

Spirituality & Prosperity I

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Acknowledgement by the Author

The hundred articles in this book have been previously published in the New Indian Express from 15th July 2003 to 10th November 2003. I would like to thank Mr. M.K. Sonthalia, Managing Editor of New Indian Express for granting me permission to reprint the articles in this collection.

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.

Karmayogi

Pondicherry

001. The Time has come

Men work for a long time to raise a nation or a family or to turn a losing company into a profitable one. Often they succeed. When they do not succeed, they say, 'the Time has not come'. **The spiritual truth about such a situation is that Man can make the Time come.**

Such a moment has come now in the world. This is not an idea man is familiar with. Still, it is not very difficult to explain as several such events are happening around us and all over the world. Stated simply,

- Functioning from Mind, man waits for the Time to come.
- **Functioning from the Spirit, Man makes the TIME come.**

Someone may say, "Well, I am in a similar situation. I am in utter despair. These words offer some hope. Will you make it intelligible to me? Rather, I would want to know what I can do practically in my situation to emerge out of it." **My immediate answer is, "If you understand this idea and believe in the TRUTH behind it, you will see your situation of despair will at once become less desperate and will continue to improve."**

Obviously, this needs a true example. An example will explain the possibility of positive result. Once the result is seen as a fact of someone's experience, the little faith will begin to grow and things will continue to improve more and more. An explanation of the process of how the result issued is very helpful. That will clarify the mind. One more thing is called for. It is inspiration to do it oneself, which converts illuminating knowledge into enjoyable results so far elusive.

There is more. The mind needs an example from one's own field, rather than from another field. That way, ONE theme finds itself explained in hundreds of situations and each being UNIQUE is enlightening to the practical intellect. **And there are themes without end.** The theme of Spirituality and Prosperity at the end will be understood as Spirituality is Prosperity.

002. Functioning from the Spirit

Functioning from the Spirit demands **NOT** functioning from the mind or vital attitudes or physical habits. Though not functioning from other parts is essential, it is not enough to release the Spirit into action. **It needs an inspiration from inside or a compelling pressure from outside.** Should either be there, preferably both, the Spirit acts at once and the results follow instantaneously, at least the new desirable results start flowing into the outer environment.

Tom Gooth is an American and a world traveller. His interest is in the economic programmes, especially for the poor, in the third world nations. He was particular about devising some simple technology which would be accessible to all so that the pervasive poverty would be alleviated. He was trying to fit a motor to the cycle rickshaw and spent a lot of time in Kolkatta. But this was not his main interest. He visited every spiritual place in any country he had visited and learnt about various yogas.

Once he was in Mexico driving a Volkswagen. One afternoon, an hour after leaving the hotel where he had stopped for lunch, he suddenly saw that the shoulder bag which contained his wallet and passport was not in its usual place. He stopped and searched, drove back to the hotel and returned to search at each of the road-side spots where he had paused to rest, but all in vain.

It was truly a moment of despair. All his mental resources were at an end. He recollected every formula he had heard appropriate to the situation but there was no relief. Suddenly, it occurred to him that the Divine Mother had said, "The most desperate moment is the best to call me." He sat on the grass in *padmasana* and called. The weight on his heart lifted. He thought of resuming his driving. Before he started the van, he glanced around and suddenly saw his bag on a nearby bush! **No questions were raised from inside, but there was pure gratitude. His body thrilled.** The Spirit never fails, as it knows none. Still, how does it come about is an explanation that is welcome.

003. Chrysler

In 1980, Chrysler Corporation, the third largest US automobile producer, was on the verge of bankruptcy. Over the past three years it had lost \$3.3 billion, a record in the industrial world at that time. It had borrowed billions of dollars from more than 400 banks, then received a bailout from the US Government. With all that support, the company got down to its last \$10 million in cash to meet daily expenses that averaged \$50 million-sufficient for just a few more hours of operations! Analysts, experts, newspapers, and investors unanimously declared the company's impending doom. **There was not a single voice of hope.**

When Lee Iacocca took over as Chairman on a million dollar salary package, he found he had joined a company in which workers refused to work, strikes were commonplace, gambling, murder, and prostitution were organized on the factory floor. He later said that he would never have signed the contract had he known the depth of the company's crisis. But he accepted the challenge and announced he would draw only \$2 as annual salary till the company turned around. He asked the intransigent banks to wait, cut the salaries of rebellious workers, dismissed 34 out of 35 VPs, designed a new model K-car, offered an unprecedented money-back guarantee to new customers, and personally appeared on TV to sell cars. He worked so hard that he said he was literally "seeing double."

Over the next three years he earned a net profit of \$3.3 billion. He was able to pay off creditors, discharged the 10-year government loan guarantee seven years early, and personally took home \$20 million in pay, bonus, stocks, etc!

To accept a bleak situation with a sense of responsibility is spiritual. Courage, sacrifice, determination are equally spiritual. The Spirit of the **ORGANISATION** listens to the call and fulfils what only a few years ago appeared impossible. Iacocca invoked the Spirit physically through his work, while Tom Gooth did so spiritually.

To invoke the Spirit

- *Do not rely on or resort to the old methods*
- *Rely totally on what is beyond and unseen*
- *Seek an inner calm hitherto not reached.*

Should a man have simple, pure, spiritual faith, the Spirit inside can be invoked as a blissful inspiration without seeing double, as did Iacocca.

Life is a field of success and failure. Unfailing success is the prerogative of the Spirit, which in ordinary parlance means Truth and Faith.

004. Where Man Ends, the Divine Begins - I

The soul SAW its woes disappeared when it forgot them and was wondering what it is all about. **God laughed at the naiveté of the soul.** So says Sri Aurobindo in one of His Aphorisms. The spiritual truth is man energises his misery by dwelling on it. Can this spiritual truth be of any use to us in our daily life? Though such occurrences are not in abundance, they are not uncommon. Often a man recovers from an incurable illness, especially when the doctor gives up. It is striking at the moment but our mental comprehension does not go beyond expressing a sense of wonder. **No serious mental attempt is made to discover how it happened.** To us, our minds are final. We never consider the Spirit in us.

A lawyer was driving his newly purchased car on the banks of the river Krishna. The car slipped into the current of the river. Somehow he managed to open the door of the car, swim to the shore and fell down fainting. After a day or two he regained consciousness. Those around were all appreciation for his extraordinary courage and were anxious to know how he had done that feat. To their questions, he only replied, "I do not know anything. I remember falling into the river sitting in my car. The next thing I know is just now that I am here in the hospital." What happened was the body - **the Spirit in the body** - awakens the moment it finds it can no longer rely on the mind to protect itself and releases Herculean energy, exhibits superhuman intelligence and saves itself.

This is one expression of the Spirit, the Divine, sailing into action when man comes to the tether ends of his resources. **As this is a spiritual phenomenon, we can devise ways and means for our insoluble problems to be solved by the inner Divine taking over.** The principle underlying the method is man should voluntarily give up exercising his mind to solve an insoluble problem.

005. Where Man Ends, the Divine Begins - II

A government officer had been regularly visiting Pondicherry on every February 21st to attend a spiritual function most sacred to his faith. In the same tradition birthdays are the most receptive days in one's life. **It is believed the soul is born anew at a higher level on that day.** About thirty years ago bus services were not as organised as they are today. For this man to be here on February 21st, he needed to take three days leave from his office. It was quite an issue for a gazetted officer in a government office, especially when his own immediate boss was in the same office. He was religiously visiting Pondicherry on February 21st every year.

His birthday fell on February 19th. Should he be in Pondicherry on February 19th too, he needed five days leave of absence, something inconceivable. Not knowing his own personal circumstances in the office or the distance he had to travel, someone raised the topic of his visiting Pondy on his birthday. He dismissed the suggestion out of hand. By the end of March, something unusual happened to him. He - a permanent gazetted officer - was ousted from his post, a thing the department never experienced. After 110 days, he was reinstated. During this period he thought of visiting Pondicherry on his birthday the following year. **His mental resources were at an end.** At Pondicherry he met the man who had raised that issue and who spoke his mind to the officer. He said, "I do see the impossibility of visiting here on Feb. 19th and 21st. Surely it is impossible to the mind, but **not to the Spirit.** Don't you know the formula, 'the Divine begins where man ends'? It is a never failing spiritual rule." The officer could accept the idea. Each time his mind raised a question, he succeeded in putting it off. Silence was there. He became *quiet* In February elections came and all the 110 gazetted officers of his institution were drafted. Holidays were declared. He was **NOT** drafted mysteriously! He came to Pondicherry for his birthday and stayed on for February 21st. **Since then, year after year, he came for Feb. 19 and 21st.**

006. Where Man Ends, the Divine Begins - III

Life is replete with events that express this phenomenon. Only that we do not understand it in this light. We rarely think this is a method to solve our problems. When a problem presents, it is customary for us to exercise our minds as well as our efforts to the full. It is good to work to achieve a result. **It is better NOT to exercise ourselves.** Not only do we not think along those lines, but it is hard for most of us to accept it as a valid method of functioning.

Ordinarily we try our best and if it succeeds, we congratulate ourselves and reinforce our confidence in our capacity. There are occasions when we fail and see no further avenue to pursue our efforts. We give up. In a very short time news comes that our work succeeded, though all our efforts failed. This is not common, but does occur.

- o We can see that the work is accomplished not by our efforts, but in spite of them.
- o We see it is fulfilled by a method unknown to us or unthought of.
- o Usually such fulfilment brings us a greater result.

It is true exercising oneself is a good method and a right method. It is true only when we learn the work and only until we fully learn it. Having learnt it, the mind's insistence should be withdrawn, letting the work take its own course. Exercising oneself then is a bar. Man can give up a work as impossible whereby he follows the above rule negatively.

One who launched a sizeable project successfully, having worked for it for eight full years, was happy about his success. As the project was big enough, he knew that was his last effort. He came to know of this principle at that time. He switched his mind to the poise of this new understanding. A project twice its size came to him by itself. He now wished **NOT** to begin. **It got completed in seventy days as if the project was moving on its own impulsion**

007. Spiritual Atmosphere of India -- Genius

It is said for a great soul to be born on earth, the family prepares itself over several generations producing better and better personalities in successive generations until a Buddha or Jesus or Krishna is born. It is true of a Gandhi or Nehru or Tagore. It is also said that after the great Avatar or Vibhuti is delivered, that family disappears into oblivion mostly. Each nation has its own unique tradition which saturates the very physical atmosphere of the soil. An American who came to India for the first time felt an exceeding calm pervading his being while he heard the pilot announce that the plane was entering Indian airspace.

When Sri Aurobindo was put into an English school at Darjeeling at the age of seven, he found a dark cloud entering him. At the age of 21 he returned to India after completing his education at Cambridge. **When he set foot on the soil of Mother India at Apollo Bunder, he found a powerful calm entered into him which remained with him to the end.**

The atmosphere of Europe is mental which produced innumerable scientists. Every American thinks at work about how the machinery can be improved, as his mind is one of practically efficient organisation which produces an Edison or Ford. **The Indian spiritual atmosphere produces Rishis. The American atmosphere of mental inquiry does not produce Rishis nor does India create as many scientists as Europe.** As the Spirit includes Mind, a Srinivasa Ramanujam is born here. Lately mathematicians are beginning to feel and wonder whether Ramanujam is not the greatest mathematician of the 20th century. He is a genius of the Mind.

I raise two questions:

- 1.Can we fashion mental attitudes that will render this spiritual atmosphere an atmosphere of Prosperity?
- 2.Are there mental geniuses buried in this spiritual atmosphere? Will an awakening help them surface?

008. Spiritual Atmosphere of India – Power

There is a story of a poor African who, having been excited by the gold rush of the 19th century, sold his farm and house and went to South America. **The person who bought his farm discovered diamonds beneath the soil.** Indian spirituality is rich; the Rishis had discovered God as Sachchidananda. What the scientists have discovered in the last century - that energy is the ultimate thing - the Rishis had already discovered in the period of Upanishads. They went beyond it. They found that energy issued from Existence. That too was not final. **The Absolute that is infinite and eternal is final as existence emerged out of it.** The question is why is India poor, and her life barren? Nature develops different aspects of life in different parts of the world, in successive periods of history before she consummates her work of bringing the kingdom of God on earth.

As long as India was a slave nation, her spirit as well as Mind were condemned to be dormant. Now her soul is FREE, but her life is low and dark, submerged in poverty. As it was essential to free Bharat Mata from the fetters of alien domination, **it is equally imperative to relieve her life from poverty.** At each period of her greatness, India was rich and her people were pious, honest, truthful and kind.

The prosperity of the West was achieved by the resourcefulness of the Mind. **Logically, the resourcefulness of the Spirit must be greater, infinitely greater.** If this is true, how can we accomplish it? Who should spearhead the movement? Is it the government or an organisation or the Individual? Using the power and resources of the Spirit is prevalent in India, but the general population is not conscious of their power. Nations should first of all awaken to their inner native endowment of vast proportions. Awakening must be followed by organisation. Let us look at instances where such powers peep out of the fabric of life.

009. Spiritual Atmosphere of India – Prayer

Prayer is a part of our lives. From the boy who takes an exam and the robber who plans to break into a house, they suddenly become religious and find themselves praying. Of the three levels of prayer, The Gita describes the simplest one - to pray for a benefit. **A prayer, a master act that reaches God makes miracles commonplace, is a line in the epic *Savitri* of Sri Aurobindo.** All sincere prayers are answered without fail, especially those that issue out of the depths of one's being at times of imminent danger. Such a moment arrives when the doctor gives up or when the market for the product of a manufacturer shows signs of disappearing. Accidents that appear on the scene on a sudden have that character. We say that we prayed and God responded in His Mercy. **God is the indwelling Spirit.**

A rural project of a public institution was under a director of that organisation. He worked through a manager who organised activities on the workspot. Being an organisation of service, everyone worked offering his services, not as employees for a salary. During a severe cyclonic storm, the 80 or so labourers there were under a serious threat to their lives. Their prayer saved all their lives, but the project was annihilated, every shed was destroyed and every amenity was ruined. The director and manager visited the spot. One was angry that his pet dream was in ruins and the other was deeply moved by the pathetic condition of those on the project. Rehabilitation required Rs. 5000/- at once, but the director who had invested Rs. 2 lakhs there was unmoved, as his dream was lost. In 1972 Rs. 5000 was the cost of ten acres of land there. The manager who had always successfully invoked the Spirit within was really at a loss. Surrender was the central discipline of his faith. He converted it into a practical method, 'Let me go to my centre and on coming out ask the first man I see for Rs. 5000/-'. He was waylaid by an old, affectionate co-devotee who would not permit him to go to his centre, but wanted him to come to his house. The man was insistent. The manager decided to ask the old man for Rs. 5000/- loan. **The old man gave it as a donation.**

010. Invocation of the Spirit

When the Spirit is invoked, it acts miraculously. How is it done? The tradition has several methods of which Japa is the most well known method. Mantras are powerful, especially when chanted according to the stipulation. OM is the most powerful mantra. It is called *Sabda Brahman*. The Immutable Spirit moves into creation becoming the mutable Brahman. It does so in three stages. **The sound OM issues at the third stage when creation begins.** Each line of tradition may resort to a different method. One sect requires the repetition of OM 1 1/2 crores of times. **When chanted with the sincerity and truth demanded by it, OM reveals the cosmic consciousness above the world of the gods.**

My writings are confined to a truthful life of integrity as a householder arriving at endless prosperity. Prosperity arises out of opportunities. But man is in the grip of problems.

"Don't ask me to chant any mantra lakhs of times. I cannot do it. I am a simple man working in an office, but I am utterly truthful. Tell me something that can invoke the Spirit which can dissolve my problems that are oppressive." The problem presents as a thought, a nagging thought. Thought is of the mind, Spirit is behind the mind. **Refusing to entertain the thought of the problem or to dwell on it will take us past the mind to the Spirit.** For our purposes, this is invocation of Spirit.

In a family that is emerging into prominence, one member had taken to drinking and was found lying senseless at odd places. His brother resorted to this method of denying the thought when it presented itself to his mind. It was not easy, but he persisted. On the fourth day he succeeded. At the Club which was the hub of such activities, the members split into two parties and threw out the erring member of this rising family. **It made him give up drinking and return home to look after one of the family establishments.**

011. Three-Day Prayer

The Spirit is invoked in several ways. One method that is wholly suitable to the uninitiated is prayer, especially if it is undertaken for three full days. This is a suitable method to solve problems or avail of opportunities.

Problems often present themselves. Some are a bother, others are a threat. A boy who has turned fugitive, a sum of money lent long ago, an electric connection not available for a long time, etc. qualify as household problems. One who is a diligent worker is overlooked when the time for promotion arrives. This is a major problem of career. **It is true that the Spirit, when invoked ONCE, dissolves the problem.** Why, then, should we sit and pray for 72 hours or 12 hours on each of the three consecutive days? It is because the lay person does not generate enough concentration to invoke the Spirit once unless he sits quiet for three full days.

The Spirit emerges once or a few times when the mind falls silent in a quiet body. Practically, one choose three free days and sits for 12 hours during the day, say 7 am to 7 pm except for the break for meals. He must formulate his prayer in concise words such as, "My boy should return." It is done better in the mother tongue and goes on silently repeating in his mind.

No one who has resorted to this method failed to arrive at the result. Often the result arrives before three days are over and he wonders whether the ritual of the three days must be fulfilled. It is not necessary. **In some rare cases, maybe three or four, the results arrived before the sitting was commenced.**

The Spirit comes to the surface in response to the truth of calling. Sincerity to the inner Spirit dispenses with the prolonged sitting.

012. Sales in a Small Company

A proprietor of a company of 58 lakhs of rupees of annual sales was working hard to raise it to respectable levels. He was diligent and willing to follow any method if only it would work. His friends told him that the inner Spirit, when invoked, would bring in outer prosperity. He had not heard of it, but was willing to try if only he could know how.

The central method is to fully believe based on understanding that our own inner Spirit can accomplish far more than our minds that plan or the body that exerts. People following these methods have very elaborate programmes touching each aspect of a manufacturing company. Each of these methods is explained in detail theoretically. As the entrepreneur was convinced of the rationality or the reality of the approach, he made up his mind to follow ALL these methods. He may have liked to raise his sales to 580 lakhs, but it appeared too ambitious. So, he set upon doubling his present sales within two years. He preferred to see that result in one or one and a half years.

Some time at the end of one December, he 'launched' his company on the new effort. On Pongal day he received an order for Rs. 90 lakhs and the inflow of orders continued for 20 months until he touched Rs. 9 crores. Now his job was to organise production to keep up with the incoming orders!

The Spirit does not distinguish between a small and big company. This phenomenon was witnessed in a company of 40 crores as well as one of Rs. 260 crores. As long as the inflow of expansive energies is not interfered with for any reason, it never develops symptoms of flagging.

013. Rain is Divine Grace

Divine Grace descends unasked. It descends as **RAIN**. No life can ever be sustained if rains fail. Rain also brings havoc when it comes down in far greater quantities than our systems can absorb. **Grace must be received with inner true gratitude and unconditionally.** But, we often curse the rain when it interferes with our work. Rains will never fail if the population is conscious that it is God's grace descending in the form of water. This year there is a short fall in rainfall in several districts in Tamilnadu. Can it be made good before the season is over?

The Southwest monsoon this year has not done its duty. It is a past event. Can Tamilnadu receive its full share and can the rest of India make good the loss of rain? **Both are eminently possible if the Spirit of the rain or water is invoked.** Who should do it? How is it to be done?

If any one takes upon himself this task, the response will be commensurate with his emotional identification with his state or country or even town.

The simplest method is to pray for rains. More powerful than that is to pay attention to water by using it carefully and with devotion. Conservation of water in any form is spiritual attention to it. **Not to curse the rain when it comes down may be the most important discipline required of us.**

Several years ago a realised person took many of his devotees to a dry dam in Karnataka and sat there in prayer. Atheists demonstrated, protesting against superstition. Next month the dam was filled. It is said that atheists have a greater faith. Their faith can be expressed as respect for human beliefs. Even that attitude will open the heavens. There is a flower called bridal creeper whose spiritual significance is 'water'. Offering that flower to God will bring down rains. The creeper has dense cascading clusters of small white bell-shaped flowers.

Methods of conservation and attention to water:

- o To use it frugally even at times when it is available copiously.
- o To have a feeling that water too has life.
- o Harvesting rain water to recharge the aquifer.
- o **Employing methods that will use water better - to use it more productively in the fields, avoiding seepage and leakage.**

014. What is Spirituality in Daily Life?

Spirit is for the tapasvi, life is for the householder is our tradition. Our tradition is religious. Thousands of people accepting one's realisation of the Spirit is religion, as monarchy accords the divine right to rule over the nation to the royal family. Each man discovering his own Spirit is spirituality, as in democracy each one is entitled to rule the nation. Martin Luther thus pleaded for the individual's spiritual illumination, eliminating the priest who is the intermediary. **Is it possible for each one of us to become a saint?** Modern technology has brought the great benefits of scientific discovery in the shape of newer products to every consumer. So also with spirituality. Its benefits can be availed of by everyone, if not the ultimate illumination.

Stated simply, any situation poses the alternatives of Truth and Falsehood. **To choose the alternative of Truth is spirituality in that situation.** Stated otherwise, any work can be done with interest making it alive or executed as a dead routine. One is spiritual whereas the other is not. Spirituality in life comes to us as values of honesty, loyalty, integrity, diligence, sincerity, industry, truthfulness, dynamism, etc. Dedicated work, intelligent reading, faithful friendship, responsible work at home, careful handling of materials, attention to people, etc. lead to self-reliance, self-respect, and individuality. If such people invoke the Spirit, it readily responds.

Office employees who are devoted to their work often evoke the jealousy of co-workers. Devotion is Spiritual. Such spiritual people rarely get into trouble in their career. Only when they are in great good luck, the co-workers succeed in giving them untold trouble. **To them the Spirit readily responds when called.** Without exception they are lifted far higher than their present position because of overcoming these obstacles. They see that obstacles, in practice, are opportunities.

There was a time in our life when the entire community lived every detail of their lives according to a spiritual principle. Every religion works to create a culture where every work will be done religiously -- according to Jesus or Koran, etc. The religious life India was familiar with was based on one man's spiritual realisation, a Shankara or Ramanuja. Its basic tenet was karma. **To fashion our entire lives on the basis of inner Spirit is spiritual life.** This cannot be done religiously, based on a guru's realisation. It must be on our own invocation of spirit.

In a very broad sense the world is more receptive to Spirituality today than a hundred years ago. The respect given to individual lives, the individual human being even when he is an invalid -- more so because he is an invalid - is a respect given to his soul. As he is recognised as a Soul rather than a body, the society as well as the government goes out of their way to make his life more livable.

As this is an age-old practice of every society, the question whether it is possible need not be raised. When man sees that the Spirit in life is far more powerful than his mind and is convinced that such a wholesale change is possible, he will not rest on his oars.

In the last three hundred years we see life has moved in terms of comfort, happiness, security, etc., as several stages. In the next thirty years, man can move as many steps further to avail of unthought of facilities issuing out of the new power commissioned into life.

India is a land of Rishis and Spirit.

There awaits it a life of plenty and prosperity

015. Wisdom of the World

Robert McNamara, former Chairman of the World Bank, reviewing a book of Harlan Cleveland said the French Prime Minister, who had been complaining about the lack of thinkers should meet this author. Professor Harlan Cleveland is the author of 12 books, was an Ambassador of the USA at NATO, was the President of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences besides holding distinguished academic as well as administrative posts. In a small pamphlet on 'Seven Collisions of Life', the professor sums up the key secrets of life in five formulas. He starts saying life is not for the timid and goes on to declare that projects will be completed in spite of the wisdom of experts to the contrary. Life, he says, has in it more than meets the eye. Really it is the quintessence of life, as all men who have accomplished widely know.

The US nation had the experience of telescoping 2000 years of European history into two or three centuries. In that process, apart from releasing endless socially creative energies, **she has distinguished herself in creating organisations of practical efficiency.** Harlan's formulas are the gist of these long, painstaking, practical experiences. Man thus has arrived at the secrets of life starting from below in physical work. All prosperous nations arrive at this point, but not necessarily from the same starting point.

The Indians had realised the Spirit in their souls long ago. Their cultural and social organisations were powerful and efficient. That was the cause of the prosperity in earlier centuries. Mostly it was derived from the inner spiritual experience. Today one can see the presence of that wisdom in the elders in any village or even in towns in men who accomplish. **The wisdom of Harlan Cleveland, a peak expression in US life, is found widespread across India in rural parts.** When these people act on their own organising any work, that work is flawless. They become inefficient when they have to re-orient themselves to other systems imported from the government. The pity is this is a fact little known in our country. Worse still, those who possess this wealth of organisation in their blood as an inheritance would not believe it, as life today looks up to the town.

In a thin sense, this can be called our spiritual wealth ready to be cashed in as a high profile instrument of vast prosperity.

Should India wake up and take a good look at her borrowed administration and be innovative enough to create a new one to fully draw upon this potential, she can straightaway move into the bracket of high income countries, skipping the middle stage. This is for the planners.

Here, I am addressing individuals, especially those young men who enter life, to give a deep consideration to this valuable inheritance of theirs. If any convincing is needed, think of anyone who has recently shot up in the scale of social achievements, and there you will find this element of **MANAGEMENT** predominant. Those are people who commission the Spirit of their innate efficiency. As I said earlier, very few of these star young men may know where their strength comes from.

- When I speak of invoking the Spirit to solve a problem in a factory, I mean one strand of this emerges from the Spirit and performs a transitory miracle.
- Anyone who has a problem to solve and is successfully solving it invoking the Spirit will find himself far more efficacious, when he has this knowledge.

016. The Power of Rituals and the Power the Reality Is

Doraisamy Iyer was a tall patriot who gave up his legal practice to settle down at the feet of Sri Aurobindo. The mantra known as Sri Aurobindo's Gayatri among His disciples was written by Sri Aurobindo when Doraisamy wanted to perform *upanayanam* to his son. When he was past 90, an American who passed his house heard many Shastris chanting. In reply to his query, someone near him answered that chanting of the Vedas at the time of one's death would lead the soul to moksha. A little later, the same American saw Doraisamy slowing walking on the beach holding the hand of a young lady who served him with devotion. **Vedic chanting can give a further lease of life.**

On the farm of an orthodox Brahmin the heap of straw near a haystack caught fire while the wind was blowing towards the haystack. He began to chant a mantra and the wind changed its direction.

There is a mantra for every known human act. It is said there are 14,600 mantras. From the bite of a poisonous reptile, to finding a lost object, tradition has a mantra. Chanted as it should be, it delivers its goods. As Sri Ramanuja succeeded where his guru failed to free a woman possessed by an evil spirit, **the power of the mantra issues from the purity of the one who chants.**

Not only are mantras powerful, but every ritual of any religion is full of power. Every religion has its version of such chanting.

A man committed suicide in an office. It became a haunted house. Employees were scared. A priest was sent for and he conducted his ritual ceremony. The place was no longer haunted. 'Of what use are these mantras for us?' a young aspirant for a job may ask. 'Will it get me admission?' another may join him in asking thus.

Whether there are mantras to solve the problems of modern young men or whether some of the old mantras can readily serve that purpose is not my issue here. What is a mantra? How can I avail of such a power to meet life and its problems?

The words welling up from inside the soul of a realised person is a mantra. Anyone who believes in him can use that mantra to attain the same realisation. The spirituality I have been speaking about is the response of one's inner Spirit in response to his calling. Using another's mantra is to be religious. Seeking one's own soul is spirituality.

A young girl came to a meditation centre along with a group of people. When she wanted to return it was late at night. Those who brought her had left without her. She had to return home. In her panic, she powerfully called the inner Spirit. A light appeared before her. Panic dissolved.

She walked into the street. The ball of white light turned golden and started moving as if it was guiding her. It disappeared when she reached her house.

17. The Voice of a Tree

'Sarvam Brahman' is an ancient truth. If that is so, evil too is Brahman. That question remains unanswered. **Answering that question philosophically and expressing that knowledge successfully in life will be a new phase on earth.** It implies that inanimate matter too is Brahman. The Upanishads speak of Him who is awake in all those who are asleep. Before discovering Brahman in the stone, we can do so in the plants.

Spiritually realised people know inside what to do next. Some hear the inner voice. Children have their divine spark unstifled or unconditioned. Realised people see children speaking out what they hear from inside.

We see a tree as tree, not as Brahman. Is it possible to see the tree as Brahman? As there is a process of taking the gold out of the ore which we call extraction, **there is a process to discover the Brahman in every animate as well as inanimate object.** From outside we discover the Brahman. From inside the Brahman reveals under certain conditions.

Cashew was a jungle produce and still remains so in many places. Cashew plantations are raised on wastelands, not on cultivable lands. Cashew gardens are generally neglected except during the season when the produce is collected. Someone discovered by a sustained study that there is great profit in cashew if it is well tended. Ploughing, manuring, and watering cashew was unheard of in the annals of agriculture. **To the trees themselves, it is ATTENTION never dreamt of.** In the realm of psychology one can boldly declare, "Nothing succeeds like attention". Foresters know this phenomenon. In forest life the life of the forester is intimately intertwined with that of the trees he has planted. His death will be symbolised by certain trees closely associated with him.

On top of the Caper Hills cashew gardens received such attention in the sixties. The manager of the garden heard his name shouted one day while he was walking through the trees. The voice was distinct. He was startled but walked on ignoring it. **The voice repeated itself.** He stopped and walked towards the voice. A particular tree had **NOT** been manured while all the others were manured. He understood the call of the tree and arranged to manure it at once.

Attention is spiritual. It evokes a response from the life of plants. Inner realisation of Brahman and intense relation with objects evoke a response from the Brahman in the objects.

018. Subtle Vision

The Spirit is in the subtle plane, we are in the gross material physical plane. For the Spirit to act we have to move into the subtle plane, evoke it and the Spirit should leave its home, enter into our physical plane, act and disappear. As we have five senses, the Spirit too has subtle vision, subtle hearing, subtle smell, etc.

Two people were sitting at home conversing. One of them was expecting a friend from Madurai. The bus on the road a mile away was heard. They heard it stopping. One man told the other that his friend from Madurai had alighted from the bus on the road. **Being an engineer and a non-believer in subtle affairs, he laughed heartily and pardoned his friend for incurable superstition.** In the next 15 minutes the Madurai friend arrived. To the intrigued engineer's question, "How did you ever say this?" the man answered that he **SAW** his friend alight from the bus. This is not unknown, especially in the village.

Having read all night for an exam, a student was exhausted. He feared he might fall asleep in the hall. He did not sleep but another phenomenon revealed to him. For every question he took up answering, he saw before his mind's eye the page of the book opening. He copied straight from the book. The subtle is invisible. It is a spiritual truth that the more subtle the plane, the more powerful it is. It is revealing for us to hear a Swiss metallurgist saying about stronger metals, "The subtler the metal is, the stronger it is." To him lightness is subtlety.

A lady was in deep prayer in her small prayer room. Though small, it was impeccably clean. She was too poor to buy agarbathis. A friend who visited her remarked about a strong smell of bathis. **The purity of the divine presence issues subtle fragrances.**

None of these occurrences are unheard of. They are interesting to hear. What is it to us, to our lives in work? Swami Vivekananda saw the children of Bharat Mata dark at her feet. His spiritual power made the dark beings become white and pure. Sometimes we open a book at the page we look for. This is an indication of the presence of subtle powers. If it is there, it can be developed. If it is not there, it can be developed. Mind works through trial and error. Subtle senses avoid the labour and error. To refer any work constantly to the inner divine, one of the many ways that response comes is through a subtle sense. It is possible to cultivate it, a fact that artists, mechanics, musicians, cooks, and salesmen know. **Subtlety is Spiritual.** The finest subtle vision I have known is the vision of a Mother's devotee on Nov 17, 1973. He was coming out of his house at a place about 10 miles from Pondicherry. He saw in the sky a huge ball of Light. At once it broke into millions of pieces and each entered into the heart of a person. Next morning he

heard on the radio that exactly at that hour the Divine Mother had attained Samadhi. Devotees as well as others saw a huge light in the sky travelling when Sri Ramana Maharishi attained siddhi. Even people in Andhra saw it. **Subtle senses that are spiritual can be developed to make our lives richer. Of course all subtlety is not spiritual. Non-spiritual vital subtlety is a well known phenomenon.**

019. Spirit is Utter Truth

It is said Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 % perspiration. There is an impersonal truth behind this applicable to all statements of value. **The mysterious Spirit is, after all, the truth of the moment, the Utter Truth of the ultimate significance of the event, or person.** Life meets us at a millions of points of energetic expression. Each such moment has its own version of Truth. In any bargain, one such attitude is **NOT** to take advantage of the moment, or to consciously abandon the hold one has or has suddenly acquired. That is the tradition we have inherited from the Vedic Rishi Satyakama who told his guru that his mother had not known his father as she had been a servant in several households.

A successful small industrialist had often been inspired by the idea of the powerful Spirit. Once the workers in his three small establishments went on strike. Being the first occasion of strike in his industrial experience, he was stunned. It took a few days for him to recover. The Spirit came to his mind, but he had no idea of how to go about. One of the conversations of his other co-industrialists reminded him that he could send a telegram to his centre. Sending the telegram brought him relief inside.

Solving the problem of the strike was paramount. In his own mind he was determined to act in this crisis in such a way as he deserved to invoke the Spirit. News came that the strike leader was in jail having stolen a watch and police offered him bail if the owner stood guarantee. All his office staff felt it was a fine opportunity to demand the withdrawal of the strike from the leader. **The owner refused to take advantage of the other man's weakness and offered him bail unconditionally.** His family and friends thought he acted most unwisely on the basis of some illusory ideal.

Next day the strike leader brought with him twelve of his colleagues, who all offered to resign and quit the company, and requested the office to prepare their resignation letters. They did sign the papers later in the day.

020. Truth and Spirit

Truth is one of the twelve aspects of the Spirit, the others being Unity, Goodness, Knowledge, Love, etc. Any of these aspects in our life is a door to Spirit and its power, Truth being the most powerful of them. In a contentious atmosphere such as strike, the normal human tendency is to take full advantage of the weakness of the other. That leads to the result that one's strength may give. How did the **SSI** owner invoke the Spirit making the strike leaders change their attitude? **Had those leaders resorted to a similar method, the owner's attitude would have changed.**

A division of 50 workers was abolished in a factory. When all accepted the reality of the situation, one man sought the help of the inner resource. He was called back and being a technical person was posted as a head of a new division. The inner Spirit is real and its powers are irresistible. To take advantage of the situation is human. Like Rama's attitude to Ravana when he asked the disarmed Ravana to go home and come back armed, **NOT** to exercise the temporary advantage is spiritual generosity. That evokes the power of the Spirit which changes the psychological situation. The Spirit rushes into the field when

- we take the other man's point of view.
- we refuse to react as an offended individual.
- we consider a wider ideal than our own selfish benefit.
- we go into an inner Calm or Silence or Peace.
- we are able to sympathise with the folly of the offender.

we refuse to utter a word of falsehood for our own advantage.

- we stand by the well being of our institution rather than partisan gains.
- we depart from the human poise and espouse a divine ideal of the higher consciousness.

The twelve aspects of Spirit are Infinity, Eternity, Silence, Peace, Unity, Truth, Knowledge, Power, Love, Beauty, Joy and Purity. **Relying on a higher shade of any one of these aspects is a call to the God within which we call Spirit.**

In these days when corruption is the rule everywhere in life and not an exception, one who relies on the Spirit will see life gives him no occasion to resort to that universal behaviour.

021. Meteor that Falls

In Europe there is a belief that falling meteors are good omens. **There is a popular belief that to think of an idea or wish when a meteor falls is to have it fulfilled in one year.** If a wish should be formulated exactly at the moment of seeing a meteor, it should have been on the consciousness all the time. Generally we know that what our hearts are after all the time gets fulfilled. To convert this experience and the spiritual truth behind it into a method to solve life problems is possible. Whatever problem one strives to solve, he can try to bring it to the surface of his consciousness. It can be done, if he can think of it every hour, on the stroke of the hour exactly. To do so, it should be on his consciousness all the time.

A tuberculosis patient was rich but was employed. In view of his illness, he remained unmarried. His malady was to vomit blood once a month. Prolonged treatment had extended the interval between two such disasters. He sought asylum in his religious centre which gave further relief but not total cure. He could walk 30 or 50 yards at the most. To him, those who could run were a standing wonder.

It was suggested to him that a lasting cure lay in his invoking his own Spirit. He took a rickshaw and travelled a mile to visit a man to be initiated into this discipline. While he was listening to the new method, he felt new energy. The patient agreed to remember his problem or the Spirit every hour by way of invoking the Inner Divine. On coming out of that room, he felt like walking. He walked beside his rickshaw and walked all the way-a mile or so-back to his residence, even before he had practised the new method.

After remembering the Spirit on the stroke of the hour for 24 hours--a rare feat-he walked all the way the next day to report his immediate success. Swabhava is said to be unchangeable by all religious traditions. One tradition says it is possible in 35 years of discipline. Coming out of her art studio, a French artist saw a meteor and clearly formulated the idea that her swabhava must change. It changed in one year.

022. Faith Restoring Lost Speech

Loss of speech occurs by the physical disorders in the organs of speech. Powerful loss of it may occur by psychological disorders. Physical disorders respond to physical treatment. While the psychological malfunctioning hardens in response to physical treatment, it readily responds to a psychological approach. **The Spirit, when evoked, acts through any opening the embodied being gives.**

A boy of 19 lost his speech and his family had not discovered the fact for a few days, as the boy never spoke much. He was hospitalised in the hope of some recovery. The boy's family gradually understood that there was no treatment for this. The only consolation they all got was they could pray to God. Almost everyone prayed. There was no change in the boy's condition nor was there inner calm that comes from prayer.

The boy's brother met an acquaintance during bus travel from whom he heard of calling the Spirit. As the boy could hear, the brother communicated the information to him. He too tried on his part. Being new to this kind of effort, no one could do the right thing. **On the first day of feeble efforts by so many, the boy spoke one word after about ten days of affliction.**

This was great encouragement and everyone redoubled their efforts, i.e. fumbled around after a fashion. Invoking the Spirit is a spiritual process to which tradition has various methods. The best thing is to understand the existence and power of the Spirit and by the mental will summon it to action. This is to activate the mind. Mind, conceding its inability and falling silent, stirs the Spirit into action which peeps into our surface for a trice. This is enough to solve the problem. For yoga the Spirit needs to remain on the surface forever. The energetic efforts of everyone gave the boy his full speech the next day showing itself in a graded fashion.

Faith is described as the knowledge of the soul. Mind that does not have that knowledge knows that ultimately a work will come around, as it knows that that knowledge is in the soul. **Mind itself getting the knowledge of the soul makes the mind formidable when it courts adventures.** In yoga, our vital energies are known as 'vital'. One becomes lucky, meets with unflinching success, etc. when his vital has the spiritual knowledge.

023 and 024. Silent Will

The Vice President of the American Management Association who had his dream of writing a book from the early age of six, had it fulfilled at the age of 55. Part of his plan was to interview a dozen people at all levels in Sears and Company. Such adventures on the part of writers are quite an annoyance to companies. The author prepared various arguments as to why that interview could be granted. They were 1. Sears will be written about in an excellent light, 2. His study will throw light on their own strength, 3. The management will better understand their own workings from the book, 4. It will be an opportunity for their own executives to know the company better, and six other arguments. **The author armed himself with enough explanations for each argument and felt solid inside.**

The **PRO** whom the author met was placid and his own heart sank considering the \$ 30 billion sales of the company. It occurred to him that the **PRO** must be meeting endless persons like him and he felt that there was justice in the **PRO's** refusal, if he refused. He derived no encouragement from the calm face of the **PRO**. He was in despair.

Silent will came to his mind. He had learnt that thoughts are not our own but travel in the atmosphere. If he did not express his own formulated thought, it would get expressed from the other. He needed no persuasion to become silent in his mind. It was already silent from the impossibility of the context. Those two minutes before the **PRO** were unbearable to him. Yet, now that his ambition of half a century was about to be consummated, how could he turn his back with a faint heart? **Anyway, everything in him had gone silent.**

He had no courage to persuade the **PRO** with any of the arguments he had come with. Instead, his mind dwelt at length on the powers of Silent Will, a spiritual principle, potent to accomplish for men who were pushed to the wall. The principle here is, if the mind is made silent or it goes silent, the Spirit awakens. When man refuses to ask, life gives him what he needs more copiously. **What one man consciously refuses to speak, is spoken by another man to his own delightful advantage.** He had known several examples of its power. In his own experience, he had enjoyed the benefits Silent Will confers on the practitioner.

Once he desired to engage a well-known speaker at one of his performances. For local reasons, in his own organisation that speaker, who was otherwise famous, fell into disrepute. So, he knew he could not propose that name without evoking bitter resistance. He vividly remembered how that very name was tabled by another and was accepted. But Sears was no ordinary occasion. There was no need to practise silent will. Everything inside him was silent.

He saw the **PRO** was endeavouring to speak. He was all attention. When he heard the **PRO** speaking, 'Of course, after these interviews, Sears will be written about in an excellent light', for a moment he became stone still. **They were his very words, studied over many hours.** Then, he thought, the Silent Will worked. Now something in him stirred. He was desirous of articulating his next argument if not explaining how Sears would be written about. No longer was there **SILENCE** inside. Everything was astir. It was a job for him to remind himself anything about Silent Will. Now he heard the **PRO** saying, "Your study will throw light on our

strength." It was pleasant to hear, though still unbelievable. The inner struggle grew in strength. The **PRO** faithfully recited all the arguments of the author and ended up securing all the interviews he had sought

031. Spirit Changes Bad Omens into GOOD Omens

Those who are centred in the Spirit disregard omens, as all happenings are good to them. Invariably they meet with only good omens. There are a good many people who set high store by omens. Traditionally we know them. For one who takes all Life as a being who constantly speaks to them by a symbolic language, every word he hears or reads, every event he sets his sights on is an omen of some kind.

As you leave the house, if someone on the street speaks to another, 'Today you are in luck' it is a good omen to you. What does one do when he meets with an ill-omen? Believers won't proceed. He who believes in something deeper can wait a minute and go in. The atmosphere will change at once and a very good omen will appear. **The Spirit coming to the surface has the power to change the negative omen into a positive one.**

While going to an important work, a man rushed to the bus which had started. He did not mind taking the next bus, but missing the bus was not to his liking. The bus moved to the entrance of the bus stand. He was lost in thought or he went in to look for his sheet anchor. He found it and was relieved. What matters is the inner atmosphere not the outer event, though the outer event never fails to confirm. The bus at the entrance stopped and the conductor called the passenger saying his count was wrong and there were a few seats still. Another passenger who missed the bus had the experience of a taxi bound for his destination taking him for the same fare as that of the bus.

The importance of the result cannot be minimised. But what is important really is the ability to change the character of the omen by an inner effort. **To have access to the Spirit puts the man on a different footing.**

032. Life Response – I

Thieves trying to force the bank vaults set the alarm signals going. It is a mechanical protection the bank has installed. When a bully bothers a timid colleague, others instantaneously rush to his help. It is a response of social goodwill and culture. Lord Krishna coming to the outraged Draupadi is the Divine Response to the call of the soul.

An American businessman who promised an Indian fertilizer company a 70 crore loan from a bank, met the Bank of America officers in 1972. In those times, these were novel ideas but he was determined to call at as many banks as necessary. Bank of America said that only 2 days earlier they had opened their South-East Asian fertilizer division!

In pursuit of an important work, we want to meet a friend whom we have not met for a few years. On leaving our house, in a pleasant surprise, he enters our house. Life is full of such strange events. Literature too is teeming with such incidents. History has the same character. **I call this phenomenon of ready help coming in an inconceivable fashion 'Life Response'.** "Thank God, you have come," we exclaim. We also feel we are in luck. We are right.

But this is not the caprice of Life. There is a law behind such occurrences. Some half a dozen such events described in detail and the laws underlying explained will make it clear that such a phenomena follow their own rules. One who knows such rules will always discern how such events come to pass. There is more.

Should one not submit to life, but rise above the social average and **evoke the Spirit**, he can make Life Respond. Life Response is a known phenomenon, not the capacity to evoke a Life Response. Still it is not totally unknown in life. Extraordinarily courageous people say, "Well, I have never been let down". Optimistic persons, when their hopeless project comes round, say, "I know it will come round." **It can come round to anyone who relies on the Spirit.**

033. Life Response – II

As material things on earth are held in equilibrium by gravitation, **events, persons, and movements are held in equilibrium in life by the emotions of people.** In India there is a perception of this truth, but people impute **MORAL** motives to life and see it when justice is done to them. Well, this is only a partial truth. Life is amoral.

We often see a dishonest person succeeding and attribute his success to money power or social influence, all of which are true, but again it is only a partial truth. **The complete Truth of this phenomenon is the emotional equilibrium in Life.** Philosophically, one can say it is the equilibrium of energy in life.

Eight tons of imported machinery was to be unloaded at a small port where the maximum capacity of the cranes was four tons. The owners of the machine decided to employ two cranes of four ton capacity. The machinery was hoisted halfway through the air and then the cranes failed. The owners standing on the pier watched their property sink down before their eyes. They all cried out from the very depths of their beings, calling the God they worshipped. **There was a huge noise. The cranes seemed to crash violently. But again they started to work and lowered the machinery onto the pier!** For decades the owners recited this story to hundreds of people. The captain of the ship who witnessed the miraculous event asked in surprise what happened. He was told their prayers had been answered.

It was not wise for them to have tried unconventional methods to unload expensive machinery. Their deeply felt, intense emotions neutralised the unwisdom of the decision. When the equilibrium of emotions or energies was restored, Life acted fulfilling one rule of Life Response. The rules to which Life responds are as many as there are ways of life

034. Life Response – III

In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* Darcy the hero was a wealthy aristocrat. Elizabeth, the heroine was a daughter of a fairly rich gentleman with no dowry of her own. On seeing Elizabeth at a ball, he said in her hearing that she was not a beauty but only tolerable. She was mortally offended. **But soon Darcy discovered that uncontrollable passion had been gathering in him towards that beauty.** She refused to dance with him at another party when he requested her. A third time when he asked her at another ball, Elizabeth was caught unawares. She inadvertently accepted and all through the dance was practising the art of provocation. Darcy, employing a ruse, had effectively prevented the excellent marriage that had come to her sister Jane's way. Knowing this, Elizabeth hated him.

Meeting Elizabeth at his aunt's place, Darcy proposed to her, couching his proposal in unpardonably offensive language. Elizabeth rejected the proposal violently, abusing Darcy and accusing him of heinous crimes. In a letter to her which justified his offensive act, he explained himself. After prolonged inner struggle, Elizabeth, in spite of rankling under the smart, realised that Darcy was not at all at fault regarding her sister.

Months later Elizabeth's aunt took her to see Pemberley, Darcy's estate, as part of their holiday tour. Elizabeth who dreaded to meet Darcy at his estate, agreed to visit on knowing that Darcy was away. While at that magnificent mansion, she learned that the proud Darcy she knew was really amiable and loveable. She thought she could have been the mistress of that palace had she wanted. All her hate was washed off on hearing the other side of Darcy's character. On leaving the building, she ran into Darcy who had returned a day early! That was the turning point of the story which led to their wedding. **The reversal of her emotions were complete while at Pemberley** and that reversal restored the equilibrium which brought Darcy ahead of schedule. That is the process of Life Response.

035. Life Response - IV

In an American university of several thousand boys and girls, there was a handsome rich engineering student who was a favourite of many beautiful girls. But his mind was set on another girl who excelled many other beauties in her looks. Scores of candidates were after her. This engineering student was one of them. The girl did not find it easy to make up her mind, as many of her lovers were above the ordinary in their personal endowments. Many times this boy ventured to make his mind clear to her. She was not averse to any one of those endless suitors, but found it difficult to decide.

He could not be in this uncertain state of nerves, which was painful. One day he returned home from his classes instead of trying to meet this girl. He was dejected. Who could get this girl for him? Was there such an earthly power or divine influence? Suddenly he became an ardent believer and addressed a warm deep prayer to God, "If it is true that there is a Divine Hand presiding over human destinies, certainly it is obligatory on that power to make this elusive beauty come to me."

Scarcely had he finished his prayer of love, when the phone rang. It was she. She called to accept his proposal. They got married.

- Life responds by a beneficial, miraculous act when the equilibrium of emotions is restored.
- Why should the act be beneficial?
- Why it should be miraculous?
- How does it act instantaneously?

These are questions of interest that can be explained through examples of life events. Life responds negatively too by the same rules. It may not be of help to those who wish to acquire this power. It will be very important for an impartial scholar.

036. Rishyasringar in California

Bob Macfarlane of New York earned the reputation of being Rishyasringar, as his visits to Pondicherry use to bring with them the heaviest rainfall. To him, it was a source of annoyance. On one of his visits, the rains were so heavy, that many houses in the colony had to be evacuated.

Now Bob lives in California where the rains are normally spread over the period from October to February. This year October and November had been very dry. It was Bob's experience that his prayer for rains never failed. Once he even saw that his prayer for rains in California brought heavy rains here in Pondicherry during the dry summer season.

But a few months ago Bob found that the rain God refused to listen to his prayer. What more could he do? As his presence always goes with rains and his prayer for rains had always been unfailing, he had never had occasion to resort to any disciplines to bring the rain. Now was the time for disciplines!

He knew that giving attention to water is a call of love to the rains from the heavens. He began by becoming very frugal in his use of water, even though the supply was presently copious. He recollected water and its usage with warm emotions. He began to feel a live relationship in his emotions with water, rain and their spirit.

The heavens heard his call. Ten inches of rain poured down. A day later, five more inches came. Bob lives on one side of a mountain range. **On the other side, a typhoon struck the coast of California, bringing 24 inches of rain.**

- o Attention succeeds as nothing else succeeds.
- o Attention is the physical version of affection, which is a quality of Spirit.
- o Even material objects like water respond to attention, as attention evokes the Spirit in material things.
- o Spirit goes out to meet Spirit with divine results.

037. Petulance Prevents Spiritual Prosperity

In the 1950's a spirited brahmachari took to austere religious life, eking out his living by the quasi-spiritual endowment of water divining. **It gave him one meal a day and two sets of clothes to his respectability.** He was universally respected but he longed for commensurate comforts in life without deserting the codes of his life. The concept of Spiritual Prosperity or Prosperous Spirituality attracted him. He examined the various tenets of this way of life - service, enlightenment, meditation, invocation, initiation, psychological purification, consecration, surrender, raising one's consciousness, **pure goodness** - and chose initiation as it suited his traditional culture. It was arranged.

He knew the tradition means elaborate procedures. He was told no such procedures were followed here, but flower offering was not inadmissible. Those who seek prosperity often resort to cash offerings. He emphatically denied his seeking affluence and chose flower offering. **At the moment of initiation, he had a new spiritual birth and his usual brahmachari tejes on his face gained in lustre, almost sparkling.** The direct result was his appointment as State Water Diviner. He did in the next twelve months as much work as he had done all his thirty years of profession. He was enjoying the Spiritual Expansion of Social Life, but the inflow of his income was in a trickle, almost defeating his original intention. When this was raised as an issue, he was told that was his deliberate choice. The new realisation was a mortification or even a humiliation. He felt humbled before the enormity of his petulant behaviour. He offered to reverse his attitude and was prepared to do now what he haughtily omitted earlier. The cash offering was made and accepted. All the fabulous income that had waited at the outside flowed in quickly.

038. Spiritual Power of Flowers

Flowers occupy an important place in our worship. Being subtle and tender, they are receptive of the spiritual force. The Divine Mother has given spiritual names to 800 flowers and described their spiritual qualities in detail.

Flowers can intensify our concentration in all cases while those who are unable to concentrate will draw ready help using them. One who lost six ventures into which his father-in-law helped him heard of the flower *PROSPERITY*. In Tamil this is called Nagalingam, a red flower with four or five petals with a hood in the centre. As this flower is a favourite of God Shiva, it is generally found in Shiva temples. On offering this flower to God, this man who was bankrupt got a job and his salary was doubled the next day. He cherished the flower and collected a lot of them to be offered to God. In two years his income rose to 16 times his salary. The red flower is called selfish prosperity while the same flower of whitish red is called unselfish prosperity. Jasmine is *purity*, rose is *surrender*, Cotton rose is *GRACE*, Bougainvillea is *protection*.

Among those who invoke the Spirit, the flower *PROTECTION* has become popular as nowadays people travel more than before. Carrying this flower protects from accidents. Such stories are numerous. A lady whose income was very small used *Nagalingam* and was frustrated as there was no results at all. Her dirty house prevented the beneficial action of the force. On cleaning the house, she saw a sudden spurt in her income which in a year led her to buy a house. **If an important flower is unavailable, one can imagine the flower in his heart with the same effect.** Depression is common. Chrysanthemum (Samandhi) is called *Life Energy*. On taking the flower in hand, after offering it to God, one can see energy entering his system.

039. Evil Spirits

Jealousy leads people to do black magic on their rivals. The victim ordinarily seeks a remedy through another person who is a better adept. Those who take to Spirit are free from this affliction; but when people are perverse, the religious institutions become seats of this malady. The greater the religious power, the greater is the power of evil. In the West, on such occasions, people resort to medical remedy. Some give way, others do not.

A PhD had a mild attack of this type. He sat up during his sleep and began to bark. Getting up the next morning, he listened to his wife with unbelieving ears. Coming from a poor village, in spite of his high education, he retained the habits of uncleanness. His clothes were dirty, house was not well swept, the sheets of his bed were never washed, etc. His wife was interested to relieve him of this strange behaviour of which he was unaware. He tried to evoke the Spirit and it never worked. He had faith and therefore persisted but the results were nil. **On seeking appropriate advice, he learnt the prime importance of spotless cleanliness.** They washed the floor, cleaned the cobwebs on the ceiling, washed the sheets, changed the pillow covers, lighted agarbathi while he was sleeping. He decided to take a bath every night before going to sleep till the visitation left him. It left him on the very first day of his acquiring cleanliness.

Evil spirits are chased by magicians as a rule. Sometimes the spirit--the evil spirit--proves stronger and defies his chanting especially when the victim is an unbeliever. **Invocation of the Spirit never fails. Usually it leaves the victim on the first invocation.**

040. The Turning Point

Man's confidence in his capacities is implicit. He would not desert them until they are proved fruitless. In business there is a point of No-Return. Woe unto him who does not wake up until he crosses it. Life has such landmarks in every sector we know of. While playing a match one knows what point he cannot lose. One who came to such a point in an international tourney, stopped for a few minutes, concentrated and then served the ball. He won the point and every succeeding point, thus winning the match which his country had not won up to that stage.

Reporters rushed to him at the end of the game to know all about it. He simply replied, "I prayed to the Divine Mother." **Calling in the Divine Mother-the Spirit--loka madha, is an unfailing exercise** which those who do so know.

Man functions from his mind. Usually he acts from his feelings that lie below his mental plane. The emotions are powerful while the mind is not but the mind has the necessary discrimination. In yoga the range of spiritual planes above the mind is called the spiritual mental range. It consists of four planes culminating with the world of the gods--Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesh, Indira, Lakshmi, etc.

Just above the human mind is situated the mind of Silence of the Muni. The Rishi who sees his visions is next above him. The Intuition of the yogi is the next. The plane of Gods is called overmental plane. Supermind is above that. The world of *Chit* known as consciousness is the birthplace of the Divine Mother. **No wonder calling Her into our lives is powerful and unfailing.**

041. Karma

Karma is inescapable is our tradition. A rich man who had lost the sight in both eyes early in life visited a famous holy man in the hope of gaining his sight. The devotees who waited for the holy man's darshan were many and they had to wait patiently for their turn. This man's turn came. Suddenly it occurred to him that he might have to offer his diamond ring to this holy man. He removed it from his finger and safe-deposited it elsewhere. The holy man from whom the devotee tried to hide his action could read his thoughts. He did not respond to the prayers for eyesight but laughed saying, "There is no thief here. You can take out your ring and put it on your finger. **Your blindness is from KARMA.** There is no remedy for karma."

It is true there is no remedy from Karma in the traditional ways of worship. Spiritually the Cosmos is created by the Force that issues out of Consciousness. The Force accumulates Karma, the effects of past actions, not the consciousness from which the Force issues. Consciousness is a whole and cannot be divided. It does not accumulate Karma. Consciousness emanates from Being which is the Spirit. Spirit is not governed by Karma, as it is Timeless. In the plane of Time, cause leads to effect. Hence Karma can accumulate. In the Timeless plane of the Spirit, action is instantaneous. It leaves no room for the play of cause and effect. The touch of Rama's foot relieved Akalya of her sin as Rama, the Avatar, is not bound by the rigid rules of the plane of Time.

The Rishi in his tapas enters the Timeless plane when he is lost in dhyana. **One who believes in his own Spirit and invokes it calls the Timeless plane to act on the plane of Time. Hence Karma dissolves.**

042. Methods of Invoking the Spirit in Life – I

Tapas, dhyana, Japa, etc. are some of the methods of invoking the Spirit. This is the Spirit of the Tapasvi, Muni, Rishi, Yogi. It is powerful away from life. **The Spirit I am talking about is the Spirit in Life, called Psychic by The Mother and Sri Aurobindo.** This is the Spirit that acts in life directly, giving us great results. For the same reason it is more difficult to evoke, in the sense, it demands a greater purity of Truth. There is Truth by itself and Truth in Life, just as there is capacity by itself and capacity expressed in acts.

The Psychic hears the call of the Truth in Life.

A lawyer taking the case of a client and doing a good job is the first stage, but when he takes interest in the client as a personal friend, his performance rises in quality. If he is a lawyer in a lower court but knowledgeable, it is open to him to marshal all the legal points usually raised in the higher courts and fight his case here. That may move him to the practice in the higher courts. Sense of justice is a keen faculty in men. Every man is actuated by it, every one who is your enemy. Often we appeal to it while confronting a malicious person with success. Even to the tyrant's sense of justice, we appeal irrespective of the outcome. Draupadi appealed so to Bhishma, Drona, Kripa, and Vidura in vain. These great souls may fail as they did, but god never fails. God's answer is not a social rescue but a divine bounty.

Suppose this lawyer in the lower court appeals to the sense of justice of the Judge, his reward will have no parallel. The above are the four stages of invoking the Spirit. They are called Sakthi, Viryam, Deivaprakriti and Sraddha. Crossing the first three stages, one resting on Sraddha, Faith, works to invoke the Spirit. The reply of the Spirit in Life, the Psychic, is copious, in infinite measure.

043. Methods of Invoking the Spirit in Life – II

One may feel "I am not Draupadi and Lord Krishna is not going to answer my call." Before giving several examples from the lives of ordinary people, the theme needs to be explained and illustrated. **One successfully reaches God's ear - Psychic -- when in his work he moves away from Sakthi, Viryam and Deiva Prakriti and acts from Shraddha, Faith, is the theme.** Sakthi means energy, work done by energy, the energy of the physical body. To take interest in a work, to pour into it the temperamental energy is Viryam. To do so relying on God's energy is to resort to Deiva Prakriti. This means his energy is not merely of his own interest, his own temperamental energy but the energy of his faith and interest in the god he worships. Work rises in quality and he sees his own personality recedes in the background. At this stage when he desires to move higher still, he witnesses that it is not he, the man, who is at work but the Lokamatha is. **In his own perception of work, he dissolves and only SHE remains.** It is not a mere idea, a thought or a religious teaching. SHE works, She alone works and we are an instrument in Her hands, much as we see that the train carries us. We realise we do not have to carry our bag on our lap but can let it lie on the loft of the compartment as the train that carries us can carry our little bag too. It is a fact in our perception, not an intellectual argument. Acting thus, we act in faith. Acting in faith we successfully call the Spirit into our lives.

The Spirit Moves Into Action.

Once the Spirit acts, the results defy our rational understanding. Every act in life can thus be lifted to the plane of Spirit and be blessed by the Force of Gods.

044. Methods of Invoking the Spirit in Life – III

In the pre-war days, village weddings were prepared for over several months as paddy had to be ground into rice at home by human hands, appalam was home-made. All the articles of food were to be procured locally, some grown on one's own fields. It was a labour of prolonged agony. Normally families live together in work as well as Spirit. On an occasion like wedding, all the relatives come to one's help. Though the work remains formidable, several hands share it, lightening it for the individual. There are unfortunate individuals isolated from the community either by poverty or cantankerous temperament. To them the labour was even more onerous, as they had to do all the work themselves with little help.

This situation changed after the war, especially after the 70's and 80's. The 9 day pre-war wedding function over the decades got abridged to one day. The venue got shifted from the village to the towns. Marriage Halls sprang up like cinema theatres. Trade and commerce organised themselves into specialised services to take care of decorations, cooking, serving, Nadaswaram, etc. Now all that one has to do is to pay for these services and receive the benefit. A Himalayan labour has become a child's play.

There are highly placed wealthy persons. When their daughters are to be married, money is never an issue. Should a daughter's wedding be fixed, his relatives and friends and his company staff are waiting for the privilege of rendering that service to him, as an alliance with his family is a privilege. **The rich man's part is only to give his assent.**

Sakthi, Viryam, Deiva Prakriti, and Faith can be compared to the lone individual, the village function, the marriage in the town Kalyana Mandapam and the wedding of an affluent influential person of eminence.

How are we to move along these lines in our daily work?

045. Methods of Invoking the Spirit of Life, the Psychic -- IV

Moving from Sakthi, Viryam, Deiva Prakriti to Faith can be said to be the method here. Sakthi is to do the work on hand. Viryam is to do the work with full interest. Deiva Prakriti is to raise our personal interest in the work to a higher interest. **To bring to bear on the work the best professional skill will be Deiva Prakriti in practice.** Put in simple words, a work must be done to the very best of our honest abilities leaving no stone unturned. In this there is no compromise. This power of Spirit is for those who work hard and with skill and intelligence. Completing them prepares one to move to faith. Moving to faith, acting from faith can be divided into two parts or three parts as Mental and Physical or Mental, Vital and Physical. The first part of Mind gives the knowledge, the second vital part gives the energy, and finally the third physical part gives the power which brings about the results.

Mental part of knowledge - One's mind should understand the theme of faith moving Spirit in Life and that Spirit yielding inconceivable results. The Mind must know this fact. **As soon as the mind begins to know this fact, a calm enters the Mind and the gathering of power in the Mind is visibly felt.** The power thus felt is the Spiritual power of the Mind. This much is for the knowing. Knowing is followed by taking emotional interest in the glory of the Idea. The power felt in the mind begins to swell into a flood. Knowing is power, taking interest is a flood of power. There is a further stage of believing the theme, the power, the Spirit. **The swelling flood endlessly extends itself in an infinite expansion.** In the experience of devotees, results have multiplied in various cases 24 times, 365 times and in one case 1500 times. There is one isolated good case where the expansion cannot be expressed in numbers.

046. Method of Invoking the Spirit in Life – V

Om is the pranava mantra. Om is the sound that emanates from the transition from the Immutable Brahman to the Mutable Brahman, known as Akshara Brahman to Kshara Brahman, the Spirit to Nature. That plane is Cosmic Consciousness where the God is the Cosmic Self. When repeated as it should be, Om takes one to the Cosmic Consciousness. **The right method is genuine inner seeking of God.** Oral repetition or mental repetition without that inner Truth will not have that result. That genuine inner seeking is the trump in Spirituality. In a soul otherwise inwardly mature without his own surface knowledge **OM** can directly take him to that higher region on being pronounced a few times. One will be face to face with God.

In life we call people good if their inner being is ripe and mature. These people when they work are gentle. They speak little and softly. They are invariably patient and rarely react to situations. Generally their work is more efficient than others, often perfect. Perfection in work is a call to the Spirit in work. One who is clumsy realising it lately may go about establishing certain orderliness in his work. This is to enter into the path towards spirituality. One who is fully emotional who never thinks or is incapable of thinking, launching himself consciously on the path of thinking moves towards Spirit. **In theory, all life is Spirit and any positive move such as cleaning a filthy house and keeping it clean thereafter is a step towards Spirituality.** Moving from negative to positive side is to move towards the Spirit. Life will begin to respond in proportion to such efforts. Reaching perfection on any such lines as cleanliness, orderliness, truthfulness, etc. results in a vast spiritual opening.

047. Methods of Invoking the Spirit in Life, the Psychic – VI

Man's physical work gives him skills. His vital work endows him with social skills of interpersonal relationships. Mental work offers understanding and skills of memory, thinking, judgement, etc. **Values are spiritual skills.** To employ values in a work is to render it spiritual. Every work of any description on earth has a value attached to it, maybe all the conceivable values. Loyalty, honesty, integrity, safety, the other man's point of view are the values generally known. There are work values such as punctuality, cleanliness, orderliness; life values such as pleasant behaviour, kindness, attention, affection, dynamism; mental values of loyalty, honesty, etc. and Spiritual values of Silence, subtlety, insight, intuition, etc.

To raise a work from the physical or mental plane to the plane of Spirit is to release the Spirit in the work. Spiritual values raise any work from its plane to the plane of Spirit. In India punctuality is the exception, not the rule. Let a company, where there is no punctuality at all **NOW**, vow to implement punctuality at all levels. The Spirit in the work will double the level of the company.

Of the two schools in a small municipal town one drew the elite children, employed teachers of reputation, and was in the centre of town. The other drew children from the first generation of education, could attract no teacher permanently and was situated outside the town. But this school followed the discipline of punctuality in every aspect of work and once in the heydays of the British Raj denied the **D.E.O.** entry as he came for inspection an hour late! The other enjoyed total absence of punctuality of any description. In the 1950's the first school had 80% results while the better one never raised its percentage of passes to two digits.

048. Miracles that Became Commonplace

For some time I have been writing in this column that one can invoke the Spirit in his own life, exercise his Silent Will for that purpose, address a prayer to God that is answered without fail, make Life respond, call the indwelling Spirit to act in mundane activities.

These things occur occasionally in everyone's life, but pass unnoticed. In the lives of those who believe it a way of life, such occurrences become commonplace for a while and become infrequent later. Below I would list many I have already mentioned and many more that I will be writing about in the future.

One who ventured to buy one acre without any savings on hand ended up buying 365 acres in thirteen years. Another person got a promotion to the highest post in his all-India organisation at a comparatively young age for that post, overlooking thirteen other seniors. To a perverse guru who miserably failed to collect a purse for himself, his disciple who took the guru's perversity as a reflection of his own inner being endeavored to collect a sum five times higher. He collected 24 times more. Office colleagues plotted against an employee for six long years and had him suspended when the employee committed an indiscretion. The employee had his order destroyed by the boss on the fourth day of its issue. An American businessman of a half a crore sales in 1972 was offered by the government of India a project of 800 crores. The excruciating back pain by a dislocated disc that bothered a man for fifteen years vanished on his receiving a boon in his dream. Businesses small and big have shown an expansion of ten times, fifteen times in 2 1/2 years and ten years.

Indira, at a moment of political crisis, agreed to avail of the Spirit. She desired to win 250 seats, but got 356 seats in the Lok Sabha. The Spirit invoked during times of labour incalcitrance came to work early and left hours later.

The Spirit is not only for the Rishis. It is available to all who are pure inside and work hard for prosperity.

054. The Inflow of Money Increases with the Outflow

This is direct contradiction of the universal belief that more money accumulates when less money is spent. **Still it is a practical truth practised by those who have amassed wealth. It is also a fully valid spiritual truth.**

I would like to say that this is almost a mechanical law. If water passes through a tube or a canal, what do we do when we want the inflow to increase: we increase the outflow. It is a phenomenon of Physics. Mother baffled every hearer when She spoke like this. And everyone experimented with the idea and found it to be true, but happily returned to their old habit. The ancient Tamil treatise *Nanool* says the reader matures in his comprehension when he gives his knowledge to several others.

That music, art, language, etc. can grow in their capacities in a person with practice has this principle behind it.

In our management clients, we often raised this issue and as long as the client practised it, the inflow continued to increase dramatically. I speak of more generous spending, which is the physical part of it. **The willingness with which it is spent and the deeper understanding of this principle will decide the quantum of increased in-flow.** Spending does not mean the spending of a spendthrift. Either at home or in your business, you may be postponing payment where the pressure is less and making it where the pressure is great.

Try for a three month period the rule of right priority, whether it is suppliers or wages. If you decide to act thus, take the trouble to understand why it occurs. Let your act rest on right comprehension. There is a further step of acting on spiritual faith that transcends this understanding. We can go one further step and convert that spiritual faith into spiritually clarified knowledge of the mind.

055. The Ever-Increasing Income

There are really good souls who believe that earning money is unethical. I shall not try to explain my position to them or trace the genesis of their present faith beyond declaring that it was a faith and moral that very well suited the ages when all aspects of life could be lived handling little money. My two important faiths are:

- 1. Modern life demands considerable expenditure.
- 2. To earn money **HONESTLY** is more difficult than sitting for years in tapas, as tapas is done in rarefied regions of pristine purity, but money is to be earned in this world of hard knocks.

One endowed with the wisdom of common sense who re-orientes his present expenses on the right priorities as liberally as his circumstances permit, will witness a boom in his income. This does not permit expenditure of vanity, styled as necessity, the necessity of the hour. In delaying the difficult payments, and meeting the expenses urgently required on hand, there is deceit as we take advantage of the creditor who is indulgent and we **INDULGE** our preference. Liberal right spending removes the blot of deceit from our character. Refusing to indulge in our preferences gives us an inner discipline. **These two are spiritual forces** and powerful too. Spirit can earn more than the body or the mind.

When you spend liberally on what is due, the recipient is rightly exulting, thus releasing a spiritual power in him. Vain spending makes the recipient consider us in a foolish light and occasionally there may even be unwillingness to receive, as it is an act of ego.

In flourishing enterprises, one can witness unstinted spending where it is due. That is one reason for continuous growth there. The Divine Mother has declared it as a principle of life and those who need a spiritual confirmation of their understanding may take Her words.

056. Power of Values to Earn Money

Earning money is an act, as any other act of winning the elections, passing an exam, etc. The components of such an act are energy that comes from interest, goal that gives the direction, **ORGANISATION** from which power issues, skills that convert that power into results.

Each component decides the issue or the quantum of money earned, but the earning itself depends on the harmonious functioning of all these components. One of these components cannot be missed or be present in a half-measure. **When all the components are adequately present and harmoniously functioning, the result, the amount of money earned is decided by the value of each component.** This is so because values are spiritual.

One who is earning Rs.10,000 a month or Rs. 1,00,000 a month can raise that income 5 fold if he introduces values at every stage and gently raises them to their maximum. A company that is marginally losing will become marginally profitable by this approach at once. To further raise the profits, it can be done by raising the values or organising better or employing any method that company needs particularly.

There is no work where values do not arise. Attention, organisation, comprehension, integrity, truthfulness, etc. are values we know. The list can be endless.

A family presided over by a father or mother whose priority is his own wants practices selfish values. Suppose he decides to meet the needs of all others before meeting his own needs, he will be practising selfless values. Or, he may decide to practise Self-giving which means he will go all out to meet anyone's needs which lie within the ambit of his duty or not. Soon he will witness a burst of income. Owners of companies taking such an approach will discover the **ORDERS** for which they have been searching all over like a needle in a haystack will start coming on their own.

Values are spiritual. They can earn a vast quantity of good money

057. The 100-fold Power of Values

A thousand years ago man was physical. His life was elementary. He survived. Now man has multiplied his comforts, enjoyment, mastery, reach, etc. a hundred fold. Some would feel it is a thousand-fold or more. Anyway, the progress in one millennium is phenomenal. This happened because he moved from a physical man to a mental person. Maybe he has not yet a fully formed mental life, a rational life. Certainly he has moved away from the body to life - from the physical to the vital. Both of them accept the guidance of the mind in material matters, not in emotional affairs. There is nothing wrong in saying man today is mental.

If this phenomenal expansion is owing to the physical moving to the mental, **moving from mind to the Spirit can be another repetition of this expansive phenomenon.** One can safely say today's life will further expand in its richness, inner peace, outer security, absence of discord and particularly in Prosperity a thousand-fold.

If Spirit in its original splendour is a high goal, its values of honesty, loyalty, truthfulness, cleanliness, and silence are what we now know and follow. **By using these values extensively, one can bring the power of Spirit to bear upon life.** Therefore, Values that are really spiritual skills raise the results of work a hundred-fold, if not a thousand-fold.

We consider money as a thing of use. Spiritually money is a force of the Divine. An unceasing in-flow of money will begin when the money we use has the full benefit of all the Spiritual values we now use. Only that it must be exhaustive and perfection must be attempted. A long list of spiritual values in a company can be given. A losing company acquiring the **spiritual value** of paying greater attention to the needs of all others in the company than to one's own needs will turn to profit making in the next month. **Results of Spiritual Power when released into action by the truth of inner sincerity are INSTANTANEOUS.**

058. Genius is a Power of Spirit

Values may be spiritual, but just because they are so, could they raise mundane results so phenomenally high? Why do we call values Spiritual?

Geniuses are born, not made. They appear a few times in a century. Many of them are known to be a genius even at a tender age; others discover their own divine endowment at a later stage. In them the potential emerges only if the external circumstances are conducive. Incidentally, there is genius in men, in materials, in events, Time or Space which will emerge if conducive circumstances are given. **Spiritual values offer those circumstances to all.**

There was a time, not only in India, but all over, when education was not meant for all, everyone could not be soldiers, administration was reserved for the select few, ruling the nation belonged to those of the royal family. None of this is true now. So, that Genius is born itself is a question that has to be revalued. A time comes in the life of a genius who was not aware of his greatness when all at once his powers flower in full. When Life is kind to him and offers that **TOUCH** which will bring out his genius, it flowers. **Values in skill, values of attitude, mental values OFFER any work that TOUCH which brings out the Spirit in that work.** The Spirit emerges as infinitely great results, which is prosperity.

Physical work gives skill. Vital work -- life experience -- gives agreeable attitudes. Mental comprehension results in good understanding. After raising oneself to the Spirit, if one continues to work, he feels calm, Silent, Peaceful, truthful, honest, loyal, dutiful, etc. all of which are **VALUES. Consciously introducing these values in physical, vital, mental work helps one release the Spirit in the work which is abundance.** Hence the ever-increasing **PROSPERITY.**

059. Why are Pious, Orthodox, GOOD People Sometimes Poor?

Maybe they are not sometimes poor, but often times poor. There are several reasons, at least three major reasons. 1. They are **NOT** orthodox in the best sense of the word, 2. They lack the right discrimination to sift the chaff from the grain, 3. **They often worship harmful vital spirits in the name of the venerable gods Shiva, Vishnu, etc.**

Orthodoxy is not a ritual. It is chaste condition of a pure mind devoted to Truth as an article of faith. Tradition does not even enjoin on their worshipping the idol in the temple. They are to worship the inner Brahman who is of the size of a thumb seated in the heart. As the Rishi loses years of tapas by the burst of anger or touch of lust, **ONE single lie uttered will render him unorthodox.** They are **NOT** to consult horoscope or observe auspicious hours. These are meant for the laity.

Divine Spirit at all levels is intermixed with what is not true. The tradition says one must discriminate and choose **ONLY** the Truth. Most pious people are not of high discrimination. **They choose what is convenient to be good or orthodox and fall a victim to dark forces.**

A time was when a Congress volunteer carried a little aura of the Great Mahatma. Now Mahatma is not, nor his Spirit actuates. To mistake today's politician, thinking of the great Soul of Mahatma, will at best lead to be politically exploited. Great Temples were built by Great Saints. As long as the worship was **PURE**, the **ORIGINAL** spirit of the gods presided over those institutions. Once that recedes, spirits appropriate to the worshippers as well as management **OCCUPY** the subtle atmosphere of these Divine Institutions. Two indications will tell us about the purity of the place 1. A sense of inner calm and peace that is spiritual elevation, 2. Impeccable cleanliness as maintained in Guruvayoor Temple by the Namboodiris. **Spirit never fails to give prosperity. Man may worship the wrong deity.**

060. Astrology, Numerology, Omen, Vaastu, Auspicious Hour

Astrology is precise to the point of what you will eat for the next meal, numerology will be equally stunning, vaastu may decide your immediate outcome as the auspicious hour. **In one high sense, they are all powerful, exact subtle sciences. Westerners may not believe as much as we do.**

If you are born in an affluent, affectionate orthodox village family growing paddy and ragi, and take that way of life as an ideal, you will end up a happy, prosperous affectionate family of our venerable tradition alienated from any aspect of modern family. It is not something to be questioned, as it is a conscious choice. When they compare themselves with another comparable family that left the village for the metropolis and further journeyed outside of India after 30 years, the differences in all respects will be apparent. **In actual fact of life and in our emotions we create a curious mixture of both, little knowing that we get the benefit of neither fully, as these forces cancel each other, being at cross purposes.**

Beyond these obvious common sense factors lies a great Truth unknown to the Rishis of old or the scientists of today. There is one great analogy. Monarchy was the life of the King. People were dirt. Democracy replaced a monarch by a President from the people. Its aim is in Bharathi's words 'Every citizen is the King of this land'. **Sri Aurobindo declared that the Hour has come, it is the Hour of God.** Everyone who invokes the Spirit is a Rishi in that measure. Astrology, numerology, etc. are in life and binds us to Nature's determinism. Access to Spirit liberates man from that bondage **and makes life submit to him and serve him.** The natural tendency is to combine both, least knowing that way we lose both, as the one cancels the other, being in different planes.

As man has emancipated himself from Nature and self-imposed superstition, **NOW** man can liberate himself from the thralldom of life and be its master.

061. Tradition and Spirituality

When astrology came into existence thousands of years ago, man felt as he did when railways came to relieve him from walking facing the dangers on the route infested with thieves. It was a great progress by any rational consideration. In the beginning of this century, air travel became a possibility and became widespread after the second world war. The history of the phone too has a similar development. **Phone conquered Time; cell phone conquered space also.** The cell phone is carried on the person and no longer fixed to a place.

Astrology was a great science which at the birth of Buddha predicted that he would rule the world either by power or Love. The horoscope of Rajaji written at his birth said he would be the Viceroy of India. Vaastu, omen, astrology inform us of what **IS** -- our karma. They have no power over what will come -- to change karma. So far, man is able to use only a small part of his capacities or the social opportunities before him, as he is hedged in by his karma. Only in the measure he is able to overcome karma is he effective in this world. **Faith in God removes the inhibitions of karma and offers him the full benefit of his own capacities as well as social opportunities.**

From 1956 onwards the Spirit has descended on earth and awaits man's call. When that Spirit is invoked into his daily life, it dispenses even with his own capacities and offers him the end results in the beginning. **That Spirit overcomes Karma and creates its own social opportunities made possible by the MAN'S personality.** As I have been writing earlier, people who were unable to borrow 1/2 a rupee, received at their door steps Rs.10,000/- as bank draft. When one who could not borrow Rs.10,000/- applied to a bank for two lakhs, he was offered 4 lakhs. If you have a project that is stalling for a year or two, call in the Spirit, you will know this Truth as a Fact of your own life. One may invoke the Spirit successfully to bring prosperity and still be troubled by a complaining wife, cruel husband, or cantankerous boss. But these too can be changed into their opposites by the Spirit.

062. Spiritual Experiment in Daily Life

Spirit permits experimentation, but the field is one's own life. To experiment with Spirit is not impermissible, but it must be confined to only one occasion. Faith moves mountains, but it is not for the layman. **There are Himalayan opportunities as well as immovable problems like a mountain in one's own *personal* life.**

To choose one of them and invoke the Spirit either to avail of the opportunities or to dissolve the obstacle that defies is permissible. It may be a husband lost in dissipation or a company that gently slides into ever increasing loss, or a court case where injustice, political power and corruption rule. Suppose a company will break even at eight crores income but the revenue rarely crosses seven crores, this experiment will help the revenues cross the 8 crore mark. Done with a TOTAL SINCERITY to work, **avoiding all attitudes that are negative**, the income next month will touch 80 crores. How to perform it?

- 1) The attitude of the CEO must be conducive to work, avoiding all personal, religious, traditional, ritualistic attitudes that offend the Spirit.
- 2) The goal can be achieved only by the CEO, but support from others is golden.
- 3) **The first requirement is an unshakable belief that Spirit can do it.**
- 4) To unsparingly evoke the Spirit into work, *removing* all obstacles.
- 5) Collect all thoughts of mind around this goal and gently remove all others, which means be truly serious and refuse to lapse into silly behaviour in the mind.
- 6) This will give a certain calm and Silence to the mind and one will witness a power of weight collects in the mind. It shows the direction is right.
- 7) Believe the goal in your emotions until it removes the anxiety so far haunting you and gives a slight JOY occasionally.
- 8) At a certain point, there will be JOY without any cause.

By this time, a hundred odd circumstances, small and big, that wee nagging will lose their nagging character and change into pleasant ones. When keeping the mind from dwelling on the goal, to avoid building the expectation, you will find the revenue more than 8 crores. In all likelihood, it would have touched 80 crores.

063. The Spirit of the Sea

Spiritual aspirants are the heroes of the society; they are the soldiers of the Spirit. **Rare is the soul that is drawn to the Spirit or a Guru; rarer still is the soul that believes in that Guru or the Spirit when the occasion arises.** Vivekananda's doubt about Ramakrishna's spiritual stature survived till the end.

Those stalwarts who joined the Freedom Movement obeying the call of the great Mahatma sacrificed their all. Having entered the fray, it was not given to them to overcome the human deficiencies.

The wall of the coal storage in Pondicherry was washed away by the sea waves some time in the 20s. The Mayor who owned the place, having consulted the French marine engineers, discovered it was a vain pursuit and put up the building for sale. There were no bidders. The seller approached the members of the Ashram hoping the Mother would come to his rescue. She is Divine Mother, but here was a wall that was washed away several times by the advancing sea. **No human sadhak had a heart that would believe the wall could be saved.**

The property was purchased. Fresh efforts at putting up the wall met with the same fate as before. After several attempts failed, the Divine Mother offered to visit the spot and **invoke the Spirit of the sea.** The sea god came to meet Her at Her call, but said he had decided to advance. Generally any of these deities obey the Divine Mother at once. But he persisted. She explained to him that She needed the place and it would be good if he changed his intention. He agreed. Again the wall was erected. It is still standing today.

If your car stops in the middle of nowhere, and you are not able to repair it, call the Mother, it will start. It never fails. Supposing it fails, call the Spirit in the car and it will start at once.

The Spirit is great. The Spirit in people and things is greater still.

064. "In Search of Excellence"

Publishers know more about selling books than the writers. Harper and Row, well known publishers stumbled on a report written by Tom Peters and Waterman and approached them with the idea of publishing it. Tom bluntly said it was a report and not readable and they could not hope to sell even 10,000 copies to recover their cost. **The publishers differed and securing their permission, printed it.** About six million copies sold in the following years. For non-fiction, it is remarkable. The publisher knows what the reading public will respond to more than the writer who writes for his own satisfaction.

Tom Peters was of the hippy generation and his one craving was for Freedom, freedom from all types of constraint. The hippy movement, whatever the shape it took, was a **movement of freedom of the deepest human urges.** Tom represented that vibration in Spirit as well as Letter, but he did not know what actuated him. Whether the publisher knew this or he had another commercial acumen is not known. **Tom, who had such a great urge for freedom as a vibration of his being was unaware of it.** This is recent history.

Every man born has the Spirit in him but is not fully aware of it. German doctors once cut open every organ of the human body in search of the soul and failed to find it! The thousands of Rishis who realised Brahman over the centuries have left in the very bodies of the Indians the light of their realisations. No wonder we do not find it or know whether it can play an active part in our modern daily life. When Tom's subsequent books were to be published, it is said, he asked for a million dollar advance. If only we discover the Spirit and come to call it into play, of course, we will put it to great use.

065. No Industry in India Need Fail

India is a growing market in the sense people want more, want the minimum standards of life. **He who wants more announces that he is willing to work for more.** Prosperity is willingness to work for more. Work yields results when it is organised. Organised work can be honest or otherwise. No company which is willing to organise its work to express values need fail in India today.

Vision 2020 of the Planning Commission envisages that India will move to the 100th rank from its present 153rd rank in 2020. The youth all over India are astir. **They reject the state of colonial poverty.** Guaranteed employment is a constitutional right even as compulsory education is. Vision 2020 is realisable if a Prosperity Movement is organised in India. The market in India is vibrant. Organised honest work finds great reward.

Self-employment today is Patriotism.

Commercial Agriculture is Green Revolution.

Ask for more, want more, it is Prosperity.

Ask of yourself, you will grow.

Wanting more is the growing **MARKET**.

Growing **MARKET** is India's **PROSPERITY**.

We have a long way to go which means,

We have great PROSPERITY to gain.

The country is **ASTIR**.

Education is at a premium.

An educated nation is a prosperous nation.

Qualify for employment.

Guarantee the employment.

Seek self-employment, **ORGANISE** the work to express values, acquire continuously higher skills. Realise the vision 2020 earlier than the goal.

Awake, Arise, Organise -- It is Prosperity.

066. Prosperity Movement

The Indian National Congress was **NOT** a party but a movement of Freedom in the pre- 1947 days. **The development of the nation demands a similar popular movement.** The Vision 2020 of the Planning Commission has goals to be achieved by such a movement. Kalam finds the youth awake asking for higher education and a prosperous future. A movement, not a party or government is needed to organise the awakening into tangible action.

Freedom was won not by petitions for better government, but by a determination to achieve complete Independence. No amount of administrative programmes can release the energies of India. The secret of Prosperity lies in man wanting more and his capacities to work for that more. No longer can agriculture alone or manufacture alone perform that miracle. **Millions of men and women demanding of themselves higher comforts and higher education is the creative market of the service sector.** It has come into being in a good measure in the metros and major towns.

Rural India can produce more, and commercialise her cultivation which are helpful, but the rural man wanting urban comforts out of his own efforts creates an unprecedented market which is the Prosperity of the Nation. All that the government needs to do is to provide the infrastructure -- roads, storage, refrigerated vehicles, information, etc. so that energy released by the people will be organised into material results.

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067. Peaceful Sleep

An officer in an erstwhile British-owned company came to a small farm and felt more relaxed than usual. He was tempted to stay there overnight in a small guest room that was there. **Next morning he felt it was heaven on earth as that little room gave him the most refreshing sleep he ever had in the previous 15 years.** God, it is said, who gave all wealth to man consciously refrained from granting him rest for fear that **HE** might be forgotten.

Most people sleep well, even enjoy a good, deep, refreshing, relaxing sleep. To those who have nightmares and are unable to have one good hour of sleep, these people are a wonder, maybe objects of envy. All people can enjoy really peaceful sleep, if they agree to leave that problem in the hands of their own Spirit. Many of them may be pious religious people. They wonder why God has denied them good sleep. Sometimes they curse Him. It often happens when people mistake vital spirits to be godheads and start worshipping them. **Whatever the reason, now they can overcome it.**

By invoking the Spirit to preside over their sleep, they can get rid of the problem of sleepless nights. By meditating for some time before the sleep and putting their sleep, dream, nights under its care, their sleeplessness will vanish. The flower bougainvillea, spiritually known as 'protection', if kept on their person, will relieve them from nightmares. An employee was fond of borrowing endlessly. It reached 30 times his salary when it became a problem in his sleep. He happened to stay with a few friends who live by Spirit. Having slept there that night he said the next morning, "I used to have dreadful nightmares daily till 2 A.M. and then was never able to go back to sleep. **For the first time since this problem arose, I slept peacefully here till 2 A. M. After that I remained awake as before but without any terror.**"

068. Promotion to a Clerk

The word attender is commonly heard and used. There is no such word in English. The word is attendant. Our respectable Tamil suffix created a new word that has come to stay in the English of Tamilnadu. One such person was promoted to the post of a clerk after about ten years of service.

Those were the days when unions of all types were being formed. Their district union was to be constituted at the district headquarters. This clerk was eager to attend the founding meeting in his new capacity. Before going to the meeting, he called on a relative who was leaving for his spiritual centre. Not knowing what it was all about, he too accompanied his relative and congratulated himself, as he saw it was auspicious. In his view, "It is all something good". In his own life, there were not many such good aspects.

Next month he again visited his relative with a beaming smile, and narrated his unusual experience. "I attended the meeting last month. Not many taluq centres were represented. All those present were elders on the verge of retirement. The usual proceedings were there. Then they came to constituting a district committee. To my surprise, my name was proposed and seconded. For my age and especially in view of my earlier service, I felt it was an honour. I was moved. Then someone proposed my name to the post of the President of the district association. I scarcely believed my ears and never knew what was happening till they announced my unanimous election and each one came to congratulate me."

It was obvious he revisited his relative to report on this unusual turn of events in his life. Naturally, his relative saw the connection between the election and his visit to the spiritual centre. It was equally obvious to him that the beneficiary was oblivious of the relationship.

069. Pity, Sympathy, Compassion, Grace and Supergrace

Weak nerves cannot see gruesome sights. They suffer. It is pity. Fellow feeling for another is sympathy which can suffer but not relieve. Sympathy relieves the sufferer very much. Compassion is divine. It relieves the sufferer without itself suffering. **Grace wipes out the cause of suffering.** It can wipe off present suffering due to past acts -- karma.

Grace issues out of faith in God while sympathy arises out of goodness. Pity is the result of one's weakness of nerves. One suffers because he is weak. Often he aggravates the suffering of the sufferer. Faith in God indirectly causes withdrawal of faith in karma. **Man shifting his faith in karma to the faith in the Divine invites Grace which dissolves his past karma** in which Indian tradition strongly believes. The Rishi who takes to tapas is **NOT** bound by his past karma in the measure he shifts to God. The Divine Mother offers to any of us what the Rishi secures by his own tapas. Capacity to believe in The Mother is Grace and freedom from one's karma.

She goes beyond and offers man Supergrace if he comes forward **NOT** to believe in his own capacities but Her. Grace turns into Supergrace when the end results come to a man in the very beginning.

- **To know The Mother is Grace.**
- **To believe in The Mother is Supergrace.**

070. Understanding without Thinking

We think hard to understand. He who cannot think cannot understand. He may memorise and remember the facts without understanding it. Vakil clerks, nurses, and pharmacists would know all the facts of their professions but they may not understand law or medicine. It comes out of long experience, not out of formal education. Occasionally such people may really excel their professional superiors in understanding. This is an exception, not the rule.

When a problem defies understanding, we often give up. After a few days, suddenly it becomes clear in the Mind. **This is an understanding that dawned on one when thinking failed.** One can consciously refuse to think, which is a superior process to this unconscious one. Then greater understanding comes to him through Silence. Age-old wisdom says Silence is more a medium of greater understanding than thinking.

Knowledge comes to us from the experience of the outside world. It is mental knowledge. The same knowledge lies in a superior fashion inside us. We are unaware of it. One who consciously seeks mental Silence goes in and draws copiously from this store of inner knowledge. It is understanding without thinking. Practising Silence for some time everyday, preferably at fixed hours helps develop inner **SILENCE**. The Silence I speak of is not the mere absence of speech, but absence of thought in the Mind. Thought may defy the effort of Silence. In that case, a prayer for Silence helps. **That prayer must be a Silent prayer**

071. Individual Truthfulness Renders the Indian a Spiritual Giant

There was a time, just a few hundred years ago, when India was prosperous. As recently as 1800 Indians were known for their utter **TRUTHFULNESS**, in the words of McCauley. During the period India slid into poverty and falsehood, the West fortified its truthfulness at the Individual level. **TRUTH, fact, honesty, and integrity have fostered Western science more than their genius or insights.**

The spiritual light buried in the bodies of Indians, the spiritual peace that pervades the Indian atmosphere will be self-evident to those who have lived in both the places.

The Indians who are wedded to TRUTH, as the utterance of Vedas (*Vedavakku*)

will rise to great heights of knowledge or Prosperity.

Stray examples are emerging, when that truth has found expression, as **ORGANISATIONAL** efficiency in business, especially in computer software, and the Noble Prizes recently won by persons of Indian origin outside India. Sen's economic prize itself is another great expression of it.

- Vision 2020 of the Planning Commission recognises this truth as a token.
- Should India recognise **HER** Spiritual Potential and come forward to express it through Individual Truthfulness, **Srinivasa Ramanujam will become the rule rather than the exception.**
- Instead of our trying to abolish poverty, millionaires will arise out of nowhere in bunches and baskets.
- Swami Vivekananda called us to awake, arise and organise. Let us do so in utter Truth.

072. Punctuality is Abundant Prosperity

Spirit is there behind everything. Soul is the spirit of man. Intelligence is the Spirit of Mind. Truth is one expression of the Spirit of Speech. Skill is the Spirit of Work. Sweetness is the Spirit of human relationship. There is no work, person or thing behind which there is no Spirit. That Spirit reveals itself in grades.

Skill is the spirit of physical work at the first level. Skill that makes for pleasant human relationship is the Spirit of work of a higher order. When it expresses an idea of the mind in the physical work, Spirit of a higher shade emerges. Skill in work that is pleasant and expresses an idea of the mind rises further when it expresses a value like honesty. Values are spiritual skills.

Time is a God, Kala. Paying attention to it evokes the Spirit behind Time. Organising Time in work evokes a higher Spirit of Time. Time in one work that honours Time in another work is co-ordination. Co-ordination extended all over the company evokes the Spirit of Time of your company. **Punctuality at all levels of a company that co-ordinates work is the highest Spirit of Company Time.** Work done in an average company in 6 1/2 days time with pride can be done in a company that employs punctuality all over in half a day, a saving of Time which is money. Here is a 13 fold savings. Any company that resorts to punctuality with full understanding and commitment will increase its profits five or six times, as Time will be saved to that extent.

- **Punctuality is direct Profitability.**
- Punctuality converts a losing concern to profitability.
- Punctuality is an organiser par excellence.
- It was said punctuality was the manners of kings.
- Now we can say punctuality is the hallmark of unfailing success.

Anything may fail, not punctuality

073. Depression

Some people are depressed by nature. Others have a tendency to depression and the tendency takes possession of them when they meet with a failure or neglect, etc. There are other types of individuals who have been normally cheerful but fall into depression at a turning point of their lives and never emerge out of it. **As a rule, all of them believe it is inevitable and resign themselves to it.** Some seek medication which gives temporary relief, making a more intense recurrence of depression inevitable.

At the age of 31, an engineer was seen to be depressed by a friend of his. The depression was with him for several years. The friend suggested he pray to The Mother and invoke the inner Spirit to dissolve the depression. The next day the engineer felt some hope of substantially overcoming the depression soon. His friend took him to another person who could explain in detail the roots of depression, its various expressions, etc. in a rational manner.

The engineer listened to a long list of descriptions of various sort and was delighted, because those descriptions exactly tallied with his inner predicament. He could understand the various ideas given by way of explanation. He left the man with a determination to get rid of the depression. About a fortnight later they met. The one who gave the advice was surprised to see the bright face of the engineer and eagerly inquired, "How are you and how is the depression?" "It left me entirely the next day when I woke up" was the reply. It never came back in the next thirty years.

The ONE idea of calling the Spirit in to drive away the depression that possessed him was explained in various commonsense ways. Spiritually it is not the depression that possesses us; but it is we who possess it. The engineer's determination to get rid of it left no more scope for the depression to remain.

074. Silence Destroys Enemies and Their Plots

There are two main ways of fighting the opposition. One is to organise your strength and deliver a blow in return for each blow as it is aimed at you. This is a physical, mental method man normally chooses. The other is to refuse to receive the darts and be SILENT. This is more difficult, but more powerful. At its acme, it can turn the blows aimed at you against those who released them. It is the power of Silence.

Offices are often like families, friendly, brotherly, etc. They can also be fertile fields of rivalry, talebearing, and intrigue. Sometimes they succeed in ruining the victim, often a good, innocent person. Caught in the whirlpool of such machinations, man loses faith in God and degenerates into a mania of internecine quarrels.

There was one such institution where a new young entrant suddenly became popular beyond expectation for his efficiency in work and knowledge in the affairs of the world. Two senior men who posed as his good friends while continuing the external friendship, clandestinely turned hostile and carried 29 'complaints' in succession to the boss who was weak and had no independent judgement.

The boss called a meeting to 'discuss' the complaints. The victim chose to be centred inwardly and to be SILENT. For some inexplicable reason, the boss became nervous. The promptings of the talebearers fell flat and backfired. The atmosphere grew grave and suddenly the boss burst out ostensibly against the tale-bearers, "I am the boss here. No one should tell me what I should do. Do your work properly and don't bring me any more of complaints!" The two senior men could not go back to the boss for quite sometime with another tale.

075. Human Personality

In the normal daily conversation we hear of a man of good personality, meaning he is tall, handsome and attractive. The word 'personality' signifies inner endowment, not the outer appearance. It would be more appropriate here to say, "This gentleman has a good person" Person speaks of the external appearance. **Spirit lies beyond the centre of personality.** A call from there is most effective.

Manners are outer behaviour which may not reflect what one feels inside. Manners that move truly inside is behaviour. Manners may be outward and behaviour is inner, but both issue from the surface of one's being. Faced with weighty issues, neither can be of true help. Below the manners and behaviour lies the organised character. Character represents strength, capacity, tenacity, endurance, etc. All these are organised at various levels of intensity. **Beyond the fabric of character lies the unorganised ENERGY of man ready to face fresh issues when character too fails.**

Calling the Spirit can be from any of these levels. The deeper the call, the more powerful it is. Running thoughts in the mind out of our control is the first level of mind, the manners. Thinking is at the level of behaviour. Character lies at the depth of our most serious thought that stands for our values. In our own concentration, it is possible for us to go to the level of character, *swabhava*, and call the Spirit. It will be powerful. One can go beyond to the regions of Personality and centre oneself there to call the Spirit. As Personality rises to the occasion of unknown problems where character feels helpless, calling the Spirit from there will solve any problem, whether we know it or not.

- The strength of calm that descends on us shows the depth of the call.

In yoga it is not man who calls, but the Spirit that awakens at these depths that calls from inside

076. An Experiment – A Conversation

I understand your conditions for this experiment are shifting to the Sprit, maximum efficiency in the work and execution in Silent will.

*It is important you understand what is meant by shifting to the Spirit. We now believe in our methods which are mental or vital. **The faith in these methods should be totally shifted to the Spirit.** For example, you believe in the reputation of the product. Now, you must come to believe that Spirit can perform in spite of your product not being the very best.*

Yes, several times I have seen it with my product and with others. It is not always the best product that carries the trophy. Sometimes the second best or even the third best does succeed. I know it as an experience.

*Based on that experience, you must develop greater faith in the performance of the Spirit. **I would ask you to have greater faith in the Spirit even without any reference to this experience.** That is better. In that case, it will be pure faith in the Spirit for its sake only.*

That shift comes, but it is not steady. It is intermittent.

It is important you act only when the faith is there. You must wait for that hour. When the faith is permanent, the maximum result will be there.

Though intermittent, acting only when the faith is there, you say there will be minimum results which will be better than now.

In your case, sales now over between six and seven crores. Eight crores will be break even. Then the minimum will be eight crores and the maximum will be 80.

You object to auspicious hour, numerology, vaastu, etc. etc.

All of these will give you what is there in your horoscope, sanctioned by karma. The Spirit will go beyond them. The choice is yours. As long as you believe in any of them, you will not be able to invoke the Spirit. Then this experiment is not for you.

077. An Experiment – Complete Preparation

Now that you are able to shift to the Spirit, the next item for the experiment is preparation of the various aspects of work.

I would know I have shifted to the Spirit by the inner calm?

Mind no going back to old doubts, usual questions, and expectations is the indication of the shift.

As I told you, they are there off and on. You want me to act for this experiment when that calm is there. Why does the calm go?

When you resort to the auspicious hour, product reputation, and the like, the calm goes away. You should desist from them.

You told me earlier that complete preparation means I should not repeat my past errors, and express values like punctuality, cleanliness, silent will, etc. in work. Orderliness too.

I should ask for perfect executions of work and complete preparation for that. That is the best. **You must give your BEST without sparing yourself. This is indispensable.**

I shall take my work, split each item into five or ten sub-units and subject them to the test of this efficiency standard.

That will be ideal. No one should say that something more could be done.

It should be an effort better than all my previous efforts.

I repeat, this is good, but all your energies must be exhausted. In this shift of mind and complete preparation, already you will observe the change of the atmosphere. The negative symptoms will recede and positive omens will arise. Before execution, it must become fully positive. What now remains is the execution.

078. An Experiment – Silent Execution

Having shifted to the Spirit and thoroughly preparing your sales effort, you are now ready for Silent Execution.

In a sales situation, do you want me not to talk?

Not like that. In all matters of price, discount, etc. you should not take initiative, as it becomes an expression of expectation.

You mean I should be determined NOT to ask for undue favours?

Yes. Not only that. Your WILL should go silent, answering only what is necessary, or speaking only what is appropriate to the occasion.

In some very bad negotiations, the circumstances were such that I had to be like that out of necessity.

In all those cases, results would have been good.

Yes, extraordinarily good. I had not noticed it.

It will go very well. After the good performance, it is not easy for the mind to keep quiet until written orders come.

That is really very difficult.

Even before we go, there must be a determination not to expect, not to dwell on it. Our decision will bring in such circumstances that various other duties will crowd in and help us forget the good sale we made.

So shift, complete preparation and Silent execution will get me the result?

As I said, if you ensure these three in full, even if your shift is off and on, the minimum will come.

Let us aim at the maximum and patiently wait.

The maximum is determined by one's personality.

079. The Three Aspects of a Token Experiment

When one launches himself on the path of calling the Spirit into one's life, life turns into Luck, failure that alternates with success changes into unfailing success. I have suggested a token experiment to know this great truth of life, as it is unbelievable or inconceivable in the ordinary state of our mind. Earlier, I said no industry in India today need fail, the government can offer guaranteed employment, India can move to be a middle income country, vision 2020 is **NOT** a dream, but can be realised earlier, punctuality is abundant prosperity, karma dissolves before the Spirit that emerges, a losing concern this month can change into a profitable concern next month and in short, **the Impossible can become possible.**

The Indian can do this better than others, as his body carries the light of the Rishis, he was once a person of utter Truthfulness, and the roots of democratic Spirit are deeply embedded in the Indian nation.

- The **POWER** of this experiment lies in the shift from life to Spirit, Nature to Being, mind to faith.
- The amplitude of that Power lies in the thoroughness of the efficiency that exhausts one's energies.
- The measure of the result lies in the silent, unexpectant patience that is calm and **QUIET.**

The above idea explained in Spiritual terminology lends itself to be cast into the common man's language intelligible to everyone. **When the heart overflows with GOODWILL for another to be ushered into Luck and it rejoices at his becoming lucky, the Spirit without his invoking emerges from inside his own being and never leaves him thereafter**

080. Several Aspects of Shifting to the Spirit

A reader wrote saying he tried to invoke the Spirit in his profession of sales and did very well on that day. Another said the invocation gave a great inner calm that was pleasant. **These are the material and spiritual expressions of successful invocation.** Another reader said he could not do it as he did not understand what it was all about and asked whether it is *namasmarana*. Optimistic personalities will easily take to it. Pessimists will find their pessimism stands in the way.

Clinging to the ways of tradition - astrology, etc. - which we consider venerable is a sure obstacle in this work. One may be quite willing to give up rituals, but his house may be disorderly or may even be dirty with cobwebs all over. Disorder and dirt will defy the Spirit. The house needs to be clean, clean by the highest possible standards. Orderliness is paramount. No shouting or loud voice is permissible. One must talk *softly*.

The mind may agree not to think of the auspicious hour, but at bottom it will dwell on it essentially. **The knowledge of the mind that Spirit is far more powerful than astrology will help the shift.** The shift admits of no compromises, as it is the Infinity that emerges out of the finite. What happens often is the shift oscillates, does not come to stay forever, but even for that temporary shift, the Spirit demands purity of mind, a weaning away that is total from all kinds of superstitions of the vital life and mental beliefs.

To know the Spirit is greater than life is elevating
and ennobling and helps one to shift.

081. The Spirit Awaits our Call – Will Man Call?

Many have said that it is difficult to call the Spirit. **The great secret is the Spirit is in ardent love with Man, and is anxious for him to call.** In fact, It has moved from its high pedestal and has journeyed to the door of man, stationing Itself there. Will man turn his attention to It; will he find the Spirit as attractive as the Spirit finds man attractive? One may ask why the Spirit that has come all the way down to man, does not enter into him without his having to call.

The time was when one had to sit in meditation for years to get a glimpse of the Spirit. Now that the Spiritual Force has entered the atmosphere of the earth, it has made itself easily accessible. With increasing receptivity of mankind, a time will come when man will not even need to call and the Spirit will enter his life. It has not yet come. One can make that TIME come if he can gather a good number of people who are fully receptive to the descent of the Spirit.

It is really not difficult for man to call the Spirit in. What is difficult for him is to give up the cherished ways of life, such as -- family is more important than the nation, property is more enduring than human loyalties, we should conform to the social values of the day. A daughter at the age of 38 in a well paid job sees her parents are not interested in marrying her, but her attachment to them is strong. As long as she is attached to the ungrateful, undutiful parents, she will not be able to invoke the Spirit. **The world is too much with us and it takes many shapes.** Will man find the Spirit more attractive than his own life?

082. The Spirit in Life

Several readers have raised a question, "How to invoke the Spirit?" The question is again and again raised, I believe, not because the process is unintelligible, but because it involves raising one's consciousness. **Of course, it is not something to be had for the mere asking, but it is eminently possible for everyone who is seriously bent on it.** So, I suggest that a full day must be earmarked to see all the aspects - powers as well as difficulties - of this shift and one should **STAY** on this new level of consciousness for a continuous 24 hours.

More than allotting a day, it is important to prepare the mind through each of the known obstacles in the way. The process of shifting consists of believing, comprehending and then actually shifting. Ask yourself whether you believe that Spirit is more powerful than mind. If you do not, try to understand the difference between mind and Spirit until belief is born. As the mind is more powerful than the body, the Spirit is more powerful than the mind. Once you believe, intensify that belief into faith by comprehending the superior nature of Spirit as you have witnessed in your life.

Right comprehension will strengthen belief and some quiet or calm will already begin to collect inside. Know this is not a work to be done casually and be prepared for solid, intense, single-minded **INNER** work of shifting each thought into its higher counterpart of inner Silence. The inner calm that collects will indicate your readiness. Then fix a free day, utterly free from work.

Do not sit quiet. Do something that engages you fully. At each moment of acting, **SHIFT** from thought to Silence. It will move. Life will pleasantly bend itself to your will. Persist patiently. In a day the entire atmosphere will have changed pleasantly and positively. **Now you know how to do it.**

083. Faith in One's Spirit

Most of us have a general faith in the Spirit as we have in Truth. How many of us, in critical moments, believe that Truth will save us, not falsehood? Our respect for Truth is a little more than lip service. Faith in the Spirit is of that kind. Not that we do not believe in the power of Spirit, but it never rises to pure faith that can accomplish in life.

First one must ask himself whether he truly believes in the greater power of Spirit than the Mind. If so, he can begin at that point. **If he does believe, he can endeavour to raise it to complete Faith.** If one does not, is there a method by which he can develop that Faith? It is a hard case, but not impossible for hard work. Obviously he knows mind is powerful and the Spirit is more powerful. As the Spirit is dormant in all of us, an attempt to understand stirs the Spirit. If his prolonged questioning himself leads him to concede that the Spirit is more powerful than the mind, then he must **fling a question at himself whether he BELIEVES what his mind understands.** Once the mind understands, belief is possible. He must inwardly concentrate on this new knowledge till it becomes a belief.

Belief is better than non-belief. But belief will not move matters. He must further raise the belief to Faith. During this period, if he is observant, many small things such as the visit of a friend whom he wanted to call on will take place, which are indications of faith being slowly born. By understanding the powers of the Spirit more and more, there is a greater chance of belief and faith being born. **Faith is the trump. It must be there or be created.** If it is there, it must be raised to its full stature. Perseverance creates faith, says The Divine Mother. One must persevere till faith is born and rises to its full power. There are two further steps to accomplish in life, but faith is the cornerstone, the sheet anchor

084. Spirit is Far More Powerful than Reason

This is an obvious fact and needs no pronouncement. **It certainly is not obvious to us when we act. We only think, thus exercising our Reason.** We know the Spirit is far more powerful than Reason but when it comes to action, we always rely on Reason and resort to thinking.

Think of any major achievement in our life, if there is one. Nine out of ten times, it would have resulted on its own, not as a result of our thinking or planning. Even in that one case where we clearly see the result is due to our own endeavour, when we closely scrutinise what happened, we will discover that at the crucial moment things happened **on their own, not according to our ideas.**

If this is your experience, you must come forward to believe it. Further, each time we activate our minds, we reason, we can see in our own experience that work has disintegrated or results have been postponed. Each time we refused to reason, to exercise our minds, results arose. This is a simple fact of our life that we lose sight of. **By this time, it will be obvious that it is NOT Reason that achieves, but inner Silence.** The truth is, Silence achieves in spite of Reason. Silence is of the Spirit. Spirit always achieves; Mind always destroys.

But Mind is a great instrument, the greatest instrument we are endowed with. Mind becomes destructive when it acts on its own. **Mind becomes an instrument of creation, a great instrument at that when it subordinates itself to its ORIGIN, the Spirit.** Relying on the Mind, insisting on our ideas, our capacity to plan is our undoing. Mind's ideas are powerful, its planning is effective when they are sanctioned by the inner Spirit and fully endorsed in its validity.

- Cease to Reason, you will end in Spirit.
- Ceasing to Reason, you are ushered into Silence, which is the atmosphere of the Inner Spirit.
- **Spirit is the seat of true everlasting Power.**

085. Inner Fullness

We know satisfaction that is the opposite of frustration, and happiness the opposite of sorrow. Satisfaction comes out of reaching what we aim at. Happiness is given by success. All these are positive, negative emotions of life, actually lower life from the point of view of the Spirit. **Spirit, when it emerges, gives a FULLNESS. It is an inner fullness.** When that inner fullness emerges, we find mind is incapable of thought, vital life is incapable of sorrow or worry. Just around us there is no failure to be witnessed. The successes we see give Joy, not happiness. **JOY** is a richer vital fullness, before which happiness pales into insignificance.

The human being is called an embodied being of the Spirit. Spirit is the one Reality. It is Infinite and Eternal. It existed in the beginning. The Truth we worship as God or more than God is preceded by the Spirit. In philosophic language, **Truth is the objective state of Spirit which is subjective.** In ordinary language, Spirit comes into our life as Truth. So Truth is Spirit to us, Truth is our God.

This Spirit wanting to be born on earth took a body which we call as embodied being. It acquired a mind and vital. We call the body into which the Spirit came our body. It is true our body too is Spirit but it has other parts also, viz. life and mind. On top of them spirit, too - Atma - is another part of the embodied being.

All the parts of our being - spirit, mind, life and body - are really of the Spirit because the whole world is made up by the Spirit. It is the beginning, it is the end and the middle. But that Spirit has the appearance of mind, life and body. When we say the Spirit emerges in us, it means the **Original Spirit rises to the surface of the body, mind and life. Therefore the FULLNESS.** When the fullness is inner, life is full of prosperity. When it is outer, Life becomes **YOGA.**

086. The Spirit of Appreciation

If you are one who has seen that each time a genuine appreciation is expressed, not flattery, the result is disappointing, at least diluted, **know the Spirit of Appreciation lies not in the expression of it but in *not* expressing it.** Consider the truth in the above idea and when you are convinced, try to put it into practice. A desired result is determined by the energy of the Act. By giving expression to the idea, the energy in the idea of the act is scattered, i.e. becomes weak and diluted. When one rises to the occasion, catches hold of the energy and instead of throwing it outside in speech turns it inwards, the energy in the act and the idea of the act are not lost, are preserved, i.e. grow inside.

As you consider the theory of the energy of effectuation, you will see a strength, rather a shade of strength, gaining momentum. That must be enough to convince one of this truth. One who truly loved his young friend, actuated by instinctive impulse of native goodness, always tried to give expression to the very many good qualities the young man had. The young man was given to negativism, a capacity to say No to any statement made to him by anyone. Over the many years they knew each other, the one met with a failure to evoke a positive response from the other.

The above idea came into the mind of the elder man and the next time when a fine phrase about the young man - you are truly remarkable - rose inside, he managed to pause and send it inwards. A gentle calm arose inside. **The young man, sitting opposite, pleasantly smiled and said, "Your are truly remarkable in recognising the strength of others and encouraging them."** The success of the method was total and stunning

087. The Climax in a Music Performance

Nehru, speaking on August 15, 1947 said that we had a tryst with destiny which was then fulfilled. **Every successful act in life, however simple or mundane, is in some measure such a tryst with destiny for that particular person.** Unless all the ingredients of success are successfully handled in an act, no act can meet with success. Between the successful completion of an act and its possible acme, there is a long way to go.

Not all musical performances are a grand success for a musician. In a musical performance that is rising to a climax, stopping short of it a second earlier will not win the applause of the climax. **It is a delicate sensitive moment of consummate victory.** At such a climax, the audience readily rises to the occasion by a thunderous applause. It is not only the privilege of the star performer, but every musician often arrives in his performances at such a climax.

The humble cook, the prestigious lawyer, the venerable teacher all have such moments in their professions. All of us interact with life all the time. Often we accomplish, often we touch our climax in such a routine transaction. **They are the moments when the perfected skill in work brings the Spirit of work to the fore.** Especially such moments are valuable in human relationships and are of rare spiritual value. Those who have had such experiences, recognising this spiritual truth, can endeavour now with great success to invoke the Spirit.

One reader of my column who has successfully practised it in his business has written to me saying that since he began this practice, life has been vastly transformed for the better.

088. Examination Fever

At the age of fifty, an experienced doctor in London who had conducted several examinations was required by the rules to take an exam for his next promotion. **To his surprise, he developed exam-fever!** That is the power of tradition, atmosphere and trust in social belief. Psychologists can distinguish natural fear from the ones that are artificially whipped up, either by the individual or by the collective social belief, which is the presiding deity over human destinies.

Examinations for the student, judgements for the lawyer, annual inspection for offices, negotiations of contract in business, seeking electoral alliances, settling of profit sharing accounts by the junior partner with the all-powerful autocratic, selfish, crafty don of the underworld and a million other occasions in life generate the 'Exam-Fever' for the occasion. Someone idealistically in love meeting his not so idealistic 'beloved' will find the heart racing before the final decision is announced. Even when idealism rules on both sides, the endless obstacles to true love will not permit it to run its course smoothly. Lovers meeting to decide will have the fever of love.

In short, every event that matters to one in his life or his career is potentially capable of giving this FEVER which has a tendency *only* to raise its temperature. In life or worship there is no known remedy for this. One learns to live with it. Before you go to bed for as many days as before the appointed day, call MOTHER into your heart in the depths of your personality. Your sleep will be peaceful. Remember it on waking as the first waking thought and repeat that prayer. **The FEVER will no longer be there and in its place Spiritual Peace will reign and will be infectious to others.**

089. Consecration is Invocation of the Spirit

We live for ourselves or for our family. Good souls live for others. Patriots live for the country. The Rishi lives for God. **Consecration is to act for God and to live on earth to fulfil His goals on earth.** Our life is automatic. Whether it is sneezing or walking, the body acts without any conscious reference to our wishes or permission.

In a conversation, if you decide not to answer a certain question, you find yourself answering without your volition. It happens, just as you cannot prevent yourself from sneezing which is a subconscious act.

Our acts are bodily acts, our emotions are of our vitality and our thoughts are of our mind. **None of them are ours, of our being.** The Godman lives for God or the Spirit and acts for the Spirit. To act for God is called consecration. Acting thus, one certainly invokes the Spirit.

Try not to speak against your will, you will scarcely succeed. You will always find yourself speaking against your decision. When you are arranging for your daughter's wedding or negotiating a big order, the biggest you have ever received, try to consecrate each thought, each feeling as well as each act related to it, you will see the result you wished for. Often it will be far better than you can conceive of.

To consecrate is to let God act in us on our behalf. Certainly HE is more capable than ourselves and will reach greater results. **Our faith in our own capacities is so great that we do not trust God - even God - with our affairs.** To believe in God is to believe in Spirit. To put our acts in HIS hands is to invoke the Spirit. In the language of yoga, it is called consecration. Surrender to God is the ideal condition of a devotee or sadhak doing yoga. What consecration begins, surrender completes and consummates

090. Gratitude

Conscious awareness of God acting in human life is called gratitude. Such a comprehension can penetrate one's being down to the physical in a receptive soul when he thrills. A dust in the eye hurts until it is removed. At least for a year no dust ever entered my eye. I never thought about how it happened. It rarely occurs to us that the eye was constantly protected and it was an act of God. On several occasions, good things happen to us, making us exclaim, 'Thank God.'

For one with subtle vision, the hand of God presiding over us can be seen. A jeep travelling on the road was obstructed by a tree and turned into the fields to avoid the tree. In that curve, two of the vehicle's wheels were hanging over a pit. The startled driver stopped the jeep and jumped out. **A woman in the field screamed, "I saw amma holding the jeep in her sari's end."** We say the escape is providential, not fully realising the ever present Protection.

At moments of inner Fullness, if your heart is overflowing with goodwill for one whom you love - a brother, a friend, a son, etc. - try to send the Presence in your heart to him. Soon he will meet you and inform you how more or less around the same time GOOD things happened to him, how he saw the sales tax officer whom he was planning to confront was an old friend, or something similar. Such an act of goodwill confers good luck on the recipient invariably.

God, the Spirit, the Divine Mother - by whatever name we call Him - sustains life by His Love. To be consciously aware of it is the gratitude of mind.

When we are so aware of it in our feelings, we are pleasantly filled with positively overflowing energies. When we receive that knowledge in the very body, our body thrills. Sri Aurobindo says that such a feeling coming to stay is intolerable ecstasy. Mother calls it unflinching rapture.

091. Who Am 'I'?

This is the basic discipline of Jnana Yoga. To discover that one is not the body, mind, or emotions but the Soul is a siddhi in the yoga of knowledge.

In society, man is not aware of what he is, what his rights are. An enlightened nation is one where the population is aware of their legal, human, and social rights. **Self-awareness of the individual citizen is an index of the nation's social status or standing.** He who knows who he is will be able to invoke the Spirit more readily and with greater effect. To comprehend that I am not my body or my mind and I am really my soul is not difficult for many to accept. At times of crisis, where life gives you half a minute to *decide*, we do readily decide and act. It may be an offer, as the offer of Prime Ministership to Shri Narasimha Rao or a robber who points his gun at you demanding the key to your vault. We know the decision was quickly made. Surely it was not made according to rational thoughts that we have cultivated over the years. Nor was it according to what is good or right for us. The decision was not taken consciously, but it was taken instantaneously.

He who took the decision is your own true Self.

It may not be the Spiritual Self, but it is the true self beyond the conscious thought or cherished emotions. One goes there by the extreme pressure of external development, mostly one of danger and occasionally one of luck. To go to that depth consciously in thought or meditation and then invoke the Spirit from there will be an effective invocation, as it is the True 'Me'. **The greater the Truth of invocation, the greater will be the reality of the Spirit that emerges on the surface of our lives.**

092. Unsold Stock

A boy of 20 was faced with the closure of his 110 year old shop in 1974. In any field, to introduce a new line, especially one of inferior quality, is no easy job. Salesmen of such a product who could not enter a certain market for years now came to this boy's shop with ornamental glass tumblers, clinking them in chorus as gifts. **The boy's father was taken in and he wrote an order for an equivalent of fifty day's sale value of the shop.** Six months passed and not a bit of the stock could be sold. It caused his shop to close. Looking at his long face, the elderly gentleman whom the boy used to visit found out the above details on enquiry.

He told the boy the stock could be sold. It could be sold if the Spirit were called in. Something in the boy awoke and he was all attention. "Clean up the place immaculately where the stock is kept, as you have never done and go there every hour and stand there, calling 'Mother'. This was all the advice the elderly man gave almost voluntarily.

The boy used to visit the elderly man daily but had not come for a week or more after this. Finally he came and explained his absence was due to the very brisk sales at the shop. He said half of the entire consignment was sold in 7 to 10 days. The other half was sold in bulk to one customer! **The Spirit he evoked had sold the unsold stock!**

He only invoked the Spirit, not the Spirit in the product, which would have been far more powerful. There was no need. The boy was feeling a triumph that he was undoing the folly of his father, who had foolishly walked into the trap of clever, resourceful salesmen, while his father was having a private joke with himself during the brisk sales. Now he saw that the boy was proving to be foolish, since the stock was selling so well. He ordered twice the quantity of the same product!!

093. Inner and Outer

'One's outer life is a true reflection of his inner life' is an age-old truism spoken of by all ancient traditions. Sangam literature says, "Neither Good or Bad will come from outside." **If one desires to be ruled by the Spirit, this rule is important for him.**

A poor, clever man was lucky to marry into a comparatively rich family and was shameless enough to move to his father-in-law's place, occupy one of his five houses, produce five children, leave his wife with her father's family and strut around the town as the son-in-law of a rich family. The law of life requires **that a small beneficiary offensively dominate the benefactor.** His victim was his brother-in-law, a young boy who was the only heir to his father's riches.

It all started as pleasant jokes, degenerated into unpleasant ridicule and reached its climax in the boy's shop while he was at the counter. Five of the heckler's friends joined the son-in-law and brought the young boy to tears which he manfully restrained.

The boy ran to someone seeking solace, not a solution, as in this world of human affairs solutions are unavailable for the many ills of human nature. The sought-for solace was received in full measure and the boy could even smile. He was told, "No teasing can come to you from outside which is not inside" which made him confess that he was himself an adept in the art of heckling and once a victim of his left school as a result. This introspection led him to reverse his past.

About twenty days later, the boy returned to his source of Solace and said, "My uncle came to the shop. He was a beaten man. With hands folded on his breast and a stoop of humility, he said that thereafter he would simply obey me. I could scarcely believe my ears. Fifteen days ago my father died and perhaps that was the reason."

The inner controlling the outer is the Spirit ruling over human life.

094. Opinions and Attitudes

In subtle vision, opinions appear like needles. In the atmosphere, millions of such needles exist presiding over man's daily life, says the Divine Mother. If you ever tried to acquire open-mindedness and tried to shake off a preconceived notion, which is an opinion, you will appreciate the difficulty of getting rid of an opinion. After all your efforts, you will see that the opinion prevails. It would have implemented itself.

Attitudes are more powerful than opinions. An attitude is born when an opinion is endorsed by emotions. Some attitudes are, 1) I must stand on my own legs, 2) I must honour my professional status, 3) No one should speak ill of me. These attitudes are powerful forces that decide one's accomplishment.

When we come to the Spirit, it exists in a plane far beyond the realms of opinions and attitudes. Motives are of the whole being and include attitudes and opinions. Between a man who is incapable of opinions and one of strong opinions, the latter achieves more. He who has the attitude of standing on his own legs, of course, will achieve more than one who is unable to be independent.

The Spirit in its own realms is beyond opinions, attitudes and motives. The one motive of the yogi is to attain to moksha. While it is common to work for one's success or his family's progress, I wish we accept one motive in life: to seek one's progress by the Spirit emerging in life. Let that be one's motive or attitude. At least, let us acquire the *opinion* that greater progress is in store for us when the Spirit guides our daily routine life at home and the work spot.

What man does, let us know, the Spirit can accomplish better.

095. Debt Burden

When man discovered the institution of credit, he emerged from the narrow physical insular shell of selfishness into playing a role in another's life. Today's modern world of civilised economy stands on the firm shoulders of credit. Credit has done to the world the same service education has done. Credit in the giver becomes debt in the receiver. Man has a genius of making a fetter out of every fine instrument he has fashioned for himself.

Credit, thus, has become debt and a burden of debt. There was a time when two middle class people in urban areas met and compared notes of their debts. A new phenomenon is emerging in the same class slowly: now two such people discuss their savings. Our concern is about those who were caught in the debt trap and are not able to emerge out of it. The Spirit offers a way out to those who care to avail of it on its own terms.

Human experience knows what is once lost is lost forever. An error committed once cannot be rectified later. He who foolishly walked into the trap of debt cannot now hope to come out of it by regretting. One has to suffer the consequences of it. The Spirit tells him, "If you regret in your emotions the folly of an earlier act, or reverse your past attitudes now in your understanding and feelings, your debts will fully dissolve, liberating you forever."

- In life, acts of folly are irreversible;
- In Spirit, acts of earlier folly can now be reversed in emotions deeply felt;
- Spirit corrects physical FACTS by the reversal of TRUE feelings deeply realised.
- A mountain of Debt can dissolve into thin air if there is a mountain of felt emotions regretting it.

096. Mind, Heart and Spirit

Mind is powerful, very powerful when we concentrate there. Heart is more powerful than the mind. Spirit is far more powerful. When we concentrate we see the concentration collecting in the mind or heart. It is clearly felt. Rarely do we concentrate on the Spirit. Its centre lies behind the heart as well as above the head. Sahasradala lies above the head. **The Vedas were written from a centre above the Sahasradala.** Shakespeare wrote from above the mind but below the Sahasradala.

Someone needed a loan on a property bought for 55,000/-. He knew he could, at best, ask for half its value. Those were days before the nationalisation of the banks and agriculture was not entitled to bank support. But he needed Rs. 1,75,000 in all and Rs. 75,000 as the first instalment. As he concentrated in the mind and the concentration was powerful, he hoped it might be sanctioned.

His own work on the property was revolutionary in conception for those days. Relying on the sincerity of his own work, he approached the bank. While at the bank, he was calm, not only calm, but felt rich. It was a richness of heart, he thought, but it was a rich fullness he had not experienced till then.

The bank sanctioned Rs. 4,25,000 saying he had not asked for a godown, roads, tractor, etc. He hesitated, and the bank was not merely generous but benevolent. He could not understand what was happening and came away in a daze. **What he had not known was his concentration matured and moved to the centre of Spirit seated behind the heart.** Hence the unheard of response.

097. Hurricane

We in India know of cyclones which occasionally touch the highest speed of 120 m.p.h. or even 150 m.p.h. We have no experience of the hurricane that rises to speeds of 300 m.p.h., or more. Several parts of **USA** are prone to hurricanes. They are so powerful, though lasting only two or three minutes, that cars fly in the air and railway carriages are pushed off the railroad tracks to 100 or 200 yards away. Sometimes they are lifted into the air.

An Indian professor on a short lecture visit to **USA** stayed one night with a friend and kept the photo of The Divine Mother on the table and prayed. Next day he went to another place. Seeing his friend's place had just been hit by a hurricane, he called on the phone and was relieved to know he had been spared.

As soon as the lecture was over, he rushed back to his friend's place. The sight that greeted him at that colony sent his blood curdling. **Simultaneously he thrilled with gratitude to Mother on sparing his friend in the midst of the natural horror.**

Of the 60 or 70 houses there, none was undamaged. The ruin was total. Electric posts were twisted in a knot and no tree in the place had survived the fury of the Vayubhagavan. But at his friend's house, both stories were intact, and his car too was unspoiled except for a broken wind shield. The one tree in the front of the house stood its ground losing only one branch. **The professor was awestruck and had no answer to his friend's query "How was I saved?" except that "The Mother's photo was here for one night."** Not only could he not answer his friend, but he had never known the Divine Mother's strength of protection could be that total.

098. Dacoits in the Train

Some one in Bihar in active services was on an official tour. As part of his work he collected Rs. 7 lakhs of money and was travelling in the train. It was usual for him to carry several lakhs of money with him on his tours. Being in the active services and by nature a courageous person, he never had vibrations of fear emanating from his solar plexus.

There was an alarm and a commotion in the running train. He at once understood dacoits were in action. He would have had nothing to fear if so much money had not been with him. It was not his money. If lost, he must be answerable to his office. Thoughts ran wild in his mind, but fear never arose. He called the gods he worshipped. It was flat.

Suddenly it came to him that a week before he had seen a TV programme in which a lady from Chennai spoke of hurricane. He thought of calling that Mother to help him, as he knew Her great power which had saved the one house where Her picture was. By this time, the dacoits were in his compartment ransacking it. No thought entered his mind, not even the money in his possession, not even the Mother he had called a few minutes ago feebly. He *was* the **MOMENT**, the moment of crisis in his life. He rose to the occasion inwardly. **During such moments the Spirit surfaces. Only such a moment is to the liking of the Divine Mother.** He came to himself in spite of the dacoits doing havoc and quietly managed to call The Divine Mother.

The train stopped. Help came in the shape of armed police. The dacoits took to their heels. When he came to himself, he looked at the place where his bag of money was. It was there intact.

099. Dreams

Dreams take away a good deal of energy. Sleeping without dreams is restful. Dreams of the subconscious are a horror, those of the subliminal indicate the future. Such dreams go on building on each previous dream. Dreams are in the subtle planes sometimes covering very long periods in very short moments. Tradition says early morning dreams come true. One type of dream, according to Hindu tradition, indicates the very opposite of it.

There are people who often dream of some particular person attacking them. **Mother says it is one of the mechanisms of the opposite symbolism.** If I am angry at a person and have ill-will for him, in the dream I see him attacking me. This is a self-protective mechanism. The truth is I never want to think ill of myself and always want to think well of myself. So I present my ill-will towards another person as ill-will towards me. To those who are working towards self-awareness, this is a pointer. Self-awareness is the basic support of calling in the Spirit.

Symbolism and dreams, though separate subjects, go together. In the dream, water means emotion. Peacock is victory. Rain is grace. Lion is courage. Flying in the air is ambition in life. The same flying, for one in spirit, in fast movement of consciousness. Train, bus, etc. too indicate fast progress of consciousness. One who often dreams of hordes attacking him has anti-social opinions because of his upbringing. To see Mother in the dream is darsan in the subtle plane.

Those who have nightmares can call Mother in the dream and to their surprise will see the nightmare vanishing. It is Her protection even in the dream. Not all people can call Mother in the dream or remember to call Her. It is a spiritual privilege

100. Law and Justice

For the past hundred years or more, the courts of justice have been rendering legal justice to the public. Since its advent, the public, who was at the disposal of the local council of elders, now enjoys legal justice. It is a great boon. Legal justice is based upon evidence presented to the court. Whether one's claim is just or not, the court is helpless if the required evidence is not brought to its notice. Hence, justice suffers an abridgement. It becomes legal justice, meaning as much justice as law can offer within the limitations.

In the wider social dispensation, one who is fully just and right stands justice denied for a host of inevitable reasons, justifiable or not. Can he *now* receive **FULL** justice in the forum of a higher court, the court of the Spirit? He can if he comes forward to invoke the Spirit or call The Mother into the consciousness of his claim.

He might have lost for want of evidence, want of right legal presentation, want of attention from the presiding officer or due to the play of modern social, political, financial forces that have come to stay. The only question relevant here is, is his cause **JUST**? If so, would he invoke this higher force? He is sure to win even if the highest court has denied him fair play.

One who had a claim to a third of a substantial property having no document whatsoever -- even a scratch on any paper - lost at the hands of the court. After extending all their sympathy, they denied him his due. The invocation of the Spirit got him the full property in a matter of 12 to 15 minutes which took another 6 months to be formalised. Law may desert, lawyer's resources may be inadequate, Life may be partial, Nature too maybe unhelpful or even hostile, but as long as Truth and Justice are there on your side, the full rich Blessings of the Divine Mother are there for sure.

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 every day, 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. SHE 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 thoughts.
 8. To think of Mother before starting any work - consecration.
 9. Prayer