birth or end of death. That was what the Rishis spoke of and attained. More or less, it is like a king. He rules and all the others obey. After him, the throne goes to his son. **The TRUTH is neither the throne nor the Spirit is inherited. It has to be won.** A doctor's son must qualify himself to be a doctor. He cannot inherit it from his father.

In a democracy, there is no king, but an elected president. Everyone has the right to become the president. The king is like the witness Purusha. The Psychic Being is like the voter who can evolve himself to become the president. Democracy gives him the right, the potential, **NOT** the post of the president. All those who have the

aspiration to evoke the evolving **SOUL** into their life can do so by making the right choices in daily life. You can be expansively pleasant to a child or put up a cold, silent formality. **It is a choice.** There is no act, however small it is, without such a choice. To evoke the Spirit all the time is yoga. To evoke the Spirit in particular acts is prayer, only that this prayer gives more than what you asked for. It gives what you have not prayed for and gives what you do not know as a possibility. Do it for one full day in all acts, or in all parts of an act that is a self-contained whole, in one isolated assignment, say in one sale or exam or purchase or job seeking. By insulating the effort in one act, what is otherwise formidable becomes possible.

There are deciding events which can decide your future. Either you get this job now or are relegated to the lower level. Either you win this case or are ruined. Such occasions are suited to invoking the Spirit. If you succeed, you survive. There are those who are beset with innumerable such events. The Spirit helps them to survive. **When they emerge successful, they do not merely survive, but soar high in the sky.** The key is the right choice maintained throughout the **SINGLE** act they have chosen.

53. The Power of the Press

Martin Luther's revolt against the Church and the priest was shaped into social power by the printing press. The Church until then prevented the laity from reading the Bible. **The newly emerging printing technology put hundreds of thousands of copies of the Bible in the hands of the population.** It was just a matter of time before the age-old Catholic Europe lost half of its population to Protestantism. It is a frequent phenomenon that behind major movements or revolutions there is a **JOURNAL**, a daily newspaper which has shaped the nation's opinion in its favour.

The daily newspaper, other periodicals, and TV have proliferated in recent times. They are not playing the role of newspapers during the Freedom Movement which fully carried the message of Freedom. **India needs her newspapers and other media to fully voice her developmental aspirations.** Newspapers give news; they do not reflect the aspirations of the population for abundant

prosperity. Actually what India needs just now more than this is a chain of **JOURNALS** – inspired men of wisdom who value the **SPIRITUAL** tradition of the land, not religious rituals. **India is full of wise men of vast experience in modern life.** They know full well that the **FUTURE IS NOT FOR RITUALS.** If rituals and ceremonies go, spirituality does not vanish, only its superstitious, dead part will vanish.

Spirit is invaluable. Modern life is not something one can escape whether one likes it or not. Original approaches are called for from ripe souls to find a spiritual message for the future generations. One has to think of modern life in terms of the ancient Spirit with the brilliance of a thousand suns. Life is not to be shunned. The Gita is the jewel of our treasured scriptures. **Its call is for the mature soul to quickly reach moksha.** It has no message for the enlightened collective. We need a message for mankind, rather humankind, as to how to live spiritually, not a message to shun life. People all over India are spiritual in their inner core. The hidden spirit struggles to emerge. Their experiences are educative to the whole of the nation. The Press is **POWER.** Journals from all corners of India should spring up giving a clarion call to the Spirit and reporting the responses of the Infinite Spirit in finite **MAN.**

54. Spiritual Transformation

Spiritual Transformation is a new concept in the field of spirituality, Eastern or Western. **The Spirit is to detach itself from life and seek its origin which is moksha.** The Upanishads had laid down that all in creation is Spirit and is of Spirit — *Sarvam Brahman*. But in practice, they shunned life and sought moksha.

Sri Aurobindo takes the vision of the Upanishads to its logical conclusion. Mind, life and body are made of Spirit according to the formula of the Upanishads. **So, Sri Aurobindo says we must not shun them but accept them – mind, life and body – and discover the Spirit they really are.** His thesis is Life is of Spirit, but the Spirit there is buried. If we encourage the hidden Spirit, it will come to the surface. That is what I call invoking the Spirit. The buried Spirit is the immutable Spirit, it does not change. But the life we live – our daily lives – is Spirit in disguise. Externally it is Force – Shakti –

but below the Force it is the Being or Spirit. Force is subject to limitation, to karma, not the Spirit below. Now it is up to us to encourage the Force or encourage the Spirit.

It is left to our choice. If you are an officer and a customer visits you, you have two options – 1) welcome him with a broad pleasant smile, offer him all help from his point of view, or 2) without looking at him, take a bureaucratic attitude, wait for him to talk and give brief no's as answers. In the first choice, your Spirit emerges on the surface, meets his own spiritual attitude, life expands, work flows and creates an atmosphere of harmony and progress. The second choice is a cold, stern, asserting, hard attitude of ego that prevents the Spirit in either of you from emerging. It also creates an attitude of human atmosphere that ensures that your spirit can never come out on the surface.

Every act, every moment contains these two options. To bring the Spirit to the surface of life all the time is to accept life in yoga. To do so in the Mind, Life and Body is Spiritual Transformation. It is a process by which the buried Spirit is activated to evolve as Mind, Life or Body. Such evolution is that of the Evolving Soul, the Psychic Being.

55. Yawning

Yawning is contagious. When one yawns, everyone in the room one after the other begins to yawn. **Spiritually all bodies are the same.** There is only one **BODY** of which we all feel as different points. When the oxygen level in the body is depleted beyond measure, suddenly the body realises the need for greater intake of oxygen. So, on instruction from the warning system, the body begins to take in large amounts of oxygen. This is yawning. It is a signal to go to bed. We obey happily.

For us this is a great moment if we want to experiment with the Spirit and its powers. Theoretically, the powers of the Spirit are infinite. The Infinite has the capacity to draw the infinite out of the finite. If that is true, a moment of yawning can be converted into a moment of overflowing energy. It all depends upon the person, as to invoke the Spirit the best moment is the moment of excess of energy. Well, this is a contradiction. **Our choosing**

to call the Spirit instead of going to sleep is a momentous decision. It is the point at which we shift from Mind to the Spirit.

It can have a minimum and a maximum expression. The tedium of yawning will go, yawning will stop. That is the minimum. The maximum is like the second wind in sports. There will be a gradual surge of energy from inside until it overpowers us. You will find yourself as energetic as in the morning or even it may be the most energetic hour of your life. In whatever measure it happens to you, you will have witnessed the touch of the Spirit. **The Spirit, when invoked, does not merely solve the problem on hand. As it is the evolving Spirit, it transforms the problem into an opportunity.**

When that happens, we know the Spirit is in action. Spirit as the tradition knows is one that is powerful and one that moves away from life. Commissioned into life by a Rishi, who is an adept in its ways, such a Spirit performs **ANY** miracle and then disappears, unless the Rishi again invokes in you. Here it is we, ordinary men, who invoke the Spirit. Our method is purity, purity from the Ego. It arises and transforms and awaits our call again. No intermediary is called for.

56. Problem Solving by the Spirit

Problems arise and many are solved. Some are not. They are solved by skill, experience, another's help, thoughtfulness, resourcefulness, money, diligence, status, power, prayer and a host of other methods known to the society and available to us. Solving the problem is important. We do not insist that we must solve it ourselves. When it is solved by one of the above means, our hearts hunger to have it solved by our own efforts. It is a good aspiration that develops Individuality. **To aspire to solve it by the invocation of the Spirit develops Spirituality.** Solve it we must. Let us do so by the benevolence of the Spirit. That way we grow in Spirit.

Each of the above methods employs its own strategy. Thoughtfulness thinks. Prayer concentrates. Status moves others. Invocation of the Spirit silently evokes. **Essentially the method of invoking the Spirit means, mind consents to refer the issue to the Spirit.**

It is the experience of most who have sometimes evoked the Spirit successfully that, when a problem arises, the Spirit never comes to the mind. They are unrelated to their inner Spirit. To remember the Spirit when a problem presents is progress for them.

The Spirit acts widely. Your target is fulfilled many times over. It is achieved pleasantly and effortlessly. **Absence of labour or effort is one characteristic of the Spirit.** When the Spirit is in action, a work of years comes to fruition in months, rarely even in days. Spirit moving into action, apart from acting swiftly, raises your status and achieves by the new status. It always accomplishes more than intended. Solving a problem through the Spirit has many extra advantages. **Seeking the Spirit for any of those advantages is NOT seeking it, but the advantages.**

When a work is completed by our own efforts, we should think that it is better to have it done by the Spirit. We can do so the next time or try to re-do the same work inwardly by referring the accomplished result to the Spirit. Solving the problem is essential. Solving the same by the Spirit is the best course open to us. **A problem suddenly transforms itself into an opportunity when the Spirit comes in.** One who faced a warrant tried to reach the Chief Minister to escape arrest. The CM liked him so much that they became fast friends.

57. Reaching the Higher Consciousness

There are those who often succeed in invoking the Spirit. Some succeed sometimes. Others always succeed. It is a good beginning. Those who always succeed in invoking the Spirit are fit candidates to reach the higher consciousness. **He who reaches the higher consciousness will not face problems of the type he has faced so far.** At the level of higher consciousness, what is a problem today will change into an opportunity. Can we reach it? Can we reach it permanently?

I would like to describe a method by which the higher consciousness can be reached and retained. It is laborious, though the results are rewarding. It is best reached by our aspiration, an aspiration in silence – an aspiration of our deepest existence. It is bhakti. In its absence, a method will serve the purpose. We have more than one problem at a time or problems present themselves in succession. We solve each of them in succession by the

invocation of the Spirit. It means we are capable of invoking the Spirit to solve one problem at a time. Let us say it is a problem of a loan overdue for long. Invocation helps us pay the loan and get rid of the problem. **The swabhava that created the problem remains.** It may again raise a similar loan. Or, it can rear its head through another issue.

That is a swabhava of absence of self-restraint. We need money. Someone can lend it. We take it and spend it with no thought of how to repay it. This is absence of forethought. It is impatience, **a desire to accomplish more than what we can.** We do not conceive its presence as one of a problem. We let it be there. To reach the higher consciousness permanently, one must consider the defective swabhava as a problem and try to get rid of it. **Getting rid of it means not allowing any external problem that can arise out of its components.** Invocation of Spirit to remove that requires greater concentration, in fact, greater self-awareness. Awareness is higher consciousness; unawareness is low consciousness. Because the swabhava is ever-present, the awareness must also be constant. **Constant awareness of our low consciousness generating constant aspiration for the Divine leads to higher consciousness permanently.**

58. The Greatness of the Birthday for the Great

Birth is the great mystery of life, said Sri Aurobindo. Having said that, He explained the process of birth that leads to death spiritually in three chapters in *The Life Divine*. The chosen few gravitate to the Master and live sheltered under His spiritual aura. Some are favoured with the vision of their Soul in their own dreams. Others are dreamt about by other people which news reaches them in time. People who meet them find them exuding the Spirit. **It is all a gentle call from beyond from the Beloved.**

To know what one is inwardly is a thrilling experience. It is real at that time. Life has other aspects such as office life where friends offer delightful company. The kitchen and its chores are so satisfying to the physical experience that one sometimes seeks it. The rare experience in the dream recedes to the background and is forgotten.

Birthday is a great social occasion to which all children look forward. Even adults feel a mild pleasure when meaningless people repeat the hackneyed phrase 'Happy birthday to you'. However inconsequential they are, however lifeless those words are, something in us is satisfied. **That is the force of tradition.**

Those who are so endowed are called the great of the **SOUL**. They wait for life to overcome them or the hidden soul to burst forth. It so happens to one in a thousand. One has to take individual effort and exhaust it. Had Buddha awaited his illumination, he would have ruled all India and beyond. That was one of the alternatives the astrologers saw at the time of his birth. There is another phenomenon as happened to Swami Vivekananda and a few others. **Someone sees the endowment of this fortunate soul and is determined to bring it out at all costs.**

Very rarely such spiritual benevolence is received without a frown or at least occasional annoyance. Whatever the endowment, whatever the process, its ultimate consummation is said to be in the hands of God, the Supreme. **The Mother says it is in the hands of the person who is so fortunate. In fact, it lies in his CHOICE, not one major choice, but in every choice he ever makes.**

59. Positive and Negative

Positive events are welcome; negative developments are unwelcome. The definition of positive or negative can vary according to one's level of inner as well as outer development. To secure a seat by recommendation may be welcome to many. To the sensitive, it may be offensive that someone should recommend his case. **Bribe as income, though welcomed in certain houses, is negative in cultured homes.** Generally **GOOD** is positive; what is not good is negative. My topic is conversion of the negative into the positive.

A man abuses you. It is negative. How can I change his abuse into praise or at least no abuse. **The higher entering the lower changes the negative into the positive.** The higher can be a person, a consciousness, an attitude, or an understanding. A policeman calling on you to announce that you are required by his officer is an unwelcome development. On learning that that officer

appreciates your service in your factory area, the negative event changes into a positive one. Here it is the information. An MLA's driver in his growing self-importance quarrelled with a VIP and beat him. The VIP was a classmate of the then sitting cabinet Minister. The MLA belonged to the party of the Minister. Compromise efforts landed coveted contracts in the lap of the victim.

There are phenomena that need no explanation. Anxiety, worry, sadness, depression are negative. Spirit can remove them by its force. I consider another possibility here—**whether they can be transformed into their opposites of security, cheerfulness, joy, delight.** Anxiety is reinforced by our constant dwelling on it. Our energy and attention makes anxiety grow. That being the fact, how can we transform it or get rid of it? In the very depths of our being, one must be sure that by some perverse motivation one does not draw subtle pleasure from these negative emotions. In its absence, one can change it.

Before going to sleep, refer your anxiety to Mother in great detail. Mother entering anxiety changes the character of anxiety. Even the reference will lighten the heart. Pray for its transformation. If you continue to do so, one morning it will present itself as the First Waking Thought. From that day, it will disappear.

60. Building up India

Every country built up its industries in the 19th and 20th centuries. India was a subject nation suffering from cancer. Now, fifty years after Independence, the problem still remains. Why, are Indians incapable? Is it an impossible task? How many African countries do not enjoy an income of \$3000 or above per capita? Why not India? Is it because of her vast population? If so, China is far ahead of us even under the communist regime. **My answer will be essentially, we Indians are not aware of our economic and social potentials.** I am not considering the spiritual potentials.

Of course, there are many people who think, ‘Unless billions come from USA, it is not possible for India to rise’. This may be real in their minds. But there is no substance here. Has any country built up another country? Why then, do some expect something so non-existent? **People who think like that must realise that if India is to be built up, it must be by the Indians.** This is

not only true of India, but it is the ONLY truth about nation building. Britain was here for two hundred years, and built railways, factories, roads, etc. All was for their profit. How can we expect Britain to work for Indian benefit? Free nations during the same period grew in prosperity, by their own toil.

This is not a topic for my column of 400 words. Planners should look at it from fifteen to twenty points of view and see the possibility or desirability. I can say two things with certainty before I list my points of view: **1. India can become as prosperous as Middle Income countries in a decade or two; 2. It has to be done only by Indians and Indian resources.** All the money for any ambitious project is here inside the country. Maybe India need not pass through agriculture prosperity in the same measure as others, but she can straightaway enter prosperity through the service sector. We need to be clear in our own minds about charity from outside. It will not work at all. It has not worked anywhere. We can borrow technology, organisation, expertise, and invite capital, not AID. **Aid has not aided any nation. If anything, it has done greater harm than good.** India should elect a leadership that will serve the country without concentrating on their own personal welfare. I wish the nation opens up a public debate on this.

61. The Politician and the Administrator

Expert knowledge is exceedingly admirable. One can look at a cycle and say that in that company in the chain section there is no discipline, they are not buying the best quality aluminum. When an expert in the field analyses a company, he will know more than those in the company about the company. An auditor came to a hospital that won an award for family planning operations and showed that it was a false claim. They claimed credit for 1700 operations but had purchased anesthesia only for 200 operations. They come to your village, dig the soil up to 100 feet and tell you the rainfall for the past hundred years. **The knowledge of the expert is formidable.** Still, it is not a knowledge that can achieve in the future.

Where one has to build a house, conduct a surgical operation, decide on the aptitude of a boy, the expert possesses the ultimate knowledge. A genius escapes his analysis. Potential leadership in a man will not reveal to him. When a country is facing an unknown situation,

as in 1947 in Kashmir, the expert fails. His own expertise utterly fails in fresh political situations. Mountbatten advised Nehru to go to the UN about Kashmir. For fifty years, it hangs fire. In dealing with the ten million uprooted refugees when Patel and Nehru were nonplussed, Lord Mountbatten solved the problem in a trice. Such is the power of expertise and its limitation.

The plan to build an overbridge near RBI building in Madras was defying a solution for years, as rules stood in the way. When he was the Chief Minister, Kamaraj called all the officials and the Railway Minister. The discussion came to a deadlock as before. The Minister stood up to leave the meeting. Kamaraj said, "Please sit down. We are politicians serving the people, not administrators serving the Government. **We are here to accomplish what the IAS officers are not able to accomplish.** Let us discover a way out." A way out was found and the bridge was built. The knowledge of the expert, however brilliant, is the knowledge of the past. It is also the knowledge of a part. The expert has no knowledge of the Future or the Whole. **The politician belongs to the future. Therefore, he rules the expert.** Mind, with all its brilliance, is of the past and of the part. The Spirit belongs to the Future. Its knowledge is of the **WHOLE.**

62. Goodwill Towards the Spirit

Man acts from his feelings – the vital. He can act from the Mind, but except when he has to think on purely mental ideas like geometry, he acts from the feelings of the Mind itself. **Mother says Perfection and imperfection are coexistent. The moment we see Perfection fully, the imperfection disappears.** She says the same thing about Truth and Falsehood. Mother says the atmosphere of the earth has changed. The atmosphere of the earth is Nature for us. Life that includes animals and plants is part of Nature. We are part of society, which is organized humanity.

Before the war, life was difficult. One could not survive. Except for those who got a job in the government, others' survival was a big question. To survive was like pulling teeth. **Life acted as if it enjoyed thwarting our efforts.** That was why they called life evil. The call was given to give up life. Mother says that life has now changed.

For a small GOOD act, life gives you a very big award. It is a radical change in life. We now see it in the lives of so many people. They rise meteorically. She also says for a small slip, one crashes down.

For a Tamil conference in Pondicherry in 1974 some eminent Tamil scholars came. Those were the days when scholarship in Tamil was rewarded with eminence in the field of Tamil, not with material rewards. They were invited to a spiritual centre. One scholar was a master in his own field, but had no academic degree. The other had a Ph.D. in Tamil and was a professor in a newly started college. At the Centre they were introduced to a former student of that college who had not been a Tamil student. The professor strained to see whether he could remotely recognize that student, though he had studied 24 years earlier. As the student was well known during his college days, the professor showed signs of recognition and pleasure at recognition. **It was a pleasant act of goodwill towards one in Spirit.** A little later, the Tamil professor was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of a recently founded university, a rare recognition to Tamil scholarship in those days. To the student who had evoked the GOODWILL in the professor, it was a confirmation of Mother's statement: "A small, good act brings a great good reward."

63. Overriding Personality

An astrologer was amusing himself at a hotel table with his predictions. He said to the server, “Your hand is lucky.” The humble server carried a greater wisdom than the astrologer attributed to him. He said, “Sir, what does luck mean to a man like me? Maybe I would get four idlis instead of the present two idlis.”

When India became free, it was NOT only those who worked hard for freedom that entered the Ministry, but it was Mathai, a Tata executive, R.K. Shunmugham Chetty, a toady of the British government. **It is not only desert that meets with the reward, but one’s own Personality.** Ordinarily, we expect talents to be rewarded. We appreciate skills, we honour capacity, we adore talents. But when the hour of reward arises, the **reward comes not in proportion to our abilities or talents, but according to our status and Personality.** There is all round

disappointment. This is so when your talents are to be recognized by others.

What about people working in their own company? Rewards come from the market, not anyone. **Intelligence, memory, hard work, skill, capacity, knowledge, etc. however great they really are, are partial endowments.** Partial capacities can only contribute, not accomplish by themselves. Responsibility, seriousness, patience, strength of character, and incapacity to react, i.e. equality, go to make up the Personality. **Generally, Personality goes with status, high birth or something outstanding in one.** Even if LUCK descends on one, luck redefines itself in the shape of the hotel server’s Personality as four idlis. The same luck in the horoscope of a mill owner’s son may confer on him a Ministership.

God gives Grace as Luck, Personality prunes it to its own size. Can one raise his Personality? Skills, capacities, memory, talents, abilities acquired will contribute to the accomplishment of the Personality. **But values such as honesty, punctuality, kindness, integrity, etc. will directly raise the level of one’s Personality.** Values are spiritual skills. Invoking the Spirit, living by the standards set by the Spirit – a life of values – will strengthen one’s Personality.

64. Home is a Centre of Personality

The Mother says, “Perfection and imperfection co-exist. If you can see perfection fully in all its details, imperfection disappears.” A boss who was continuously receiving abusive, anonymous letters from an employee was furious in a staff meeting. With supreme self-control he began the proceedings, avoiding the sight of that abominable man. That man rose from his seat with a garland in his hand, made for the dais and garlanded the boss. **The boss stood up, was moved, received the garland with eyes full of tears, and stammered out, “Now the brother has done it.”** Anger vanished, and was transformed into overwhelming joy. This is an extreme case of hypocrisy on the part of the employee and emotional susceptibility on the part of the boss. But the rule holds good – **imperfection disappears.**

Most of us have witnessed such a dramatic turn of events sometime, but we do not ponder over it as an

expression of a rule. It never occurs to us that here is hidden the **Supreme Secret of our deepest joy at home.** The event above came about by the emotion of the moment overcoming the memory of the irritation caused by a nasty, mean, treacherous person. **What I am suggesting is, we are capable of mentally overcoming the causes of daily frustrations.** We do not take the effort to overcome our despair by the sober knowledge of the MIND. We indulge in our frustrations and grow morally indignant, “How can I be slighted in my own house? Is she a woman? Are they children? Do they behave like children? Have I not sacrificed my all for these very ungrateful people?”

You may be entirely right or entirely wrong. But it has not yielded joy. Try to see only the good side of others. **Discipline yourself to see ONLY the good side of all the others, how much they inwardly endeavour to please you, to accommodate with your temperament, to rise to the great occasion of your idiosyncrasies, your extraordinarily inflated EGO, your inordinate ambition, your impossible temperament, etc.** That will unleash the deeper GOOD side of yours which is all full of emotional appreciation for everyone, the GOOD ANGEL in you. It is worth trying at least once. If you ever succeed, don't be lost in your innate, inherent goodness! Try to learn the LAW there.

65. Tenfold Expansion in Ten Years

The Spirit is GREAT. But the spirit in life is invisible. It is also **invincible**. India is a land of spirituality. The SPIRIT is there everywhere, pervading all aspects of life. We do not see it with our naked eyes. A link, a live link between the deep-seated spirit down below and the realities of work at the office, kitchen, factory and field must be found. Our culture has supplied us with copious details of it. Even the smuggler takes his taxi of wares to the temple and prays for protection from the police. Who does not believe in GOD when the crisis crops up in his life?

The reality is India is poor. How can a spiritual nation be poor? It is a contradiction in terms. Can you be a millionaire and starve? It is much more impossible for a spiritual person to be poor. In the eighties some of us tried to apply Spirit to business and made out a logical version of it. Peter Drucker saw it and commended it as a piece of wisdom. We were looking for our first trial, a trial of strength with Life and its harsh realities. A certain

businessman was awarded the title “Businessman of the Year”. We knew this recognition makes everyone expect high standards from him. There begins his trouble. He agreed for us to experiment our ideas in his company and added, “Forty new entrants are licensed this year in my field, some of them international giants. I do not know whether I will be around next year.” **Just then, we could NOT tell him it was a rare opportunity that would raise him sky high.**

We translated Spirituality into values of the work place: exhausting our potential, paying the greatest attention, using the available technologies to exhaustion, avoiding and eliminating unavoidable waste by appropriate systems, saving every minute of Time that could be saved, etc. Based on this, we wrote 122 recommendations that are intelligible to hard businessmen, practical managers, exhausted supervisors and intransigent labour. The company’s profits doubled that year. It continued to grow in size and profits. At the end of ten years, the company was ten times in size, making tenfold profits. What the company did or did not do, we do not know. **With forty new entrants, the market expanded ten-fold and every one of the forty entrants grew in size.** Competition is a spur to growth. No one likes to develop the competitor, but the market does when she wants to shower super grace on you in spite of yourself.

66. Back Pain

Pain hurts. In sensitive parts, it hurts more. Pain that prevents movement makes life impossible, a hell. A foreigner, who was speaking at length about how back pain is universally present in his country, suddenly asked if it is not so common here in India. It made him think and thinking made him observe. **He saw women everywhere sitting on the floor and doing the work with no support to the back.** In his country, no one sits on the floor. Everyone sits on a chair, the back resting on the back of the chair. Sitting on the floor without support to the back strengthens the back and that is why so few people in India suffer back pain. This idea dawned on him. It was a revelation to him.

Walter was an American. He was 65 when he came to India to see his son who was in the Ashram. He refused to see the Mother, as he felt it was the Mother who had taken away his son from him. During his next visit, he relented and had the darshan of the Mother. It was a

rare experience for him. His heart was filled to overflowing. When he came here again, Mother was no longer alive. He enjoyed his stay with his son. Twenty years earlier, he had severely injured his spine, causing him howling pain. After six months in bed, the intense pain subsided but he had to permanently wear girdle with steel plates around his waist to support his back and keep him free of pain.

During this third visit to Pondicherry, Walter had a dream that he received a rare gift from someone. At 10 am the next day, an elderly Ashramite came to him, and presented him a silver symbol, saying Mother used to wear it. Walter was moved, but the symbol had no meaning for him. He gave it to his son. A few days later, the son noticed the girdle on his father's bed. Walter was not wearing it. Only then did Walter remember that he had not used the belt for a few days. Previously, he could never part with it even for an hour. But after his dream, **he never resorted to the belt again. His excruciating back pain dissolved and disappeared with that dream.** The pain that did not leave him by the DARSHAN of the Mother, which had not mitigated when the Mother held both of his hands, left him when he dreamt of the SYMBOL. He never cared for the symbol. He never kept it with him. Still, the symbol in the dream cured him forever.

67. What is Left Unsaid

Children do not do what we say. **They do what we do.** If we are negotiating to buy a house and the seller, disagreeing on price and terms, categorically says, “Then let us drop the bargain”, we do not accept his words. We study his voice, looks, tone, facial features and feel he might finally come around and he does. **What is left unsaid carries a power that the spoken word lacks.** When you want to correct your refractory child or perverse employee, you may shout at them, or advise them on the need to correct. It may not work. You can point out the ill effects of the course he has chosen and then stop without actually saying the words, “correct yourself.” It will have a better effect than asking him to rectify himself.

What is directly spoken raises a resistance in the mind. The mind decides NOT to do it, irrespective of the words that issue out of the mouth. An idea not directly spoken has a greater chance of being acted upon. One can take a further step. When it strikes you that you should insist

on your employee finishing the allotted work on time, if you refrain from expressing it, there is a greater chance of his attending to it. **Life is unpredictable, sometimes generous, and at other times perverse.** Maybe life reflects what we are. When we insist, life will insist; our obstinacy is met with the obstinacy of life. That way life is far more resourceful than we are. If you can bring yourself NOT to think of the arrears of your clerk, you will certainly see that the work is completed on time, uncharacteristically.

A devotee liked his elder brother and spent a good bit of time usefully with him. The elder brother too liked the younger, but often it was to oblige the younger that he visited him. They met five or six times a week while the younger would have liked to visit five or six times a day. The younger was ardent, the elder was polite. Some two or three days of break emerged in their meeting. The younger was pining, the elder was unaware of it. **The younger could not know that his insistence would postpone the meeting.** On the third day, the younger kept his morning free of engagements so that the elder’s visit would not be interfered with. There was no sign of the elder brother or any message of his coming. The younger brother asked another person to find out what had happened. The reply came that he was busy for the next several days! Had he trained his MIND not to expect, the elder brother would have been anxious to see the younger brother every day.

68. Product of Prosperity

Men fall into two groups. One leads and the other follows. Those who lead are a handful, others are the large majority. The former discover new ways of life and set the standard. The latter follow. The leaders understand ideas, methods and processes. The majority that follow fail to understand ideas or anything that is invisible. They need something tangible and concrete. The follower can relate to material products and work to achieve them. The leaders of a community who have discovered the secrets of life cannot communicate to the masses their knowledge.

It is generally understood that man is powerfully motivated to work for money. It is true in a traditional set up. Not so in a fresh situation. Public workers in a rural development project failed to evoke the enthusiasm of the population for their schemes. The scheme was to convert dry lands into irrigated lands. The public workers

successfully persuaded a bank to advance money for the farmers to dig borewells. It was a wonder in those days of pre-nationalization of banks. No farmer came forward to avail of the loan. It was thought an example may trigger the movement. So they chose a poor farmer and helped him to dig a well. The farmer's success in well digging made him earn Rs. 23,000 in the first year.

This evoked jealousy, not imitation. In a year the poor farmer's status rose and he mediated settlement of a dispute between two VIPs of the village. The very next day, the whole village agreed to avail of the loans. **Man responds more readily to the motivation of prestige than money** was the lesson for the public workers. In the early 1900s Henry Ford desired every worker to own a car when car was a status symbol. His new production methods could bring down the price of the car so much that workers started buying cars for themselves. Car is a product. Man, especially physical man, can relate to a car. To him, car represents status. He understands that he attains social status when he buys a car. He works hard to buy a car and buys one. He would work hard to buy a car and thus become prosperous but he would not work hard to become prosperous in the absence of the car. **Car, for the common man, is a Product of Prosperity.**

69. Marriage is Essential

Biologically, almost everyone needs marriage. For the woman, the birth of a child is more important than wedding or marriage or even the husband. **Man is fulfilled in his children, but he seeks his fulfillment in the wife. Man longs for the approval of his wife. To him there is nothing more valuable than the adoration of his wife.** Apart from the above biological, psychological truths, marriage has become a minimum necessity for social survival. The married man enjoys in the society a status which is not accorded to the one who remains unmarried. A bachelor at the age of 40 may not find it easy to get a room for rent. Unmarried women are rare. Society disregards them. Everyone hastens to marry as soon as education is over.

Nothing compels parents to earn and save as the wedding of their children. **Whether they will have the same**

motivation to acquire higher levels of prosperity is a question. As soon as the last child of the family is married off, we witness the parents level off in their efforts to seek fresh opportunities. Marriage is a greater spur to earning than the goal of wealth or money. In the West, boys or girls are expected to find their own partners and marry. In most cases, the parents receive the information. Here in India, the whole responsibility of finding the boy or girl as well as the funds needed is on the parents. As soon as the marriage is over, the parents, as well as children, give up further efforts to earn.

Achievement is a goal in the West, not so much in India. To own lands was a grand achievement in the villages before the war. It still remains one of the aims. Do Indian youth have such a goal? If one is there, it is not fully defined. As land was a goal in rural India, and marriage is a duty to people, I wish **high Prosperity should be placed before the youth as an indispensable GOAL.** If there is a *product* which is prohibitively expensive and that becomes essential in the eyes of the society just as marriage is today, everyone will gravitate towards it. It will make India rich, wealthy and prosperous.

70. Prestige and Prosperity

The physical man exerts himself most for survival. When survival is assured, he seeks a new goal. He loves to join the group and does not like to be left out. **People who are so left out become lonely and develop inferiority complex.** When admitted into a group, one expects to be well treated. Ill-treatment again becomes a problem. Not to be ill-treated and to be treated well is to preserve one's prestige. **Whatever the group — family, office, friends, club, or political party, one endeavours his utmost to preserve his prestige at all costs.**

Whether it is a high placed person or low placed person, his whole functioning will be guided from the salient point of guarding his hard won prestige. Everyone jealously guards his prestige. **The higher motivation issues from prestige, not money or any other material gain.** Man who values prestige so highly also knows prestige comes

by one's own accomplishment. One who quickly rises in his job acquires wealth, succeeds where others fail, in short, achieves, adds to his prestige. All this needs industry, organisation, good manners, knowledge of others and a hundred other things. Prestige is the end result.

If one really values prestige, he should first of all become Prosperous. There is an age-old belief which the whole population subconsciously cherishes. It is, "Desire for wealth is despicable". The conflict between the subconscious belief and the conscious need ends in an untenable position. **The mind longs for social status – prestige. Deep-seated subconscious tradition frowns on seeking money.** Even capable persons become ineffective because of this inner conflict, whether fully recognised or not. Mental resolution of the conflict releases all our energies for action as well as higher achievement. Often we are unaware of the existence of such a conflict. **To work for one's own prosperity is a patriotic endeavour as the nation needs to take care of one less.** One's own prosperous endeavour directly helps others in two ways. First, it gives employment; second, it is an example for others to follow.

71. Wealth Lies in Self-Employment

It was the sannyasi who discovered God, not the householder. The three stages of domestic life prepared one for sannyasa. **One who gives up the family life discovers the riches of the Spirit, not one who enjoys the security of domestic joys.** Wealth lies in self-employment, not in salaried jobs. All the talents of India have gravitated to the security of salaried jobs in the government where the present as well as the future is secure. Security banishes the accomplishment of the entrepreneur, the self-employed adventurer. The majority of people who have started an industry on their own have become bankrupt because they are driven by ambition and are not endowed with the capacities for organisation.

India has extraordinary talents. But talent is timid. Prosperity involves risk. Our people are security conscious. They avoid risk. Adventure is of the Spirit. Security is physical. Bodily labour and physical skill

receive the least reward. The higher rewards are reserved for the Spirit. *Is it possible to combine the advantages of the Spirit and the higher rewards of life?* For that one must move to the evolving soul in life, the Psychic Being. The higher values of the Spirit, viz. Truthfulness, Honesty, etc. expressed in daily life avoid the risks of venture and offer unfailing success. That way, self-employment removes failure and offers secure wealth. Looking around, one sees corruption everywhere. No small work can be accomplished without corrupt practices. *How can anyone think of being utterly true?*

Great wealth is SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY when it is pure. This is apparently a contradiction in terms. Ordinarily, wealth is acquired, like political power, by dubious methods. Pure wealth is an oxymoron, an inherent contradiction in conception. **Moving to the Spirit and relying on Mother removes the contradiction.** If you decide not to lie, Mother says, you will not be given the occasion to lie. When you resort to lying, seeking refuge in Falsehood, Mother cannot help you or bless you with infinite accomplishment which is endless Prosperity. **Great results demand Great Disciplines. Man's part is utter truthfulness.**

72. Incentives to National Prosperity

Housing, high cost of education, and consumer durables available through hire-purchase add a great weight or pressure on the middle class population to earn more. But their salaried jobs offer little scope to expand their income. In all rich countries, the salaried job is looked down upon. The government job is the least attractive there. Only those who cannot venture take a job. **In the West the nation as a whole respects the entrepreneur.** In India it is the reverse. Only those who cannot secure a government job open a shop. The situation has slowly begun to change.

Apart from the long subjugation, there is a deeper religious reason. The Vedas have two parts, one of rituals and the other of knowledge. Those who had followed the knowledge part ended as the Vedantic Rishis. That tradition is kept up by the sannyasis. Those who had taken to rituals became purohits who remained in domestic

life which offered security. *The Rishi is one who expresses great courage.* His counterpart in domestic life is one who seeks self-employment on his own. Seeking security breeds timidity. Timidity seeks refuge in respectability and resorts to respectable lies. The high intelligence of the Mind is used to preserve the great respectability of the householder. During the past seven or eight centuries of foreign domination, the Indian householder has largely lost his initiative for venture.

Prosperity is the result of industry. Industry involves risk. It is full of risks. **Every time one moves, he must risk everything.** The self-employed man faces that all the time. Victory is for the BRAVE, not for the TIMID who relies on rituals. The question is, 'Do timid people have any scope?' Yes, if they come forward to convert their timidity into courage and bravery. The formula is as follows: timidity + Truth = Courage. The Spirit is Truth. Let the timid person decide to be utterly truthful and call in the Spirit to achieve his aim, and *he will witness the process of timidity being transformed into boldness.* The Mother is the Spirit in life. She converts life into Life. It is for us to avail of Her GRACE.

73. Education is an Instrument of Prosperity

When India became free, Nehru was looking for a programme that would usher India into prosperity. Lenin devised soviets at the rural level and said electricity and soviets would together bring communism to Russia. Every new technology closes the gap between the high and the low to some extent. Education is an institution that does so in a great measure. *When a new opportunity arises, not all sections of the population take equal advantage of it. The more organised, the more cultured get more out of the NEW.*

It may be a practical truth that at no time will all members of the society be exactly equal. As days advance, we also see the rich and the poor are less and less apart. Awareness, awakening, new laws, new institutions and more so new technologies help the less privileged rise in the scale of national prosperity. Recently housing and education of better quality have been the right incentives

to the people to aspire to rise. **Education abridges centuries into years.** Suppose there is no education. For a youth to acquire what the society has acquired over 2000 years, it may take fifty or sixty years or more. Education is a divine organisation. It takes the past knowledge, extracts its essence discarding the superficial details, arranges it into a curriculum and syllabus and offers it to the pupil in an easily digestible form. As a result, the student in twenty years gets the social wisdom of 2000 years.

The more educated a country or a community is, the more prosperous it is. Now that the mind of the society is awake, educational methods advance by leaps and bounds. The better the quality of education, the greater is its effect. Education can be spiritual, in the sense that the Spirit of the pupil awakens. There is the Spirit in the teacher. The system of education itself has its own inner Spirit. The nation, the community, the parents and the student have their own Spirit. When any one of them is awakened, the progress is significant. **A national spiritual atmosphere comes into existence when all segments or most of them awaken.** In such a climate, poverty recedes and Prosperity flourishes. Experienced educationists are in the privileged position to devise a system of education which can almost close the gap between the high and the low. It will be a golden age.

74. Levels of the Spirit Emerging in Man

Saints, sages, realised souls, vibhutis, and even Avatars are not recognised in their immediate environment. Usually they are recognised after their lives. **Persecution is the rule, recognition is the exception.** Most of the saints who were exceedingly popular during their lives are easily forgotten by posterity because their popularity was due to their personality and not due to their spirituality. How can we evaluate the spiritual worth of a person? There are two ways. One is to know them by what they are. The other is to know how they impact on our own human lives.

Avatars, vibhutis, minor emanations, geniuses, heroes, leaders seem to be the order. Avatars are known to be messiahs who come down from heaven to deliver a message of God to men. They are charged with a mission by the

Godhead. Buddha, Krishna, Rama, and Jesus are called avatars. Avatars can be major or minor ones. A single aspect of a godhead entering a human soul makes him a vibhuti. They appear on earth once in a few centuries. They bring about a revolution in the ways of human life impacting minds or lives. Shankara, Shivaji, Caesar, Alexander and Napoleon have been described as vibhutis or God's emanations. Napoleon said that a man like him appeared once in three or four hundred years. He came to consolidate the gains of the French Revolution and offered the rule of law to the whole of Europe. The legal as well as administrative system of all the European nations today is what Napoleon originally devised. Even here, it is customary to speak of major and minor vibhutis or emanations.

Man becomes a genius when the SPIRIT touches his mind. Mind has objective knowledge, i.e. the knowledge of what it sees outside. **The higher, wider, completer knowledge belongs to the Spirit. It dwells inside.** Man goes inside and touches the Spirit. It comes out of his mind. In the mind, the Spirit emerges as genius. Spirit emerging through the vital – the nerves – makes MAN a Caesar or Shivaji. The Spirit emerging through the vehicle of the body renders man the Son of God.

75. The Many Ways in which the Spirit Comes to Us

When a jewel is lost, one goes to a clairvoyant who takes a betel leaf and smears a black paste on it. On that he sees the thief and describes him. He can say whether the jewel will be restored or not. **This is subtle vision.** Subtle vision is subtle, not necessarily spiritual. All spiritual visions are necessarily subtle. People seek a saint for the redressal of their grievances. **As a rule, saints bless people and most of their problems, except karmic ones, are solved.** The clairvoyant whose vision extends into the past as well as the future does not have the capacity to relieve people of their problems. That is a greater power of the Spirit.

Saints initiate their disciples into spiritual seeking. This is a higher order of power which has its own limitations. They may not come forward to initiate shishyas whose seeking is for a higher quest. A man sits on the

Himalayas and dreams of Freedom for mankind and a revolution is started in France, said Sri Aurobindo. Of course, he is greater than a saint or sage. *He is one who guides the course of the world energies.* Once, during a conversation, Mother entered into meditation for some time. On coming out of it, She said She had gone into the future a thousand years hence to see the Force of Sri Aurobindo acting in the world then. **Avatars bring down Forces that change the course of mankind.**

We very much desire to know how great the Master is at whose feet we long to live for the rest of our lives. It is not a commendable thought that wishes to evaluate a guru, especially after initiation. There are times when one is anxious to decide one way or another. People generally evaluate the Master by the complexity of their problems solved by his Touch. *Subconsciously, an evaluation is going on as to how prosperous he is, if he is a householder.* The loftiness of the ideas, the effectivity of the Master's personality on one's own problems, the Master's impact on the wider population are all right measures of the spiritual height of the Master. **For purely spiritual purposes, the right Master is one to whom one is taken and in whose Presence one is unable to think, as it is a spiritual communion.**

76. The Reward of Loyalty

In the sixties a worker joined a team of people collecting manure. He was paid one rupee a day. He was young, full of energy, resourceful in work. *Soon he became the leader of the group.* Agriculture work offers no scope for labourers on daily wage. He was posted as a watchman on the same salary. Communities are known for different attitudes. Families of blacksmiths will be extremely skillful. So are the carpenters to a lesser degree. Certain communities among the working class have distinguished themselves for utter loyalty to the master. Other communities are there where loyalty is of no value. Some other communities set store by pilfering. Perhaps each has its own swabhava.

Luck gravitates to a man who denies himself the privilege of the defects of his family or caste. Great luck is in store for one who exhibits the attitudes of a higher community. This watchman was actuated by

a sense of loyalty, a value not espoused by his family. That was his value. That VALUE in him began to translate itself into Prosperity in his life. Loyalty in him was so great that all other defects, errors, and crimes were overcome by this value. He was a leader of men. About forty to fifty people were happy to carry out his behest.

Circumstances changed. His master left the town; he sought other avenues. As he left the town, one of his closest friends, an elderly politician desired to take back the house he had sold to the Master of the watchman. Out of friendship, no document had been made or receipt written. The buyer of the house, out of sheer good manners, had trusted the politician. The politician now had other ideas and wanted the house back as if he had simply rented it. The politician approached this watchman and asked him to use his band of men to vacate the house so that he could take it over. As the watchman had left his Master some years before and was from a community not known for its loyalty, the politician counted on this watchman's help. **The loyalty in the watchman reared its head. He not only refused to do the bidding of the politician, but warned him against vacating his former master's house.** Years later, news came that that watchman had prospered and is now wealthy, owning a Maruti van.

77. The Different Aspects of Spiritual Power

Spirit is Power. It has more power than Mind or Body. We call the power of Spirit miraculous. *As long as we are not in the plane of the Spirit, its power looks like a miracle to us.* In its own plane, the character of being miraculous disappears. Miracle is the observation of events in one plane of the play of forces from another plane. For one who has not heard of a camera or seen a photograph, photography is a miracle. It is not so to us who know what it is and how it works.

In society we know members at its top wield far greater power than those at the bottom. Members of royalty, clergy, political leadership, aristocracy, etc. have thus enjoyed such social power. **Rishis, swamis, and sannyasis have enjoyed significant social power at all times.** Those who successfully invoke the Spirit will come under that aura of spiritual power. The members of society

around them will perceive such a power positively as well as negatively but its impression is not lasting. In a fruit shop to which one who invoked the Spirit often went, the shop owner used to offer him a seat inside and attend on other customers for a long while. Seeing the impatience of the devotee, the fruit merchant smiled, “You never come alone. You always ‘bring’ a dozen customers. Therefore, I wish you to wait.” *The subtle perception of the Indians never misses the luck brought to them.* This is the positive effect.

Shop owners are often rough and greedy. They happen to exhibit their greed or rudeness sometimes to people who ‘live’ in the Spirit. They lose their profits, and sometimes close shop. Occasionally people differ from spiritual persons. There are times when this difference develops into a dispute or contention. They lose far more than others. Nor are they aware of the cause. Such things also happen within the family. The wife teases the husband; the husband tyrannizes the wife when they take to the Spirit, not knowing how much the family loses. **The husband never realizes that his great fall in the office is because of his negative attitude to his wife.** The wife refuses to see that all her tragedies are due to her opposition to the husband who lives in the Spirit.

78. Subtle Inversion

We see with our naked eyes what happens in the physical world around us. It is the gross material plane. What is unseen or invisible is the subtle plane. Beyond the subtle plane reside the great divine powers in the causal plane where the law of cause and effect rules. The most obvious of these events is where we witness the phenomenon that what is left unsaid becomes true. There is a good deal of subtle awareness in life. **There is an equally good deal of unawareness of subtle phenomenon.**

The farmer is aware of the coming season, the office people know far ahead of time the coming inspection, every family knows the potential brides and bridegrooms in their near relative circle long before the event. **Subtle awareness of what is in store for the future enables us to avail of more of it.** The gross physical plane yields immediate results. In the subtle plane, greater benefits

arise but not immediately. They come in their own time. A landlord of considerable property partitioned his vast lands between his four sons. He had a rice mill. All had their eyes on it. It went to the driver of the mill for his honest services. All values are subtle. They bring a great reward not at once, but in their own time.

There was a small film producer who was chummy with a scriptwriter. One day the financing producer asserted his money power and threw out the scriptwriter. Before the end of the year the scriptwriter became a Cabinet Minister. Now the film producer said to himself, “Had I known that this fellow would become a Minister, I would not have quarreled with him.” *He was unaware of the subtle political atmosphere that was shaping itself in the country.* Someone said within a week of a politician becoming the Chief Minister, all those under him would quickly know which temple he goes to, what his favourite foods are, his habits, what jokes he is allergic to, who are his close friends, bitter enemies, his relatives, etc. He added, “Our people are adepts in such knowledge.” It is true. Values like honesty, integrity, probity, loyalty, etc. keep us firmly rooted in the subtle plane and bring us the reward. When it comes, it will be unbelievable.

79. The Causal Plane

The supramental plane is the causal plane where the law of cause and effect finds a play. *It is the plane where Brahman dwells.* It is the plane of pure spirit. The causal inversion is far more drastic than the subtle inversion. It comes positively as well as negatively. In both cases the outcome is more than marvelous. Swami Ramalinga lived in Vadalur which was in his time a little village. In his letters Sri Aurobindo speaks of stray individuals reaching Supermind and said, “One such was living in these parts.” It was a reference to Sri Ramalinga Swami. The Supermind belongs to the causal plane. Before 1870 the Swami said, “Vadalur will become Cuddalore.” **In the fifties the words of the Swami became more than true.** As an adjunct of Neyveli, Vadalur in 1960 had more industries than Cuddalore.

Greek philosophers spoke of war as a great benefactor. The great boon to the world that lies behind the erupting

of the war is not seen by us. It lies in the causal plane. Western Europe was ushered into unbelievable prosperity when she recovered from the ravages of the world war. A report of UNDP says that the world made as much progress in the fifty years of the post war period as she had done in the previous 500 years. *No one sees it. Had the world been told about the great progress after the war, I am sure the world would have refused the war!*

India had her freedom after the war without suffering from the catastrophe of the war. Winston Churchill writes, “No great portion of the world population was so effectively protected from the horrors of World War II as were the peoples of Hindustan.” Not only did India receive her Freedom without a bloody revolution, but she was protected from the horrors of the war. **It was in store in the causal plane even in 1910 when God told Sri Aurobindo through His inner voice that India was free.** The causal plane is the plane of the Marvels of the Spirit. As it is, man is unable to see it. When it gravitates towards him, the inversion it suffers is horrible and intolerable. Even the divine gift of Freedom was not unsullied by the communal carnage which too was in store in the causal and subtle planes. *Values take us to the subtle plane. Worship of the Inner Divine, the Spirit, the inmost entity, Brahman, takes us to the causal plane.*

80. God Proposes; Man Disposes

The title is an inversion of the English proverb. Since 1956 when the Force descended on earth, God seeking Man more than Man seeking God has become a greater reality. **We see no God, we see only how prosperous we are. Prosperity is the God for the householder.** The Force came down on earth in 1956 but began to act through the governments in 1967. From then onwards its action is more and more pronounced. Just now Man is surrounded by a plethora of social opportunities. Psychologically it is greater.

A clerk in a bank 10 years ago resigned his job and ventured on his own. His wife saw the wave of incoming prosperity more than he did. She took to Mother. The man is hardworking and resourceful. His business witnessed an expansion no one could conceive of. Almost by chance the wife took to service and excelled in it. The expanded business further expanded. **This was not an opportunity**

during the 40's or 50's. It appeared in the 60's. No one took notice of it. Now, it is very prominent in the market. This clerk took advantage of it. How many others have refused such an opportunity or are unaware of it. God proposes that Man should prosper. Man refuses to respond to God's proposal.

Insurance is God given. It is true that insurance is more popular today than before. Here is a scheme that is willing to offset one's misfortunes. Not all avail of the scheme unless law compels. God continues to propose to Man in newer ways. Man responds to a small part of it. There is a proverb in Tamil, "There is a desire to be a Tahsildar, but your destiny is to be a donkey herd." This was a proverb when the Tashildar was received with nadaswaram in the villages. After the descent of the Supramental Force, I feel like rewriting the proverb as, "You have the LUCK to be a Tashildar, but you desire to tend a herd of donkeys." *The middle class man has not availed of even 10 % of the social opportunities. Should he do so, he will move to the upper level of the upper middle class.* There are scores of examples all around. Let us be inspired by them.

81. The Great Indian Dream

Mr. Arindam Chaudhuri and Mr. Malay Chandhuri have published a book entitled *The Great Indian Dream*. **In it they voice their inspired vision of India in the near future.** These are patriotic young men passionately voicing their vision of future India. Their studies are well documented. Not only do they demand progress, but they outline a plan of their own. It is worth full consideration. In their publication I see the tip of the emerging Spirit of India.

Two of the authors' ideas are rewarding. One is that their scheme for future Indian Prosperity is based on self-reliance and not foreign aid. The second is that, in spite of being young, they see the cultural trap into which the youth are falling. They are highly educated, have travelled far and wide, and are sophisticated in the best sense. Still they have not become a victim of the present life-style. They value values. Their values

are Indian. They are spiritual values. They cherish the home and its psychological security. The youth of the West have destroyed the family in their zeal for freedom. They have freed themselves from the family too!

To conceive that India can equal USA in 2025, one needs a daring vision. Answering the common question of how, they explain the stages through which India needs to be taken to reach the goal. **The altar at which all good schemes are sacrificed is finance. Here too they come out with ideas to generate the colossal amounts of money needed for the transformation.** All the MONEY India needs for abolishing poverty is there in India. All the Ideas that can make India prosperous are there in India. What is surprising is they are found in multiple forms and multiple quantities. India needs a leadership that is passionate about her future. The Chaudhuris represent that future leadership. Their vision is of enthusiastic imagination but well documented and well argued for their rationality. **The authors are the tip of the iceberg. Fifty percent of the population that is youth carries in it a dynamo of energy. They can make India wealthy.**

82. Psychic Sadness

In a respectable family sometimes children take to the ways of loafers. Parents are sad. They are sad that the children are unable to appreciate the status, reputation, culture, and value of the family. It all can be lost by one act of indiscretion, one single attitude of mercenary motive. What is lost is lost and can never be restored, at least never be restored in its original magnificence. **Sri Aurobindo came to the world to usher human life into the Marvel of Supramental Splendour.** He saw He was not understood. People who came to follow Him cherished the values of the tradition. They were not receptive. They moved away. **HE** was sad all His life. It was Psychic Sadness.

Psychic Sadness has several versions. Napoleon conquered the whole of Europe. He could not conquer Russia. He retreated. Coming back, he set out to consolidate

the political gains of the French Revolution into legal, administrative reforms so that they might turn into social gains. He did it. The entire Europe benefited from that. It stands there till today. Then he moved away from his aim, became a megalomaniac, made himself an emperor, desired to create a dynasty. His evolutionary period was over. He became a Rakshasa. Now Napoleon had to be destroyed. God gave that duty to Russia, Germany and England, says Sri Aurobindo. Wellington at Waterloo and Nelson at Trafalgar defeated the French. Napoleon retired to St. Helena. **The world knows of Napoleon. Wellington is remembered in England as the famous General who defeated Napoleon.**

News of Napoleon's death was received by Wellington with sadness. God was there in Napoleon to give Freedom to the world. The man in Napoleon arose after he accomplished his mission. It was assigned to Wellington to destroy the Rakshasa in Napoleon. He did it successfully. But Wellington was sad when Napoleon died, as he too was aware of the God in Napoleon. **The Spirit and Nature – ego – are found mixed in us. It is not easy to separate them. To do so is a greater spiritual endeavour than tapas.**

83. “Count Your Chickens Before They are Hatched”

The above caption is a quotation from the book I referred to two days ago, *The Great Indian Dream*. It is there as a chapter heading. **The efficacy of planning is emphasised in this fashion.** Prof. Arindam has published a book with this title which became a national best seller. Our activities can be considered under two different headings. One is the work we are used to – weddings, house building, exams, tours, office inspection, factory production, etc. The other is a work we are not used to. There are works which many do, but they are new to us as we do it for the first time. There are other works that no one has experience in.

Planning of any known work can be made perfect over time and there you can expect the results. A rocket that was launched was planned to land at a given time.

It landed exactly on the minute at the given place. It was late by nine seconds. **Planning can be that accurate.** When you introduce a new product in the market, planning cannot predict the results. Our age-old wisdom of not counting the chickens before they are hatched is entirely true in such contexts. Jawaharlal Nehru found Indian planning that new in 1950. Perhaps to the Government of India the challenge remains to this day.

It is very rewarding to see that economic professors of standing find Indian Planning is something where we can predict results. A high placed official of the Planning Commission once was dismayed by the suggestion that India could catch up with the West. **Now that the population, especially the youth, is awake, all the money we need is available in India, all the technology for progress is at hand, it is possible to plan for Prosperity.** I would like to add an individual strain to this national theme. Individuals can come forward to study Professor Arindam’s theme and plan their own future Prosperity. Every individual who rises above poverty, who raises his level of Prosperity is discharging a patriotic duty of abolishing poverty. After all, India is a collection of a billion individuals.

84. December 28, 1928

Prayers and Meditations is a book in which Mother's prayers — mostly written when She was in Japan — are published. A devotee once said that of all the hundreds of publications of the Ashram, two books stood out. They are *The Mother* written by Sri Aurobindo and *Prayers and Meditations* written by The Mother. The Prayers were all written in French. Sri Aurobindo, who loved French as much as English, selected several of these Prayers and translated them into English. Thus these translated portions are twice blessed. Mother was an adept in occultism. In one of these prayers She speaks of coming out of the body successively twelve times. In that final state She saw a sun above Her head and a Moon above the Sun.

In the Prayer written on December 28, 1928, The Mother speaks about the Power, Joy, Knowledge, Peace,

Happiness, Light, Bliss, and Love that flow from the Divine Grace. We know of Joy issuing out of success. The **JOY** issuing out of the Divine Grace cannot be understood as a higher version of what we know, anymore than conceiving of Delhi as a bigger version of a village. Human joy is the opposite of sorrow. When children laugh very much, elders used to warn them not to do so because it would later lead them to equal sorrow. *The character of human joy is that it has a counterpart of sorrow. The divine Joy is unalloyed, unsullied. It is Self-existent. It does not need the balancing factor of its opposite sorrow.*

Mother explains that the divine light is one that no wisdom can possess. No philosophy on earth can give divine knowledge. Our enjoyment comes out of the satisfaction of our desire. The divine Bliss cannot be matched by any enjoyment man knows. In fact, that Bliss — Ananda — arises when all desires are dead. About Spiritual Peace, Mother says it is not attainable even in death. **Man's quest for Love is eternal. He seeks it in the relationship with a woman. The thirst for divine Love, Mother says, cannot be appeased by any human relationship.**

85. Out of Dust

D.F. Karaka wrote a book called *Out of Dust* long ago. He was an ICS officer who came under the spell of the Mahatma. *The theme of the book was that the Mahatma made us into men picking us up from out of the dust.* That is what Mahatmas do. Only that Mahatma Gandhiji did it in the lives of thousands of men of character who gave up their homes, education, profession, and wealth to serve the nation. The book was written during the lifetime of Gandhiji. **The Spirit has the capacity of that alchemy.**

The Spirit does so many things, maybe anything conceivable or inconceivable. My perennial theme is can the Spirit bring about the transmutation of **POVERTY** into **PROSPERITY**? If my answer is yes, how many will find my formula intelligible or further acceptable? Whether the poverty of a nation can thus be eliminated or changed into Prosperity is a *question* that I constantly hold before me. Long ago when India was prosperous we know she lived truthfully upholding her age-old dharma

given to her by the Vedas, Upanishads, Buddha, Krishna, Shankara and a host of other great souls. The West became enormously prosperous by hard work, overseas trade, scientific discoveries, socially productive organisation and various valuable values of punctuality, self-respect, integrity, cleanliness, political awareness, etc. Are we going to develop all of these or either of these sets of lifestyles overnight? Is it a dream of the incapable? Even without the Spirit in the picture, over a hundred countries have taken full advantage of technologies as well as organisational techniques and have become twenty times or forty times more prosperous than we have. It is imperative that we take to those technologies. **Add Spirit to that in any form and you will see centuries shrinking into decades.** Spirit does not mean religion, festivals, rituals, etc. Spirit means the spirit of life, spirit of work, spirit of ideas and the **SPIRIT** of man to progress endlessly till he reaches his coveted goal.

Man always has a choice before him. One is to flow with the stream and reach the goal at the end of a long journey. *The other is to swim upstream and reach the goal quickly.* The common man does not readily respond to the difficult choice. But NOW a boat has come to take anyone who cares to avail of the boat. **It is the descending Spirit that almost envelops one.** He who *knows* of its presence and avails of its help will travel the difficult path easily. Will he respond? Would he endeavour to call in the Spirit?

86. Ambition Versus Achievement

“I wish to become the No. 1 cardiac surgeon in India. Is it a permissible idealism?” is a question in the mind of a precocious young aspirant. **It looks like a great aim. At the same time, in a society where ambition is frowned upon, it appears unpardonable.** For one in that field there can be no greater accomplishment if he achieves it. It is doubly so when it is achieved without ambition. Ambition and greed are vices; aspiration, progress and endeavour are admirable. Certainly discrimination is valuable.

S. Radhakrishnan, coming from ordinary circumstances, caught the eye of Sir Ashtosh Mukerjee, became Kamala Professor at Calcutta, was sent to England where he became a Fellow at Oxford. He rose to the Presidentship in India. It is a remarkable achievement. There are great names in every profession, such as Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer in Law, Sir A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar in Education, B.C.Roy in medical practice, etc. All these

people worked hard and achieved. It is clear that accomplishment is highly desirable. It is equally clear that ambition is undesirable. **The doubt that is a festering sore in us arises because one goes with the other.** When we discourage ambition in us, we lose enthusiasm and our achievements are dwarfed.

Is there a way of doing the right thing and avoiding the wrong motive? Taking complete interest in the subject and losing oneself in it will wean us away from ambitious motives. It will work for some time. After some time, ambition will rear its head. At such a juncture KNOWLEDGE helps immensely. One must think about this situation. Such a person will realise that 1. Ambition is ruinous, 2. Achievement is eminently possible without ambition. **The knowledge that aspiration for a high goal that is not ambitious fulfils itself, is a great spur to progress.** Thus ambition is overcome. Another method often advocated is to compete with oneself – to strive to be better than before. This way one concentrates **NOT** on the material gain but on the **QUALITY** of performance. To consecrate the goal to the Spirit is a spiritual method. Then our ego is replaced by the Spirit. Ambition in the lexicon of Spirit transforms itself into aspiration. I wish every talented Indian youth aspires like that. **Those who are not endowed with talents will get TALENTS in their field by such an aspiration.**

87. Where the Spirit is Helpless!

Many people have successfully invoked the Spirit and have seen it in action. The government is too formidable for an ordinary citizen to face as an opposite party in the court. When the government chooses to acquire the only property on which a humble man pins his hope, it is exercising its right. There is no law that the government is contravening. Nor is the party permitted to plead for mercy since many can plead so. **The Spirit intervenes by a telegram from the higher-ups of the government and restores the humble man his only hope.** When a high placed official is falsely accused of corruption, the Spirit he relies on intervenes on his behalf, without his knowledge, and proves to the central Finance Minister that he was the only one incorruptible.

I am not going to recount the earlier examples in support of my argument. In a family that was very well off, owning a car and two houses thirty years ago, misfortune reared its head. All was lost. Fortunately there

was one earning member. Maybe he had half-fed the family but could not pay off the unpaid debts. Life was hell. Education of children entered that phase when it becomes expensive. Following education comes wedding. Not one, more than one. Close on the heels of these heavy catastrophes and heavier responsibilities came Mother. The **unbearable became painfully bearable.** Every impossibility, on referring to Her, became a possibility. The family that was to be on the streets remained in the house. Problems were over. But, responsibilities remained.

SHE came in, and shifted the responsibilities to other shoulders. The unexpected happened. It added a pleasant surprise each time. **Every positive aspect multiplied.** The non-devotee who had unleashed all this misfortune on their heads now lamented and moaned that his prestige was lost. **The Spirit can solve insoluble problems or remove hurdles, but it is incapable of demanding gratitude from an ego that is sensitive.** God is helpless. The Spirit is rendered incapable when it comes to asking for gratitude from a human heart. The human heart forgets the Spirit, is not aware of the fact that it is ungrateful. It abuses everyone, hurts the hand that feeds it. God, the Spirit, the Psychic Being all simply wait for the devotee to grow grateful.

88. Spiritual Courage

Of the eight attributes of Lakshmi, courage stands out. Indian mythological stories are **SUBTLE** in their instruction. **They reveal the TRUTH by hiding it.** This subtle knowledge is spiritual. It is there in all walks of life as the Power resides in what is left unsaid. We see now teachers encouraging students, parents patronising children. **The earlier tradition was NOT to encourage or even recognise.** Their experience was that the boy would stop progressing if the teacher or parent encouraged him. So, in the past, encouragement was the exception, not the rule.

What is spiritual courage? What is courage? Our tradition always indicates, never explains. The opposite of courage is fear. In the story about Lakshmi, it is said, all the eight Lakshmis stayed with a man for long. Then they desired to leave him. He requested them to leave at least one with him. He chose courage. The seven lakshmis who left him came back one after the other, as they could not exist without courage. **The story thus reveals the**

significance of COURAGE. Still, it does not explain. Courage is force. Lakshmi is Prosperity of several types. Prosperity of no type can survive without the **COURAGE** of the individual. Here it is human courage. Spiritual courage is more powerful. When threatened, fear increases. **Spiritual courage increases when intimidated. The Spirit acts exactly in the opposite fashion of human nature.**

When all Europe capitulated to Hitler, he expected England to hasten to surrender. What happened was the opposite. Churchill declared, “We shall fight, fight to the end. We shall fight the enemy on the land, let us fight him on the high seas. Let us give fight in the air. We shall fight him in the streets, we shall fight, fight and die fighting.” It inspired every man in the factory, every woman in the kitchen. England won, **NOT** Hitler. England won **FREEDOM**. England saved democracy. England saved the world. That is the courage of the collective. Churchill received the **SPIRITUAL FORCE** from Sri Aurobindo and exhibited spiritual courage, which spread all over England and all over the world. It is true not only in the subtle plane but in the warfront too.

Anything of the Spirit increases. The Spirit knows no failure, no decrease. Genius is spiritual knowledge. It is ever-increasing by itself. I plead for Spiritual Prosperity, as it knows no decrease. It increases by itself.

89. Mathematical Formula of Life

Mathematics is abstract; life is materially concrete. **To capture the concrete in terms of the abstract is to be spiritually creative.** It is done by intuition. Einstein discovered the formula of Energy that is Matter. For long it was intelligible only to himself. Sri Aurobindo says that He stumbled on the Formula of creation. **Creative principle goes into a formula of Mathematics.** He said, like Einstein, that it was intelligible only to Himself. Though that knowledge is enshrined in *The Life Divine*, the reader does not see the Formula Sri Aurobindo speaks of.

Astrology is a mathematical formula of life based on the time of birth. Given the exact minute of birth, astrological predictions can be precise. About a hundred years ago, a famous astrologer visited a zamindar. The zamindar sat in rapt attention listening to the astrologer about the past of his family. When the astrologer spoke

out facts known only to the zamindar, he was all admiration for the astrologer. Naturally, the client desired to know of his future. The astrologer gave him an abundant handful. As a climax, the astrologer declared that after about six months on a full moon day the zamindar would eat cold rice in the early afternoon in a poor man's hut.

Months passed. The astrologer and his predictions were forgotten. One day a horse trader brought a black horse. It was a majestic animal. The zamindar jumped on it and rode on and on forgetting himself. Overtaken by his enthusiasm for the fine animal, the zamindar forgot time as well as his appetite. When he came to himself he knew not where he was and he was hungry. *Reaching a nearby hut, he ate cold rice, the only hospitality that poor householder could offer.* Astrology is the science of what is. It can tell you what has passed by and what else will come. It is bound by the rule of karma. Astrology, though an exact science, often frustrates man, as it discloses the future without offering him the power to remedy it. **Mastery of life is not given to man who is in life. When moving to Spirit, man secures the mastery he longs for.** As astrology is a mathematical formula of what is, Life Response is a mathematical formula for what one desires to be.

90. “After all, I am a Useless Person”

It is true that some people are talented and others are not. There are boys who strive very hard year after year to reach the first rank in vain. Sometimes they come close to their goal and miss it. Occasionally when they are declared first, it is reversed a little later, for one reason or another, valid or invalid. It is at such times they declare, “I am star crossed.” “It is not for me.” “The very gods are against me.” All these experiences are true in life. **Theoretically they are not true. Spiritual theory, if I may say so, declares this is not true.** It is also the experience of a rare few that useless persons are not really useless. They can become useful, achieve, accomplish, if they choose. Anyway, the experience of the world is not encouraging.

It is not true on two accounts. One is the Force that has come down makes what was previously impossible, possible now. On closer analysis, one becomes

useless because he loves the present circumstances and is unwilling to change his attitude. It is a question of willingness, not one of uselessness. I have written about a boy who had no self-confidence in passing the exam standing first in the class, and the poorest of villages becoming the richest pocket of wealth. People become useless when they are determined to repeat their earlier errors with a vengeance. There are people who cannot refrain from a certain unwanted temperament – ridiculing, suspecting, attributing motives to others, lying, etc. **One becomes what he is by his temperament.** Temperament is not difficult to change.

Instead of declaring, “I am useless”, they can announce to the world or to themselves, “I enjoy being angry. I do not want to part with it. Being angry is more important to me than rising in life.” That will be a truer representation of their psychological status. We also see that on occasion such people put out their charm instead of anger. **It is not as if it is a really impossible feat for them. If they choose, they can be sweet also.** For many it is anger. For others it is stinginess, hurry, non-stop talking, acting without thinking, clumsiness, loud voice, desire, demand, envy, doubt, suspicion, inertia, stupidity, opinion, thought, preference, etc. ***The Bhagavat Gita* says that Man can become what he aspires for.**

91. The Value of OIL

Oil that is petroleum has made life modern and made several countries rich. The phrase ‘He has struck oil’ is an equivalent to ‘he is lucky’ in the USA. India is not an oil surplus nation. **My theme is the neglected potentials.** By oil I mean groundnut oil, coconut oil – oil used in cooking. Beyond cooking, these oils have a medicinal value. Not that we do not know of it, but we never pay them the attention they deserve. Kerala has made **OIL** a supreme source for cure of diseases. Maybe there exists an oil-cure for a great many diseases, perhaps all diseases.

Kerala’s experience with oil reveals the infinite hidden resource behind every object. Perhaps that is one expression of *Sarvam Brahman* – the infinite Brahman. A VIP broke his thigh bone when he was past 70. The latest medical forms of attention was at his disposal. He availed of them all. They were of no avail. He resorted to all types of bone setting. The final conclusion the doctors came to was, “We can minimise every type of discomfort. **But he can no longer walk.**” The VIP was from Kerala.

As a last resort he thought of the oil treatment he knew. The confidence of those ‘quacks’ who accepted the treatment was annoying. “He can certainly walk,” they claimed with glee. **Of course, the oil treatment revealed its power in his broken bones once more and he walked as before.** The bones that the doctors declared would not set displayed a ‘refractory’ behaviour. Once more he was on his feet.

A lady was suffering from pain in her shoulders. Prolonged treatment was of no use. The doctor who was treating her for long spoke apologetically, “You see, I am an M.B.B.S. I am shy of telling my experience. Ask the lady to smear some gingili oil everyday before her bath. It will help.” In a couple of months her pain receded and disappeared. Oil is not my subject, but I use these examples to illustrate the GREAT potentials in life, particularly the Indian way of life. The Green Revolution has quadrupled grain production. Famine that was defying government efforts for two decades suddenly vanished forever. C. Subramaniam who achieved it did not achieve it as a great plan. He was a farmer. He was always efficient. Here too he acted efficiently and left the Food Ministry in 1½ years. He was at that time unaware of the great work he was doing. **That is the hidden potential in India. It exists in all walks of life.** They can be built upon to suit our modern requirements. I plead for that **AWARENESS.** We are a potentially rich nation.

92. The Various Strengths of Human Nature

Science is making great strides. In biology they now know the origin of the hair colour, the length of the fingers or strength of any part of our body. *In various degrees they are working to achieve mastery in those areas.* Psychologically, there are temperamental strengths, talent for work, capacity for organisation, mental strengths of comprehension and particularly those of the imagination. By the birthplace, caste, community, family, period of the century, social environment, and commercial placement one is already endowed in his blood – the very genes – with various strengths. **They are there to be drawn upon readily, like our mother tongue disused for several years when we are in a foreign land.**

The Chettiar community has an inbuilt capacity to manage money. They are able managers. The native intelligence of the Brahmins excels others. The members of the Kshatriya community have a native courage. The

Bengali is emotional, the Maharashtrian is philosophical, the Gurkha is a fighter, the Sikhs have earned a name as brave soldiers. When we are working in an office or in a factory, or managing an enterprise, we are caught up with the problems on hand. Rarely do we think of our community. The idea that one is Malayalee or Tamilian never crosses our mind while in our native place. While outside we constantly think of it. **It is one of the reasons why people who go out are more successful.** Any talent yields only a small dividend when we are indifferent to it.

When people whose business is not breaking even or who are making small profits remind themselves of their family tradition, strength of caste, or endowment from their nationality, they will find themselves energised. It will help them convert their losses into profits or double their profits, if they are already making small profits. Such a person can do better. He can remind himself that he is an Indian with the light of the Spirit in his body. Let him exercise his mind to bring that spiritual light into his work. It is done by values. Should he realise the value of values and endeavour to express them in his work, he will no longer bring up the rear. He will soar high. **To know what his native capacities are and how they can be utilised in his work is to become very highly efficient.**

93. A Bi-Monthly Magazine for Spirituality

Suresh Menon, a journalist from Thrissur who had a spiritual vision, has started a magazine called *Spirituality and Prosperity*. As it was a long felt desire of mine, **I have endorsed his effort in all possible ways.** Behind great movements such as the Indian Freedom Movement or the French Revolution there lies an inspiring Idea. *A magazine is a powerful tool to deliver that IDEA to the cream of the population.* The Divine Mother started ARYA in 1914 as a vehicle for the Supramental Manifestation.

India is a land of Rishis. Her sons carry the spiritual light in their bodies. The light is there in the very depths of being; but life is dry and poor. Indeed all Prosperity is a version of the Spirit. But the Spirit systematically expressed in life will be **PROSPERITY** of the divine life. The West is prosperous. Western prosperity is there because they have discovered Brahman in Matter. Their science is lifeless and produces negative side effects

and strengthens the Forces of violence of all descriptions. My view is to *discover Brahman in Life so that Life will turn into LUCK, into one of unfailing success.* This **MAGAZINE** will aim at reporting in detail the experiences of believers who believe in the Spirit in life. Life in the cities shows signs of initial prosperity. There are many who are honest to the core, who have accepted honest ways as a discipline. **They prosper more than others. Our magazine will write about them or invite them to write.**

The central mission of the magazine is to explain **HOW** Spirituality can be expressed in daily life through explanations and examples. It invites readers to write articles about such experiences of theirs. Four American writers, a research scholar of the Mother's Service Society, and software engineers have agreed to contribute regularly. **The first issue is available on request from Suresh Menon (lordsrikrishna@mail.com) or from The Mother's Service Society.** For the Indian Spirit to emerge freely, Sri Aurobindo said, she must be **FREE**. When she became Free, **HE** said, she must be reunited with Pakistan. Her Spirit, which is destined to be the **GURU** of the world, cannot play her true role as long as she is poor. She must become **PROSPEROUS**, not only materially, but her Prosperity must be Spiritual. It must come to her spiritually. **All Prosperity is Spiritual. Let us discover that Spirituality is Prosperity.**

94. The Prince and The Pauper

Man who is born a Prince lives as a Pauper. ***This is an exact spiritual description of Man as we find him on earth. Great men have said that Man is born free but he is found everywhere in fetters. The sages and saints have said this all along. The only difference NOW is there is a Force willing to help him realise what he is innately. The question is whether he will call it in, whether he will recognise the existence of that Force.***

Mark Twain's '*The Prince and the Pauper*' portrays the spiritual truth of Man on earth poignantly. It is a well-known work which has been rendered as a film. Whether this work helped Man to realise his own secret is not known. A ten year old Prince comes to the palace courtyard and sees a poor boy of his age who strikingly resembles him. The Prince stealthily takes his new friend inside the palace to give him a hearty meal. While inside, he exchanges his princely clothes for the rags of the Pauper boy and goes out for a short while to have a first-hand look at the city. When he tries to return, his

rags prevent him from entering the palace. Now begins a new life for him.

He is aware that he is the Prince of Wales, but the world is not. He goes to the poor friend's house where he meets with a dreadful punishment. At another place he is rescued by a generous man, Miles, who does not know he is the Prince but who takes him under his protection. His insistence that he is the Prince of Wales is greeted everywhere with laughter. Due to the intrigues of Miles' brother, they both end up in prison. A friend of Miles' father, a friar, arranges for their escape. **By a pleasant accident, the friar finds a letter written by the Prince in flawless French, Greek and perfect Latin.** That rings a bell in the mind of Miles about the oft repeated claim of the boy that he is really the Prince of Wales and future King. This discovery restores the Prince to his original position.

In this story the Prince has never forgotten for a moment that he is the Prince. **Inside us the Brahman has never for a moment forgotten that it is the Original Brahman.** Our surface mind is not aware of our inner birthright even as the society outside in the story never concedes that he is the Prince. Man's surface mind realising the inner greatness instantaneously restores the ORIGINAL splendour of the Spirit. **Spirit is there inside; we must KNOW it is there.**

95. The Essence of Enduring Success

Success is rare. Failure is common. Enduring success is very rare. **The efficiency of the whole makes for everlasting success.** There was a time when law or medicine was practised by those who had innate aptitude for it. Professional colleges began to offer training in these professions later. Success in life still remains in the realm of natural aptitudes, whether it is in business or at home in the family. At home one who is incapable of making a success of his domestic life does not become a total failure. He moves down one level and becomes a success there, resulting in a loss of status.

In the first quarter of the 20th century, FORD ruled the automobile world as a colossus. Still Ford retains its height in a great measure. Sloan was an executive who joined General Motors, which was a distant second in the industry. Sloan rose to become the chairman of GM. He had an instinct for ORGANISATION composed of systems. Ford's pride was technology and lower price.

Systems in Ford were secondary. Steadily GM outstripped Ford and maintained that lead. **It was a singular achievement of Sloan.** As a young man, Sloan had borrowed \$ 5,000 from his father, bought a losing company and turned it into a profit-making concern. The process of turning a losing concern into an earning proposition contains **ALL** the secrets of industrial success. They are the same rules for domestic success also.

All families of Chettinad put their children to apprenticeship in other establishments where they gained the complete training of successful entrepreneurship. They measured his success as a quarter, half, three fourths and full. About half the failures in the industrial estates are due to the lack of training. One possible remedy may be to offer an option of taking a losing concern and turning it into a successful venture as a project work for engineering graduates. The Church in USA has introduced premarital training for 15 days. They say it has had a vast beneficial impact on newly married couples. In India, at least immediately after the wedding if couples attend such a course, much of the acrimonious interchange can be eliminated. **Joy can be trained to a great extent. Domestic JOY can be imparted as a psychological skill by a well-conceived course of thirty days. Its purpose will be best served if the course is taken before the wedding.**

96. Authority of Love

A professor of Oxford was taking his evening walk. He sensed someone was following him. He walked on, ignoring the other man. Soon he was sure that he was being followed. He stopped and when the other man came closer, he asked him what he wanted. 'His Majesty has sent for me to form the next government. I was your student a long time ago. **Before assuming office as Prime Minister of England, I have come to receive your blessing.**' The professor's suspicion turned into an agreeable surprise.

Those who are in authority are constantly apprehensive about its loss. When will his authority be undermined, at what point will it be at stake are, in these days of changing public values, ever-present premonitions. They also know if authority is relaxed a little, much of it will soon be lost, or maybe all of it will vanish. Young women who have gone to the USA witness the changing equations

of authority between men and women with utter surprise or total bewilderment. In the USA, women decide their affairs on their own. The question of consulting the husband does not arise. Nor do they inform the husbands of their decision. They are on their own. This is inconceivable for an Indian woman who has just landed in the USA.

In a good household the harmony is maintained by affection at one level, while authority exerts itself at another level. Proportions vary. If the proportion is 40-60, a gentle effort to change it to 60-40 will turn the domestic happiness into heavenly **JOY** on earth. Authority is external. Affection is an inner value. Authority exercised from outside is received as discipline by the submitting members. In an affectionate family the member exercising authority puts himself at the end of the queue when it comes to a question of meeting the requirements. **Authority is obeyed; affection is gratefully received by an expansive heart.** Relax the authority a little. Replace it by the authority of affection. The external discipline gives place to inner self-discipline. The cudgel is withdrawn in favour of culture. When members of the family obey the dictates of affection, the richness of emotion at home changes the home into a sweet home. Its efficiency increases many times.

97. Validity of a Contract

A contract is valid when each party binds himself to a performance. Obviously the performance must be proportionate, not a mere token. Usage often neutralises the protection of the law. The private limited company was conceived more than three hundred years ago to protect the investor from the adventures of the company he invested in. A private limited company borrowing money in India today does not have that protection. The lender insists on the owner of the company offering personal security. **There is no law prohibiting the lender from demanding the personal security.**

Buyers of a property give an advance and sign a contract to buy the property for a certain value within a certain time, failing which he forfeits his advance. This is the known practice. The market is fanciful. It can change in any fashion at any time. There is no protection to the buyer, in changed conditions, from a refractory seller, if he chooses not to sell. **To make a contract legally valid and practically viable, the seller too must give a commensurate commitment.**

A buyer offered to buy a property for a price higher than the seller advertised but for which he had not got any offers. It was a knotty transaction, as personal animosities found play. The buyer entered into a contract with the seller through another industrialist who was well versed in such transactions and had purchased several properties through his lawyer. In this case, the buyer desired a counter clause, as he was aware that ticklish situations might arise. At the time of actual purchase, the seller might refuse to sell or might demand an astronomical sum when he came to know the real buyer. The industrialist, in spite of his vast experience, was shy. He did not want to demand a counter clause, but on the buyer's insistence, it was added.

The expected eruption took place, but the seller discovered the value of reasonable behaviour when reminded of the counter clause. The shy industrialist started introducing such a counter clause in all his subsequent transactions! To make spiritual progress, it is often urged to look at the issue from another man's point of view. This is done to make us less unreasonable. In this case, we see looking at the issue from another's point of view prevented him from being unreasonable. *The Spirit demands we should be fair and just. Following the inspirations of the Spirit, we protect ourselves from the onslaught of the unreasonableness and unfairness of others.*

98. This Once

Will Power achieves. Steady will achieves steadily. Vacillating will vacillates, never achieves. **When a man of weak will decides or desires to acquire a strong will, he finds himself in a position of having to part with several undesirable habits.** Coming face to face with them, he tells himself, 'Let me do it this time and give it up from the next time'. That next time never comes. 'Just this once' means never. Still we know the opposite too. Addicted smokers are known to have abruptly given up smoking once their mind is made up. It is strong will.

The man of strong will only needs knowledge to convince him. What about those whose will is weak? In deserting an undesirable habit like chewing tobacco, smoking, drinking, addiction to coffee, etc. we see those who ultimately give them up take to many routes. Abrupt giving up is only one of the routes. Some fix a deadline and indulge the habit up to that point but give it up on

the fixed date. Others pass through alternate periods of sobriety and indulgence before parting with the devil. Sudden changes are likely to relapse. Gradual acquisition of the new habit is likely to last longer. If the Spirit is the Presiding deity of life, what role can it play in saving these truant members? Any method, however powerful, in other cases will fail if the concerned person does **NOT** want to change.

Once the erring member wants the change, that desire can be fortified by the Spirit better than all the methods. Mostly, it is another person who desires the change, not the person concerned. Desire to change is the exercise of will, as desire itself is more of will than of knowledge. Once a little desire is there, it must be educated by all available information so that the mind of the individual is fully educated. Invocation of the Spirit after such a decision will be found to reinforce the desire to change. Patience and persistence, regardless of the extent of the result, will result in tangible results over time. Those results will be full and will never be lost. The Spirit can be invoked to have instantaneous results. Even when it is possible, it is desirable to go along the path of slowly and steadily enlisting the consenting will. **Will enlightened is will conquered. Invocation of the Spirit will raise the mental will to the Spiritual WILL.**

99. Indira Gandhi's Question

Fritjof Capra is a professor of physics who has written extensively on the new approach called for in science. Indira Gandhi met him for fifty minutes, gave a patient hearing and asked him **if he had any ideas for her to introduce modern technology without India losing her culture.** He advised her to create a council as in USA, that would advise her on the subject. Such a council with a strong sense of traditional culture, he said, would allow her to assess her options and her risks. It was an administrative suggestion.

Prof. Capra thinks of science not from the traditional or classical viewpoint. His effort has been to integrate Eastern mysticism with Western science. He says he wishes to broaden the base of science and for that purpose he looks to Tao, Buddha, and Vedanta for inspiration. **Indian scientists who have deep roots in spirituality are eminently fitted to initiate such an inquiry.** Indira's concern was limited to culture. She saw the value of

technology as well as culture. She explained to Capra that she had seen the loss of Indian culture when technology entered the life of people. This patriotic question is of interest to me because the one destroys or at least dilutes the other. Can we have the benefit of both?

My answer is by the national leadership in the field of Spirituality we can have both, not in the same form, but with appropriate modification. The real danger here is the temptation to choose the one or the other. That way we will become Westernised. Already the country is 30 % Westernised. Westernisation will certainly destroy our culture as well as spirituality. We accepted Western education even after Freedom in its original form without any major effort to modify it to our conditions. Education is welcome, as technology is certainly welcome. It does not mean we should change our mind-set to theirs. **Man is superior to technology.** Man should **USE** technology for his work. He should not allow himself to be ruled by technology. Often people who have a lot of money are possessed by wealth. India should welcome technology and introduce it at all levels of life, as Indians would do, so that the basic cultural values of Indian life are preserved. **Mind must be open to new developments and life should be flexible to enjoy new developments on the basis of old cultural as well as SPIRITUAL values.**

100. Spiritual Equality

There is an age-old belief that there is no man without some innate talent. In the work spot if someone is found useless for the job, he is relieved. The same thing cannot be done in a family. The family tries its best to put him on his feet. **Often they succeed because he does have a talent not fully recognised.** If in a class we have different grades of performance, educationists know it is not so much due to different grades of endowments as different levels of application. In schools where everyone receives **as much encouragement to apply to studies as he individually needs**, the results are more evenly spread out. Sociologists know that within a family the factors of psychological attitude decides the performance of the members. **Spirit is equal, not at birth, but long before it takes birth.**

Following a different swabhava, they perform differently. When the Spirit is awake, the swabhava is secondary. The Spirit chooses its own performance. In

an organisation conceived as a family, a member from another state joined willingly. He could not acquit himself in any work given to him. Nor did he find himself comfortable in any situation. He was shifted several times. He was asked to choose. He chose the very simple job of procuring supplies from the shop. Nothing he bought worked. The scissors he bought would not cut! Whatever could be done with him, if he could not be relieved? Suddenly there was news that he was interested in watch repairing. A watch repair shop was bought and he left them for good. He was happy. Yet that too became a failure. He came back, on his own, to an earlier trade and **founded an independent establishment.** It has been alive for the last 25 years.

At last he had proved on his own the spiritual rule that there lies dormant in anyone a talent which others may not see. Maybe he himself is not aware of it. **When the Spirit awakens, such a talent comes to the surface. It enables him to excel in his career.** Language calls these people dark horses. It is in the political field such strange things are witnessed. Even there it is not a frequent occurrence. In the field of Spirit, it is the rule, not the exception. Sri Aurobindo says that one who takes to yoga is capable of turning to any field of his choice and the Spirit will stand him in good stead.

Appendix 1

How to Invoke the Spirit?

Indians trying to adopt punctuality find it extremely powerful and useful. Some miserably fail to institute punctuality as a value in their company. They ask how to be punctual? It does not mean they do not know it. It only means they are unable to do so as the general atmosphere in the company is not conducive to punctuality. What then is the remedy? The usual answer is to go about it with a greater determination in which again many fail.

Does it mean punctuality is impossible? **It only means our effort is not comprehensive, but summary.** Punctuality is preceded by general orderliness, that is again preceded by greater productivity. Productivity needs energy in copious measure, which is released by aspiration. So, begin at the beginning. Everyone in the company must have aspiration for the company's progress. One may ask, 'What shall I do if it is not there?' **The aspiration of workers is the aspiration of the employer.** Examine inside if you aspire for the company's progress. Begin

there, go step by step and when you finally arrive at orderliness and find no punctuality, your attempts to install punctuality will succeed.

Many will succeed in invoking the Spirit. For them the question is how to build it up. For those who are unable to do so, there is a method available. When a man often loses his temper, others advise him to retire to a solitary place and think. Much of the temper vanishes and he is able to think somewhat. Mind is the next higher level to temper. Spirit is the next higher level to mind. As one invokes the Spirit, his thoughts interfere and frustrate him. Thoughts interfere because man is identified with his thoughts. Realising this fact and trying **NOT** to think separates him from his thoughts and invocation of the Spirit will then become possible. Again, one may say this is not possible.

Let these people take some time every day and call 'Mother' into them. As time passes, thoughts will subside and a calm will emerge. Mother is more powerful than the Spirit. After a few days of calling Mother into oneself for sometime daily, he should do so for one full day of 12 hours. **Next, that one day should be extended to a**

three-day sitting of 12 hours per day of calling MOTHER into oneself.

Though this effort is taken to let the Spirit or The Mother emerge from out of his surface being, after the three days calling he will suddenly witness —

1. Most of his minor problems suddenly vanishing.
2. The atmosphere at home will be **POSITIVE** in the very best sense of the word.
3. If he had major problems unsolved, some solutions will appear on the horizon.
4. **All his difficulties in invoking the Spirit will vanish and he will feel the Spirit or The Mother is his constant companion in some substantial measure.**

He should resort to this everyday, either in the morning or evening for about a half hour. That will usher his life into a higher level of consciousness. Then he should,

1. Endeavour to speak **ONLY** truth.
2. Keep his house as clean as the cleanest place he ever knew.

3. Talk almost in a whisper, giving up shouting.
4. Take the other man's point of view in all transactions.
5. Cultivate patience in a large measure.
6. Before commencing any work, think of **THE MOTHER**.
7. Know his past errors and scrupulously avoid them in future.
8. Practise self-giving.

Once he sees the Spirit responds to his call, he must cultivate it and build up his life — **ORGANISE IT** — so that it progresses.

Appendix 2

Invocation of the Spirit

- ☆ Invocation of Spirit is powerful. Better still, if you call, “*Mother*”, it is all-inclusive.
- ☆ There are several methods to do so, though in essence all are the same.
 1. In our personality, there is a surface and a depth. As long as we are thinking of a problem, we are on the surface. To go away from the surface we must agree to forget the problem or NOT to actively think of it. Now the problem moves to the depth where it causes a worry that does not explain itself. One can call Mother or the Spirit if he moves away from the depth. If you cannot move away from the depth, start calling Mother and you will move away from the depth. Problems are solved by calling for an hour, for a few days. Three-day prayer is the maximum which solves any problem.
 2. Where man ends, Mother (Spirit) begins. Exhaust all that one can do. The Spirit will begin to

act at once. The last possible act must be so exhausted.

3. To do better than we now do amounts to calling Mother. E.g. to take interest in a dull work; to organise an unorganised work; to give thought to a work which we are doing unthinkingly.
4. To think of Mother once an hour for a few days.
5. To think of Mother on the stroke of the hour for a day or two.
6. To keep the house extra clean, to talk in a very low voice, to avoid all quarrels at home or at the office, to write precise accounts, etc.
7. To shift from the outside to inside which means what we do by hand can be done by thought.
8. To think of Mother before starting any work — consecration.
9. Prayer

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