

Spirituality & Prosperity II

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Introduction

What is the Spirit in Life?

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

A family in 1934 had a thousand acres of lands in seven villages and the six brothers of the family occupied the entire main street of the village. Suddenly they found an ochre clad samiyar in their house. They were glad of his visit and all of them paid their respects to the saint. He showed an inclination to stay there at night. Everyone felt as if they had received an electric shock. Each of the brothers, under the impression that the sannyasi had been invited there by one of the other brothers, exercised a self-restraint of an extraordinary kind and kept quiet. The sannyasi stayed there that night to the utter dismay of everyone. And he stayed on for thirty days. Finally, it came to light that he had not been invited by anyone. He left the house. It is our true belief that if a sannyasi stays in a house overnight, that family will be ruined. This family soon lost their all. Our traditional belief is valid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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101. That Which Has an End is Not Patience

Patience is a divine virtue. Not all gods are known to have it. People who invoke the Spirit have a quick response when there is a response. Problems of a simple nature, a delayed wedding, a disease, unemployment, a loan not recovered, etc. are immediately answered. **A good many people forget the Spirit as soon as the problem is solved.**

There are others who play ducks and drakes with their lives, create a great number of knots and make them complex and more complicated. Life gives them the only alternative of sure destruction. Sometimes they too come to the Spirit. Surely a longstanding complex problem has no instantaneous solution. Of course there is one, but I cannot recommend that to the general public. In 1850, there was a Salt Inspector in Ganjan district of Andhra. During a severe drought people appealed to him. He shut himself up for seven full days in his pooja room repeating Lord Krishna's name. As soon as he emerged out of the room, it rained and good rains continued for many years. This is not open to all.

The desired result will come, surely come, not in trickles but in floods, but it will come in Time, not in answer to our impatience. If anything, impatience can postpone the results. The first several good symptoms are the best assurance of the final result. The knots of the past have to undo themselves by the negative impact of the life events, unless one consciously digs them up and holds them up to the descending Light.

Patience always wins, but slowly. To one who invokes the Spirit having such a complicated problem on hand, a hundred small items will respond positively, ensuring the presence of the positive attitude. Observe that atmosphere, take heart and wait. Or, present your inner personality to Light. **In either case, one will find Patience a great virtue.**

102. Scarcity is NOT Real

It is infinite Brahman that created this world of infinite joy. Infinity is not only a Spiritual concept or Mathematical concept. **Infinity is a practical concept.** Man has a genius for creation in the positive as well as negative sides. This modern world of ours with infinite variety of wonders is a creation of the human mind. Man also has the peculiar capacity of becoming a slave to his own creation, as we become a willing helpless slave of passionate attachment. **The finest example of this type is man who has created money as a tool for his own convenience, and become an utter slave of money, in the course of time.** Air is in plenty. Nothing can be in greater abundance than air or water, but our way of life has certainly made air scarce in smog-laden cities. Water has become universally scarce.

Man squanders, overdoes, unconsciously offends the laws of life and creates problems. He forgets he has infinite creative talents. His own survival is because he has infinitely adapted himself to the environment. **Resources are plentiful when we approach them as they are. They become scarce the moment we insist on life rising to our occasion.** In Israel where the rainfall is only 11", one finds the best agricultural productivity in the world, whereas Sirapunji in Assam with a rainfall of 454", the highest in the world, suffers from water scarcity in summer.

Waste, neglect, over-utilisation are ways of life that are **unconscious**. Prudence, attention, maximum utilisation are **conscious** ways of life. Human life on earth is a record that speaks of the infinite resourcefulness and infinite creativity of man. He must grow conscious of his environment, his own inner capacities to discover that there is no real scarcity in the world other than what man has created by his own unconsciousness.

103. The Spirit in Planning

Spiritual elevation leads to spontaneous action ending in a great performance in any walk of life. **Therefore, there is an implicit distrust of meticulous, detailed planning.** Those who can act with inspiration frown on planners as plodders of the physical plane. If Spirit is everywhere, is it not true that it is in the planning process too? The truths here are several.

- Planning is the very best tool the world has discovered.
- Inspiration excels planning in rising to a climax.
- Life is to be lived every day of the year, while inspiration rarely arises.
- **Excellent Planning gives Extraordinary Results when the mind moves away from the planned details to its own inner Spirit which is Inspiration.**

Coming down to daily life in the office or the army or a company, the list of above truths still does not offer a practical guide. Planning is organisation. Life progresses through consciousness and consciousness progresses through organisation. There is a further greater fact that when the organisation matures, it gives rise to Inspiration.

In practice, plan thoroughly, through each and every detail be ready with a consummate plan. **Do not rely on it.** Implement the plan trusting to the Spirit of the Plan which is inspiration. Planning thoroughly prevents one from being a chaotic physical individual or an energetic, brainless, vital person. It lifts one to the mind and gives him the status of the mental person. This is essential. Do not stop there. Seek the Spirit in the Mind by **NOT** relying on the planned process but on the Inspiration it is capable of generating by the very strength of careful planning.

- Planning is Great.
- **Inspiration is the spiritual essence of planning.**

104. Determined Refusal of Good Luck

Man will vehemently deny that he refuses **GOOD LUCK**. **In Truth, that is what is prevalent.** Often great good luck comes as an alliance of inter-caste marriage. Traditional people are unable to accept that. To accept luck, one cannot sacrifice the long cherished caste privilege. From his point of view, one many find a justification for such an attitude. At a time when jobs were scarce and VIPs were unable to secure one, a dull, poor, neglected boy was approached out of sheer sympathy with a job somewhere in the district. **He flatly refused and scorned the sympathy, as he desired a job only in his own town.** This may surprise the reader, but most of us get into the mind-set of this unfortunate boy when we expect Life to give us what we want in the very form of our cherished desires, making allowance for our innumerable prejudices.

A heroic missionary who was officially deserted by his Mission ventured successfully and created a first-rate institution in the very name of that Mission. He craved for public support. It was not forthcoming. In 25 years, he collected a total donation of Rs.2350/-. The missionary was self-sacrificing, dynamic, an achiever. An employee of his, admiring the greatness of the boss, pointed out to him the extraordinary resources at his own disposal.

The boss listened to the revolutionary idea, worked on paper and pencil and found he could, with his own potential, earn Rs. 85,000/- a year. The employee felt a triumph, but it was transient. The boss was kind enough to tell him, "It is a great idea, but you are an employee of mine. **How can I learn from you?**" The employee was turned down.

This is an extreme example, but don't we see this prejudice all around us, refusing Good Luck in one fashion or another? Are we free from it?

105. Correspondences in Life

In a very broad sense, we can discover a rule of correspondence between any two events. It may be direct or indirect or even oblique. **The simplest one is when you abuse your wife at home and go to the office, the boss abuses you. Here the correspondence is direct.** In an exceptionally pitiable case, a husband abused by his wife goes to the office to be abused by the boss. This too is a correspondence!

As we meet with problems, such as lending a substantial sum to your brother-in-law and not being in a position to remind him after some years, it is embarrassing. We may not now remember that a pitiable small amount owed to a neighbour is outstanding and he is not collecting it. **Return this small sum to your neighbour, and your brother-in-law will return his due the same day.** Even when you see these correspondences work in precision, it will be difficult to believe it.

An industrialist was close to the state Chief Minister but the CM never took action in his favour. He was worried about it. One who knows the rules of correspondence told him, "You are extremely polite. You never utter a negative word. To whomever wants something of you, you always reply that it can be done or should be done, but you don't act." As you are to others, Life is to you.

A man desired to help his watchman. Every time he wanted to employ others for works the watchman could do, the employer happily offered the work to the watchman with the result, the income of the watchman rose four or five times. In later years when the employer began to preside over bigger projects, every time he sought funds for his project, **he was offered four or five times the amount. For several reasons he could not avail of any of them. Finally, funds of that amount came to him as a gift of affection.**

106. Censor, the Index of the Spirit

Mind is a very common word, but as a concept, it contains far more than is ordinarily understood. Neither in the Western philosophy nor in science do we have a satisfying definition of what Mind is. Indian philosophy and spirituality that know all about mind and its extraordinary capacities do not seem to have defined mind.

European languages have grown so much that every shade of thought and feeling has an appropriate word. Memory is one faculty of mind whose star performance startles others. The word 'understanding' has a nice distinction from 'thinking', in that one is a faculty and the other is the product of it. Judgement, decision, discretion, discrimination, observation, determination and many other faculties go to make what we know of Mind.

We know of running thoughts in the mind which is generally mistaken for thinking. It stops in meditation. Thinking is a serious process which constantly coordinates thoughts. After the running thoughts fall quiet, thinking will be there in its full force. One can notice an **OBSERVER** that is distinctly different from the thinker. One faculty of the observer is to pass comments non-stop and maintain a second line of thought in the mind. Sri Aurobindo called this faculty *censor*, which will be the last to fall quiet or die.

Silence reigns in the mind when the censor withdraws from its incessant action. Invocation of Spirit has many levels of effectivity. Conquest of the censor is the complete victory in this line of action. Jnana Yoga conquers thoughts, Raja Yoga's overlordship is over the entire Mind. There is a Spirit at each level, or the powers of the Spirit are of several grades. That Spirit which silences the censor secures a consummate victory over Mind.

107. Form and Content

Educationists all over know the phenomenon of creating successful careers for people devoid of any content of personality. These may be exceptions, but it is a reality of public life. Training well given and well received creates an apparently good product of personality and delivers all the goods in service expected of it. That is the proof of the pudding.

This is not true of education in isolation, but a fact of life and a rule that form lives by. There have been successful mathematics teachers who could not count a bundle of currency exactly. Their ability to teach abstruse mathematical lessons is true. It is also true that they are unable to count. Life permits their co-existence.

While travelling in the plane, a passenger had an interesting conversation with a middle-aged lady of no particular attraction. An hour before landing she broke off her conversation to attend to her make-up. **At the end of an hour what did the passenger see when he casually turned to her side?** It was a face fit for a magazine's cover page. The power of **FORM** and the art of creating that form came to him in full force. Certainly, it is a great power.

Meditation, scriptural reading, concentration and the like bring the dormant Spirit to the surface. The light aspect is seen in the face. Light is one of the twelve aspects of the Spirit. The forehead being the seat of knowledge and the eyes the windows of the Spirit, it is natural that the face becomes brighter by such exercises. *The Life Divine*, the magnum opus of Sri Aurobindo has invariably rendered the faces of people not only bright and brilliant but beautiful. **If the arts of make-up can lift faces so high, it is no wonder the springs of Spirit will render faces beautiful by poring over it.**

108. Silent Suffering

Timidity provokes strength to tyranny. **In the occult dispensation of life, that is how strength expands its domain of authority.** Going further away from the surface mind to the subliminal which lies beyond the inner mind that lies just below the surface, the highest rule of life urges the weak to invite teasing by the strong.

In a small local establishment, there were three partners, one poor and the second very rich. The third was neither poor nor rich. They all were childhood friends who emigrated to Singapore in the prewar days in search of petty jobs. Having acquired substantial savings, all returned home to invest their savings in a partnership. Life was smooth and they became local celebrities.

Life and its rules are inexorable. The rich partner decided to activate his existence by amusements of his liking. Being uneducated and uncultured, the only natural amusement that came to him was teasing or provoking others for its own sake. Obviously, he could not do so with the richest of partners. Therefore, he practised it copiously on the poor one down the line. As days passed, life became unbearable for the poor partner, a veritable hell. He could not bring himself to complain to the senior partner because he was not sure which turn it would take.

He sought relief and solace and thus landed on a friend who lived by the Spirit. The friend listened without offering any advice. The Spirit acted, changing the course of events. The teasing partner tried to tease the senior partner too. Provoked to action, he bought the share of the teasing partner and ousted him. **Coming to the victim he declared, "The other man is intolerable. I bought his share on my behalf and yours. You can pay me at your convenience."** Silent suffering is as powerful as Silent will.

109. Darsan in the Subtle Plane

Doctors used to say that it is not so much the disease that brings the patient to the doctor as the pain. People from the cooler climates spending long years in the tropics - in the army, navy, civil service, in quest of Spirit or in archeological research - develop in the later years skin cancer. When the affected part is in patches, it is removed by an operation.

One finds the same disease or a version of it developing in natives in the tropics. One young man had that misfortune especially because it was all over his body. Moreover, the fluid oozing from it was stinking and soiled the places he sat on. We do not know how long he suffered and what treatments he had undergone. His condition was pitiable. With an elder, he came to a centre where devotees invoke the Spirit.

There he heard about the experiences of others and was encouraged. He had no time to listen to others' experiences, nor had he any inclination in that direction. When he went home, he was trying his best to call Mother. There was some inner relief from the oppressive social complex. He continued it for a few days with some hope. One night he had a dream and saw Mother in the dream. She asked him to bathe in the sea. The dream was uplifting and he felt as if he was cured.

He believed the truth of the dream, **not knowing it was Darsan in the subtle plane**. He took a sea-bath a few times and with each bath, he saw with his own eyes the disease and its moist symptoms disappear, making his skin fresh in some patches. Continuous sea-bath cured him fully.

110. Birthday

Indians do not celebrate birthdays. Pious people go to the temple and conduct a special archana on their birthdays, not according to the English calendar, but according to the star of their birth. **Celebration of birthdays has become universal as part of the several new-fangled Western habits that are becoming popular.** What was common in Indian households was the celebration of the first birth anniversary of the child and the sixtieth birthday which would be a mini wedding festival.

These are the celebrations of the birth of the body. The birthday I speak of is the birth of the **SOUL** at a higher level than this embodiment will permit. In our tradition, the Soul is not born except when it leaves the body to be reborn elsewhere. For one who takes to spiritual initiation, initiation is considered as the second birth, the first being the physical birth. Even this second birth will set the man on his search of the soul.

Initiation as well as realisation are supposed to give a further lease of life equal to what he has so far lived. **In a conscious person, conscious of his soul, on the birthday the Soul seeks a rebirth, a birth into higher consciousness.** Celebration of his birthday is the celebration of this higher birth. It is not necessarily once in twelve months. It may be earlier depending upon his own awakening in the Soul. For those who do yoga, it is a yogic possibility that they can be reborn everyday. Others find such men wiser than their years. One Muni who saw Sri Aurobindo called Him *Puradhana Purusha* and explained that in Him he found the wisdom of 500 years. Maybe He was reborn in His Soul 500 times in this birth.

111. Restoration of Lost Property

What is genuinely yours will not leave you. With the right inner effort, it can be retrieved. The question of what is genuinely yours leaving you will not arise unless you give adequate cause in the inner fabric of your emotions. A young man who inherited a small substantial property was offered a bride of an affluent lawyer on condition he take a local job and tend his property. **The young man was actuated by unrealistic ambition but had no talents of any description.**

It was the immediate post-war period which coincided with the post-independence period. The son of an erstwhile Viceroy's Executive Council Member chose this town to settle down in and bought a four acre plot from this young man for a fabulous price in those days - Rs. 5000/- per acre. He had another 1 1/2 acres of similar land and was nourishing his ambition to sell it in smaller plots at this rate.

News reached him that the government had acquired that little property of his and the order said the compensation was Rs. 2350/-. He was in no position to move sufficient influence to countermand the order of the Collector. He felt devastated and consulted a friend who was in touch with his own Spirit. **What social status can or cannot do, the friend knows, the Spirit can do.** He needed a clue on which he could act. As the father of that young man was in the army, the property was the property of an ex-service man. They appealed to the Ex-Service Men's association in Delhi by a letter to which a telegraphic reply came saying the Collector was advised by telegram not to acquire an ex-service man's property. The dull ambitious young man received the benefit, not knowing where it came from. **Later he sold it for Rs. 47,000/-.**

113. Sweetness is the Knowledge of Love

The ultimate rightness or otherwise of any work is indicated by the sensation of Sweetness it generates. **In doing a work, if it gives you Sweetness inside, you can be sure you are on the right course and the work is RIGHT by any evaluation.**

Beauty, Love and Joy are three expressions of Ananda that is spiritual. Mind sees Ananda as Beauty. The nerves feel the touch of Ananda as Joy. Ananda is received by the soul as Love. After the creation came into existence, the Divine saw the gap between the human world of lower triplicity -- mind, vital and body - and the Divine and threw Love into the gap to bridge it. Hence, the Supreme importance of Love for the man who aspires for the Divine.

Sat, Chit, Ananda coming down split into Unity, Truth, Knowledge, Power, Beauty, Love and Joy. Lila is described as the interplay of these eight powers. The impact of Truth on knowledge or their interaction produces **GOODNESS**. Goodness in life, goodwill, acts as the carrier of luck. As life values luck, some great souls advise their lay followers to harbour pure goodwill if they value luck.

A similar play of Love with knowledge yields the sensation of Sweetness. Knowledge here is the knowledge of God; Love is the vibration that links the human to the Divine. Work done through consecration is our own work done as if it is the Divine work. When that work produces the vibration of Sweetness, we are sure of the Presence of the Divine. If that is the explanation, the question of right or wrong does not arise. **Human relationship aimed at producing sweetness in others goes a step beyond the sweetness felt by us, as it is also selfless.**

114. Abolition of Space

Technology abridges Time and shortens Space. That is an index for the advancement of civilisation. Every mechanical aspect has its psychological counterpart.

There are emotional people who cannot wait for an hour to see the child that returned from school. To many of us, it sounds unreasonable; to them it is an emotional reality. One such person while he is eating wants his father to come at once if only the inner emotions rise. **The father invariably appears at the door.** Otherwise, he cannot continue eating.

While walking on the pavement of a broad crowded road if you see a friend on the other side of the pavement, your deep desire to meet him often makes him look at you. This is a common experience. The power of your mental concentration makes the other respond to you. Often a brother does not write for a prolonged period. A wife who has gone to her parents with an unspoken grievance refuses to communicate. A son who turned a fugitive leaves the anxious parents behind who are helpless. Invoking the Spirit on these occasions evokes a response and also wipes out the problem of psychological contention between them.

There are those who can only weep and wail and not call the Spirit. Mind and vital (life) are other layers or planes of our being. At such moments, one can go as deep as possible in their thoughts or better still their feelings in the stomach - the solar plexus - and call the name of the person intensely. Actually, the best of responses comes when you go deeper than the solar plexus to a vital centre. **When calling from there, the voice is heard by the other person and they act -- write or return home or respond in some fashion -- accordingly.** It always works without fail. This way, a response can be certainly evoked while the Spirit that is commissioned will solve, in addition, the problem that created the separation.

115. Generosity – Meanness

It requires a generous heart to delight in another's success. **True generosity handsomely recognises another's talents and endowments.** Generosity of emotions is Spiritual. The highest hallmark of generous emotion towards another is the ability to give another by one's own endeavour what lies outside his own best efforts. If one can be generous, he need not evoke the Spirit in him specially, as it will surface in his normal actions. Certain places will be entirely of generous people and it may be found in the entire district. In such places it is rare that one is given a nickname. Personal defects, family misfortunes, etc., will **NOT** be referred to in conversation with him directly. Not to discuss such things even in his absence is true generosity of culture.

The richest man in a place sent his wife home, retaining his two children with him and pampered the children to the best of his ability. At school, the boys would be asked where their mother was. That question alienated that boy forever from the unfortunate victim. Each time the boy went to the next class, the very first question the teacher asked would be about the mother. **There was one boy in the same class who never asked that odious question. He was from another cultured district.**

To ask another to do what we cannot do ourselves is meanness, says the Divine Mother. There are plenty of instances of both types in life. As a rule, great men are unpopular in their own hometowns. That continues to be so even after they attain national fame or international fame. Some families are thus unfortunate, grudging to recognise the value of a family member. Particularly in marriage, it is rarely present. The capacity to recognise the spouse's endowments and further, to acknowledge it handsomely ensure a happy marriage.

116. Power Failure

Power cut or power failure is a constant phenomenon ever since the population began to consume more power and the government embarked on greater generation of electric power. **It is a problem not of failure but one of expansion not keeping pace with the speed of expanding consumption.** For one who is trying to replace his centre of functioning from life to Spirit, any failure is not welcome, as it is a sign of his own ineffectivity.

Without looking at power failure as a phenomenon of power generation, if one sees it as a reflection of his own spiritual status or effectivity, one has a scope of progress in life.

In a month of May a few individuals devoted to Spirit were in the midst of a discussion. Power failed. It is their experience that power is resumed when intensely called. Now such a calling of the power did not restore the supply. They spoke to the electricity department. In the sudden gale that afternoon, a certain tower had blown down. The government procedures would permit its construction in three months. As this was an emergency, they said it would be restored in three days. This answer from the department struck a blow to their faith in the Spirit.

One of the group spoke out his mind. "What the department says is valid for them, not for us. **If our faith in Spirit is true, our intensity must bring the current earlier than three days.**" Others felt the truth of the statement from Spirit but found it a tall, impractical claim on their faith. They all agreed to go home and continue their effort. One of them was leaving town that evening. After reaching the bus stand, he called at 6:30 pm to find out what happened. The current that had failed at 3:00 pm was restored at 6:00 pm, he learned.

117. Failure in Spirit is still Success in Life

Of the few lakhs of candidates who take the IAS examination, two hundred are finally recruited, two thousand pass the written test while only two lakhs pass the entrance. **Those who are not selected - 1800 - invariably get another higher job, as the failure in IAS is still a qualification for high non-IAS jobs.**

This is not an argument for us to fail. It is to show the preeminence of the Spirit vis-a-vis life. We are in social life, which can be conceived of in at least a hundred levels of hierarchy, starting from the unemployed poor and ending in the highest accomplishment in private or public life. Life hails one who moves a few steps ahead in its own plane, as an employee becoming an MLC or a bank manager becoming a successful SSI entrepreneur. In one sense, all our adventures and aspirations are confined to the five or six social layers just above us.

Mind is above life. It too has a hundred such layers beginning from the illiterate and ending in one whose mental faculties are ripe and mature. Life and mind are not only two successive planes. **Mind returning on life - an idea used in business - creates a Software giant of several billions.** Higher Mind of the Muni, Illumined Mind of the Rishi, Intuitive Mind of the yogi, Overmind of the gods, Supermind in Time, Supermind in timelessness are there between Man at the bottom and the Spirit at the top.

The Force on earth since 1956 enables us to call the Spirit situated so high and the Spirit itself is eager to respond, while our own highest ambitions are confined to a few levels of life. Let us call the Spirit successfully and be elevated to its regions. Even when we fail, let us know that that failure is still a great, vast success in life.

118. Faith Must be Pure, NOT Dependent on Other things

Those who have **FAITH** often witness that it works sometimes but not always. **When their faith is pure and total, it works**, but when they rely on other factors too, it fails. By shifting their reliance from a method or a medium, faith becomes full and victorious. There are others who have no faith. Perseverance, says Mother, generates faith. They must repeatedly try until faith is created.

A man tries for a difficult admission with some faith. There are two things he must do. 1. He must fulfill necessarily all the conditions such as applying, submitting all the certificates, etc. Of course, he must qualify for selection; 2. He may have some faith in his scores or his correct submission of documents or also rely on some recommendation or his caste that is backward, etc. He must look at his mind and carefully shift each of these reliances to **Pure Faith**. The work is fulfilled the moment the last reliance is shifted to faith. One indication that he has thus shifted is his heart will be full and rich. Another is the weight of the problem that was oppressing his heart or occupying his thoughts will be lifted.

Life responds in two ways, depending upon the type of personality one is. In one case, nothing moves until the last item is shifted to faith when the reward suddenly appears as a surprise. In the other case, life begins to respond as positive developments in other areas, though the work on hand remains incomplete, thus encouraging that part in us which is impatient and unbelieving. These should be noted as indications of the work being done behind the scenes but should not be allowed to build expectations. Expectations of the mind are the surest method to neutralise the vast powers of faith one has. When expectations are insistent, pray for their dissolution and disappearance.

119. Invocation of Spirit Makes Luck Possible

What we know as luck is the submerged Spirit surfacing. If luck is *Poorvajanma punya* unseen, Spirit is its power that we can now call. I have once listed arguments relating to luck and appropriate illustrations that number around 100 whose summary I wished to present here.

- One moment when the Spirit surfaces is equal to several births in the physical body and its own mind.
- Body works, vital energises, mind organises, while the Spirit abridges their time of centuries into years or even days.
- Body works by movement, vital by energy and mind by thought, **while Spirit acts by faith which precipitates results in a trice.**
- Luck is *adrishta*, not in view. Hence it is not under our control. Spirit is *drishti*. Therefore Spirit brings luck under our control.
- Capable men are unlucky, as the external circumstances that are not under their control can torpedo their work.
- All external circumstances are under the control of the Spirit.
- Capacity is partial, faith is total.
- **One can plan an experiment in luck and see it is within one's capacity when he acts in the Spirit.**
- One who could not borrow a few hundred rupees in 1971 faced with the need to borrow Rs.5000/- tried his luck as an experiment. In the next half an hour, he got a gift of Rs. 5000/- unsolicited.
- Good will for another is luck for oneself.
- Capacity to wish that what he aspires for himself must come to him after another has received it, is directly luck for himself.
- **Capacity to be happy that another is lucky is better than pure good will for another.**
- Causeless **JOY** is greater than good will or happiness in another's luck. Remembrance of Mother is **JOY** without any cause.

120. Love that Knows NO Failure

"I have loved since my birth but no one has loved me", is the complaint of a sore heart.

"I loved him genuinely for a long time, sought nothing but love in its purity. It is a pity he only loved my jewels and pretty face" is the voice of a wounded heart that is too pure to live on our muddy earth.

"My son is all to me. I would not miss seeing him for a few hours. Literally he was my all. It was a fulfillment for me for over 20 years to see him, to hear his voice. **In fact, I contemplated anything on earth only with reference to him.** He was the centre of existence and continues to be the sole centre of my pitiable existence. I could hardly believe that there was no affection in his heart for me. My wife points out that while away in the college the only letters he wrote were the ones for money. It never struck me then and even now, I do not wish to believe it. Not a day passed while he was away, either at the hostel or in the job, without my talking to him on the phone. My day would not be complete without my hearing his voice. Now, I am in my last days. He refuses to come and see me. I am in no physical condition to go and see him. Still I cannot bring myself to believe there is no love in his heart for me. What have I done to deserve this?" This is the cry of a disillusioned heart which refuses to believe the hard fact that his son has *no* love for him.

Love is pure, and SELFLESS. It never fails. Go in and ask yourself how selfless your love is. If you need your husband's love or child's affection, is it selfless? It is selfish love and will always fail, as it has an axe to grind. Do you love your son for his joy? Are you fulfilled in his happiness? That is a superior love. Such a love knows no failure, as the Origin of Love is absence of failure - Ananda.

121. Micro-nutrients of Personality

A disease arises through the disorder of an organ or by a physiological imbalance. The natural method of cure will be to set right the disorder or restore the lost balance. There are other methods, though partial and temporary, to achieve the same results. A person of mediocre abilities is often selected on the basis of excellent social skills of fine manners, or even fluency in good English. This is one example in public life.

There is another side to this phenomenon. An Indian agronomist settled in California and specialised in micro-nutrients of the soil for 30 years which produced spectacular yields in cotton, tomato, rice and several other crops. **He discovered that when the missing micro-nutrients are supplied, the soil exhibits its very best by producing twice or more.** The same is true in health, education, social production and all other fields.

The speed of the Indian economy is about two, while the same is three in several advanced countries. There are a host of methods to increase the velocity of money circulation just by administrative decisions of the government and fresh business practices. They will raise the 2 to 2 1/2 with a corresponding increase in productivity as well as Prosperity. Invariably doctors now advise physical exercises which can mitigate very many disease. One student consistently stood first in studies just by underlining the important points in the exam with red ink. News papers find their graphics help higher sales. For the Indian individual as well as the nation, there are very many such useful ingredients. Two of them stand out,

1. Personal reliability evidenced in utter truthfulness, and
2. Punctuality in Time as well as work.

In the post war period, packaging has played that role very much. **In a world where a well-dressed person gets along, I plead for dressing up the inner personality of character of Truth.**

122. Power of Thought Uttered or Unuttered

An ill-mannered, offensive person was in an important post in an esteemed organisation. One of the several truths on which that organisation is founded is the outer perfectly reflects the inner. A visitor to that place took to this particular principle very seriously. When he encountered the offensive executive, his response of disgust was very great. **By a supreme inner effort, he decided that he should please this person, as only that would create pleasantness inside.** He was doing it for some time as a discipline, which his nerves found to be too much.

One day this visitor, having discovered what would most please the other man, though it was equally unpalatable to him in the doing of it, decided to tell the executive his intention. The executive was brimming over with joy and would not allow the visitor to speak as he had news for the visitor. He offered the visitor a very rich partner who ended up giving him a large property.

In our own experience, it often happens negatively. Two colleagues were in conversation in the office, one dominant and the other submissive. The latter had a mischievous idea that was unpalatable that urged from inside for expression. He was waiting for an opening in the dialogue to give vent to his unsavoury joke and he did so. The other man replied, "I was sent to you by the boss with a message. I hesitated to give it to you, but as he expressly sent me for that purpose I have no alternative. He has a suspension order for you. To prepare you to receive it, he sent me earlier."

- Forces in life keep their balance precisely.
- Still, one has the choice of speaking or not.
- Had this man not indulged in this vulgar joke, the boss would not have suspended him from service.
- It is difficult to have **NICE** thoughts all the time.
- It is definitely possible **NOT** to have provoking ideas and when you have, it is possible **NOT** to express them.
- **In that SENSE, our life is in our THOUGHTS.**

123. Lost Eyesight

One man's service in restoring eyesight to millions has grown into a big institution and may become a movement in South India. The wonders of modern medicine are inconceivable. Back in the 1930's, losing one's sight was considered to be one's karma and was silently suffered. People would be ashamed of speaking out their diseases, as it revealed their own heinous crimes in past lives! It is no longer so.

There was a poor weaver whose eyesight was failing. He would not let it be known. When both eyes lost their sight and he needed help to move, it could no longer be hidden from the other members of his family. In the local temple, there was a Mutt. Its head was a Tamil scholar of wide renown. Spiritual power was attributed to him. This weaver often attended his lectures.

He mustered courage to speak to the head of the Mutt about his growing blindness. **Without answering the weaver, he asked him to come back on a fixed day.** The weaver returned on the appointed day. The saint handed over to him a paper of 30 verses on Shiva and asked him to go round the Pataleeswar temple every day reciting one verse a day. The poor weaver had faith in the man and did so as ordered.

Those were days when people had greater faith in such remedies than in the doctor. He went round the temple holding his son's hands as many times as was prescribed.

He fully regained the sight in both eyes.

No one would believe such an advice today when a medical remedy is available. Medical remedy has its limits. Though faith has unlimited powers, man's faith is variously limited in various periods.

124. Large as Life

Life is larger than social life. Human life exceeds social life in dimension. Life is far wider in its scope than either social life or human life. Nature outstrips life. Existence on earth is not confined to Nature. It consists of many other worlds such as the subtle world of spirits that leave the bodies of the dead, occult worlds invisible to the naked eye and sometimes even to mental perception. Beyond lie the causal worlds proper to the Spirit. In the widest sense, Man's life is mental. All his important decisions are taken not by the mind rationally but by his dynamic temperament called vital. We also know all serious issues of life are determined by material properties that are physical or momentary interests that are vital.

It is not given to man, especially the common man, to rise to the full stature of life whether it is social or human, not to speak of Life in general or Nature that includes life as its part. Education widens the horizons of his mind, while travel and experience enlarge his personality. Advancing society compels him, though gently, to rise to greater heights of personality. Only the explorer, the leader, the pioneer, those who court danger and adventure reach a wider dimension of life, if only for a short period.

The Spirit surfacing on personal life expands the scope of Man's existence to the borders of social and human lives and goes beyond. In fact, the Spirit opens up vistas beyond Nature to the narrow mental life of the social man hedged in the confines of his moral conception.

As life in the twentieth century cannot disregard electricity or oil, etc, human life in the twenty first century has a lot to benefit by letting the Spirit rule. It is not a difference in degree but one in the very basic dimension of existence. **Spirit enables Man to grow as large as life in his own sphere.**

125. Life's Determinism

The proverb 'Man proposes and God disposes' can as well be rewritten as 'Man proposes and Life disposes', especially when Man tries to cross the limits set to him by Life.

One who arranges for a function like a wedding may have many things at his command especially in our modern days, but will be utterly helpless against a bundh or a cyclone. One is the handiwork of man and the other is the mischievous pleasure of Nature. **On such occasions, Man is humbled and is shown the limits within which he can function.**

What we understand as civilisation, the march of history, the progress of humanity, etc. is man's extending his domain by overpowering the determinisms of life. It is not only by the weather. Should man analyse his real position vis-à-vis life, he will quickly discover that he functions in a perimeter around his personality and he cannot travel far beyond his own centre in whichever direction he moves. **The human self is too narrow a circle around his own organised centre and Life the not-self is the whole universe.**

Man has made many inroads into the territory of life, but his greatest advances are no more than a trickle as against the vast stretch of life. Human determinism is steadily growing in its amplitude, though the truth of its insignificance remains intact. Our interest is not so much in the determinism of life or the human determinism that is bravely endeavouring to overcome its natural barriers as in discovering another Determinism which can effectively supersede them both. Is there one? If so, from where does it derive its power? Is that power available to us? Let us know its philosophy and practice.

126. Human Determinism

We know too well the frontier between Man and life or Man and Nature and the million conquests he has made over the centuries and is still making with every passing day.

Water that comes to us through rain, known as the material expression of Divine Grace, has been a major determinant of life till the beginning of the nineteenth century. Third world countries began talking of freeing agriculture from the freaks of the monsoon in the post war world. They did succeed in a great measure. Human ingenuity coupled with human industry reduced that dependence to a tiny part until arid tracts were transformed into flourishing orchards. **Life is Vital, Nature is physical, but man is mental.** His successes were successes of Mind over the lower planes of life and matter. Beyond this lies another plane known as Spirit. It is superceded by the plane of Supermind to which Man and his Mind do have access.

Man has prolonged life by his knowledge of physiology and medicine, but has not given an endlessness to life. His conquest of pain is great but is not complete. Also, he has conquered them by the lower forces of Matter - Medicine -- not by a superior force. Man is discovering himself more powerful than life or Nature at particular points. We witness in this phenomenon that as Man advances positively ahead, he gives rise to equally powerful evil forces over which he can conceive of no mastery. It is so as it is an outer physical conquest. Another conquest is open to him which is the inner conquest of the outer, the spiritual victory over the material resistance. Let us see whether that mastery is devoid of this evil side effect.

127. Spiritual as well as Psychic Determinism

In our country, the Spiritual Man is lost to the society as well as life. He never runs a family or even an organisation. In such rare cases **such as Swami Vivekananda founding an organisation or Mahesh Yogi, we see the extraordinary efficiency they enjoy.** Their Spirit emerges in action and determines the course of their actions. Obviously, the results here are far greater than the one who uses his Mind or Vital.

In the wider population, such an occurrence is not witnessed. Here we may call Spiritual people who are pious, orthodox, religious who conduct their pujas, recite the slokas and observe the religious functions meticulously. This is not directly spirituality but is religious observance which brings out not the spirit in action but does have a certain spiritual influence. An admixture of Truth and Falsehood is found in such people, while the tapasvin cannot utter one lie without losing all his spiritual powers. In spite of an element of untruth which the pious householder is sometimes capable of, **his own efficiency is markedly greater than his compeer.**

As a rule, orthodox people are far more efficient and consequently more successful in life and work. Those pious people who are utterly truthful from their own personal choice receive the rewards of their truthfulness which is far greater than the ordinary run of orthodox people.

Mind, Vital, and Body have their own Spirit, which is the evolving Spirit, known as the psychic being. This is a more powerful Spirit to which alone I am referring to in my articles. This will not emerge or respond to invocations in persons of untruth. **It is a Being of Truth.** It knows no failure. Its calm is sweet. Its efficiency is consummate. It overcomes all other determinisms and prevails against all known forces.

128. The Unfailing Success of the Psychic Determinism

The Psychic Being has four versions. It is seated in all parts of our being as a part and is also centrally located. The central location lies behind the heart centre, not the heart centre itself. In the Mind, it makes one a genius. The very best example of a vital psychic being is that of Nehru, whom Sri Aurobindo called one of the pure Aryan type. When a certain member in the Parliament accused Nehru of jealousy, a member of the opposition commented, "You cannot teach Nehru jealousy". The mental psychic can give the right guidance. Being of the mind, it is incapable of power. It cannot effectuate. **When the human will endorses that light, it becomes invincible.**

The vital psychic is more powerful in action for two reasons. 1. Being vital, it is of power, 2. As it is incapable of falsehood, it avoids the necessity of choice. It is true and therefore it is powerful. Life becomes lucky, when the vital psychic is in action. Its perception is unerring. It knows no falsehood. Its efficiency is greater. It does not have the possibility of admixture of untruth which the pious man faces. Its characteristic is **GOOD WILL**.

One can say pure good will brings luck. **GOOD WILL** for another, not out of vanity, but out of strength and the higher sympathy of compassion inevitably brings luck. If one wishes for luck or wishes to create luck for himself which his horoscope denies him, let him decide to receive it after another - a brother, spouse, child, parent or friend, etc. - receives it first, and he will surely create luck for himself.

GOODNESS is the result of **TRUTH** acquiring knowledge. It is Truth-Knowledge where both the ingredients are powerful by themselves. In their combination, their strength rises. Life or even Nature is no match for this formidable combination of two higher forces.

129. Characteristics of the Psychic Determinism

The Psychic works through the human personality, social circumstances, psychological endowments but **when the occasion demands, it acts in a fashion the society has not known.** The presence of such an element carries the stamp of the Psychic. The most common experience of devotees is that in response to his personal particular need, the law changes in his favour and his prayer is answered through the changed law.

- Another is the solution to our problem, which defies any known explanation.
- Often it appears possible but is found nowhere in human experience.
- When a man looks back on his 40 or 50 years of career, he will find the solution he had, has been only one such instance in his life or perhaps in all his experience of others. It retains its unique character.
- **The help comes, when it comes, from the head of the organisation, be it a state or national organisation.**
- It occurs through a change of heart in the enemy who is the source of trouble, a change diametrically opposite to his character.
- A certain procedure or method which failed so far begins to yield the desired result.
- The problem caused by the scarcity of a certain commodity is solved by the same commodity becoming surplus.
- It emerges by the faculty of intuition.
- By a certain reversal of an offending behaviour, the result comes.
- It happens by the obstacle removing itself by changed circumstances.
- When the results do come, the hand of the Psychic is revealed by the presence of excess of the result prayed for.

130. Invisible Potentialities

All that we enjoy today by way of comfort and convenience has been invisible in our society of previous centuries. It is human ingenuity that made the invisible visible. **The Divine Mother has said that the very bodies of the Indians are of light, while the bodies of the Westerners are dark.** If the bodies of all Indians are of light, surely the minds of many are much more so. When those who are open to the Spirit innately or by tradition or even by training are sincere in their inner personalities and refuse to be mercenary or selfish, they have that Spirit right under the surface. **Only that they must know this for a fact and bring themselves to call it into play in their own daily lives.**

Hire-Purchase that was unknown to the Indian market thirty years ago except for bus and lorry, now has come to stay as a standard trade practice. It has filled the middle class homes with consumer durables. This was a hidden invisible potential in the sector of trade in the previous century. In fact, in this system, the shopkeeper plays the role of money lender. Now that the consumer as well as the shopkeeper knows its value, no one questions its validity.

There is another marketing mechanism only forty years old in the world that eliminates the distributor and retailer and offers a share of that income to the resourceful, dynamic consumer. This has a greater potential to offer to the entire society, but the society is still suspect. **When it comes of age, no dynamic consumer will part with the income of a distributor and retailer.**

India has seen since freedom the lowest class of people being raised to the highest professionals in the next generation. India which is a low income country, by invoking the Spirit, can become a high income country. **If you are a clerk or a lawyer, what objection can you have for your sons becoming State governors and leading industrialists?** Would you try to invoke the Spirit?

131.Outer Expression of Inner Consciousness

A grown up boy took unkindly to his mother when she began to impose disciplines on all the family somewhat ungently. His disapproval of the discipline overlooked the great opportunity that was offered to the family.

He saw the discipline; he refused to see the opportunities. Being the uneducated member of the family, he could easily grow vociferous and liberally bestowed on his own mother all that his lower vital felt at the first touch of discipline. To say the least, it was scandalous. The mother was amazed. She approached the head of the family with tears. He answered, "To discipline the boy is easy. That way the great opportunity that has come will withdraw. **It can come to fruition only in freedom.** Take it as your own inner consciousness coming to you from out of the mouth of your son."

She realised the force of the discipline which was a tenet of her faith and spent one full night realising that advice inwardly. The next evening the boy was penitent and thereafter began to admire her. Two other sons after some years, unable to stand the success of the other brother, indulged in intrigues and exposed their mother to ridicule on a public occasion.

The uneducated son now felt the outrage in his nerves. He approached the same head of the family for redressal, completely oblivious of the fact that they were doing now what he had done earlier. He got the reply saying that the head of the family has all along known about those intrigues. "Please set my brothers right" was his plea to the head.

He got the answer, "**Outer expression is the reflection of inner consciousness.** You have to set your own inner consciousness which is still as before. Discipline is not the remedy, but freedom is desirable. Let us wait till your brothers change on the strength of your inner change."

132. St. Antony

Bob comes from a pious Christian family. His mother goes to church everyday. Her sister too follows her pattern of life. In planning their holidays they take care to visit places where there is a church of their denomination. During the non-working hours they read the prayer book. Bob came to India from USA and stayed here. **It is an article of faith in the family that matters religious are not discussed at all, lest one should appear to comment on the ways of another.** So, no one ever asks Bob about India, the Ashram he has joined, etc.

Bob studied *The Life Divine* for over ten years and tried to practise the new philosophy in business. He was so soaked in the new philosophy of his that he was inspired to write a story **The Legend of Brahman** which takes place in 3000 A.D.

Once he called his aunt on the phone and found her flustered as she had lost an important receipt. At an age of well over 80 she could not handle the situation and was bitter over the minor tragedy. After she finished her exuberance, Bob asked her to pray to Jesus, intensely concentrating behind the heart. It had never occurred to her to pray to restore the lost receipt. After 15 minutes she called to report that she found it and was thrilled by the **new experience** of prayer. After two or three such experiences she called Bob St. Antony, as it is he who restores the lost objects according to her faith. It is true St. Antony does it, but it is one's own faith that does it. Her own prayer spread all over the day had lost all life, as it was a matter of habit. **Call it by whatever name, it is the Spirit that acts in our lives whatever the work we do.**

133. From the Bottom 5% to the Top 5 %

A young Dutch man spent several years in an Indian Ashram and took the name Sattwa. He was seven inches over six feet. His education ended with school. He found in himself tremendous fear lurking because of violent circumstances in his early upbringing. It could be harmful to others when the vibration surfaces.

Having returned to his native country, he joined a Bank as an employee at the very last level. In spite of poor education, he was endowed with high native intelligence for mental creativity which had no occasion to express in life. He had many other complications in his personality, as a result of which he had no friends. He belonged to the last 5 % of the population. Though lonely, he took to yoga to transform his inner psychological make up.

He steadily rose in his job. Once he gave an idea how his bank could reorganise itself. The management never acknowledged the suggestion but organised the Bank along those lines. He had a colleague blind in both eyes who worked through Braille. He devised a computer system by which blind people could play chess. **He worked earnestly to transform his inner fear from which violence sometimes issued into expansive courage.** He did so for 11 years and found steady progress. He tried to actively practise Self-giving. His friend contacted him after 11 years on a personal financial transaction which they had entered into earlier. Sattwa decided to fully practise Self-giving. The renewal of old friendship made his otherwise morose mood into one of causeless joy. For weeks he could not refrain from an involuntary **SMILE**.

They compared notes on the intervening years. His friend, to his surprise found Sattwa had acquired a rare academic degree, rare in his country **and had now moved up very much in the Bank. He now belongs to the top 5 % of the society.**

134. Power of Cleanliness

Spiritual people all over the world generally are cleaner than others, as the Spirit abides by clean surroundings. The Spirit is universal in its action, which means what one man does benefits all such men in his emotional world.

An Indian devotee of the Inner Spirit lived in USA. She lived in an apartment where the houses are furnished and maintained. Her electric oven was one provided to her by the owners of the apartment complex. As with everything, she took more than usual care in maintaining the oven. She never allowed dust to accumulate on it. It was always sparkling.

One day she took it apart to clean and found a burnt coil. Complaints are usually attended to before the end of the day. In reply to her complaint the workman came at once and took a look at it. He said it was 14 years old, which she had never realised in view of its working efficiency. It could be fixed in no time and she could resume her work with it. To her surprise, the work man proposed, "As it is 14 years old, let me replace it by a new oven." This devotee is one who keeps her house very clean. Often cleanliness had revealed its **Spiritual power**.

The proposal of the workman was a further dimension of her experience. Perhaps the **OBJECT** in response to the immaculate cleanliness in which it was kept repaid her attention by bringing in a new one. Perhaps the Spirit of the oven was in action. When the workman brought the new one and installed it, he announced, "We have decided to replace all the ovens installed 14 years ago, whether in working condition or not." **Just then she recollected the character of the Spirit's universality in action.**

135. Chanting of Om

About a hundred years ago, a group of artists in Paris began to evince interest in matters spiritual and occult. One of them proposed chanting OM. **His chanting filled the air with great spiritual power.**

Before the world war, a music performance was arranged in Bangalore in honour of a visiting military dignitary. At the end of the performance, the musician chanted 'Om Shanti'. The chief guest shouted 'Stop, Stop' and said he could not stand it. Om and Shanti were too much for his military nerves.

Chanted rightly, OM takes one to cosmic consciousness. What is right chanting? Obviously, the mere oral repetition unrelated to the inner spirit will only be a physical exercise. Cosmic consciousness cannot be seen from the surface mind from which we act. Below the surface mind exists the inner mind where the witness Purusha dwells. A door to Nirvana too opens there. It also opens on the subliminal mind where the psychic dwells.

Right chanting requires one to move to the inner mind. It is achieved either by concentration or consecration. When one silences the running thoughts, withdrawing into the present from the past, and discouraging the selfish egoistic attitudes, one is ready to increase his concentration to reach the Overmind. He must wait until he reaches there and his Soul is ready to take up the chanting. **Chanting by the soul opens the cosmic consciousness where GOD is revealed in full splendour.** It is realisation of God by one's own Soul.

If you are one who is interested in domestic life and righteous abundance in your own business, the life version of right chanting of OM can raise your company from three crore rupees turnover to thirty crores. To such a person, the right method can be explained with benefit.

136. Life Version of Chanting OM

The power of **OM**, which is also spelt as **AUM** -- each letter representing the Transcendental, Universal and the Individual -- is infinite. It reveals its power according to the level of invocation by the human soul.

Assume you are an industrialist having a company of Rs. 3 crore turnover. In the course of your work, you have to listen to some people, speak to others, handle papers, receive or give money, etc. One does it with a sense of duty or responsibility. We do such things out of interest. Sometimes we are casual or even indifferent. Even irresponsibility too is a possible attitude.

Life version of chanting **OM** here is to be open in the soul and act from there. When someone speaks to you, it is possible to be all attention. **To listen to another person like that is to listen from one's soul.** We may do so to an important person, not to others. We receive a bundle of currency notes carefully, but the same attention is not there in receiving a file. All successful men are capable of such attention to all things big and small. That is why they are successful.

They have that capacity for total attention. If such a person runs a company of 3 crores, let him know he is functioning from his mind. **Let him simply move to the centre of Spirit and he will find the 3 crore turnover moving to Rs. 30 crore turnover.**

Now that he has the ability for total attention, let him convince his mind that acting from the Spirit is far more beneficial. The very knowledge will change the company for the better. Calm, pleasant, attentive, patient attitude of work and human relationship will fully change him to the spiritual centre. **Spiritual values in work - cheerfulness, the other man's point of view, pleasantness, patience, attention to detail, etc. - shifts a man to the life-version of chanting Om.** Work is worship. Work is the prayer of the body.

137. Birth of Freedom in the Mind of Life

A 70 year old employee in an organisation of seven people refused to retire on his own. His employer, who knew the value of the employee, knew too well that he was a stumbling block to his own organisation. In view of a long friendship, he put off the dismissal for 7 years. Now he delivered the orders orally. The employee, having no other income or pension was devastated. In view of his age, he had no valid plea for continued service.

He knew of invoking the Spirit, but it was not working, as he was overwhelmed by depression. While he was on the point of giving up, he was advised to meet another person who had passed through the grind earlier. She narrated the visit of the court Amin with an auction notice and how by invoking the Spirit she made the Amin relent and grant her a few precious hours of respite. She explained how she mastered the amount in that time and emerged victorious. **By this time he was spiritually energised.** Returning to his employer, he found the oral order inoperative. He remained at his post for another 5 years, and celebrated his 75th birthday!

The lady who had this successful spiritual adventure later heard that in view of her successful invocation of the Spirit, the amount of auction - 4 1/2 times her salary - would later become her salary. That happened a year later, which the lady was unable to communicate to the old employee, as he had no further patience to listen after receiving a ray of hope.

The release of a wrongfully imprisoned person, a widow hearing the government announcement of pension for her, and the engineer receiving venture capital enjoy the **energy of Freedom in their oppressed, dark lives.** To know that the Spirit moving into one's Mind, better still into one's vital, will give him unconquerable energy is such a source of Freedom from the determinism of life. **Hereafter he determines the outcome of his life, which is ever-present LUCK.**

138. Word of Mouth

Word of Mouth is more powerful than an advertisement in 'The New York Times' is the experience of all experienced people in any walk of life. We see a book like *Gone with the Wind* selling in millions while equally good books peter out in their sales after an initial spurt. The same phenomenon we see between Nehru and Gandhiji on one side and Subhas Chandra Bose and Jayaprakash on the other side. One leader is as charismatic as another, but one rides the wave while the other does not. In national as well as international movements also, we witness that a few catch the imagination of the people while the others, equally good or even better do not take off or flag after the initial success. Where does the difference lie?

When the writer or the leader has touched the Spirit in his own inspiration, it touches the Spirit of the population also. The Spirit calling the Spirit creates a live ever-increasing movement of sales or popularity. We see athletes, writers, musicians, spiritual leaders, politicians, even academic professors, and sometimes scientists rising to national or international fame. In the post war period this phenomenon is more in incidence since the Force has descended in 1956.

Technology has enabled man to enjoy today what was inconceivable 100 years ago or even twenty years ago. A scientist discovers, another commercialises the technology, a company mass produces it and the common man enjoys the cell phone or computer. **'One man's perfection can save the world' is a line in Sri Aurobindo's epic poem Savitri.** Anyone who is patient enough to invoke the Spirit in his own life, who acts on his own faith and not on his capacity, will now witness such a boom in his own life. How far it will rise depends upon how far he is in tune with the Spirit of the Times.

139. Spirit is Infectious

One strong mark of Spirit is **GOOD WILL**. One can say that Good will is synonymous with Spirit. **It is an age-old observation that when a great soul is born, life around suddenly becomes mere prosperous.** If one successfully invokes Spirit and continues to develop in that direction, all those who are related to him by good will witness a parallel development in their own Prosperity.

An employee in a private institution was suspended out of local intrigue. It means the employee is ruined forever, especially 40 years ago when such things were unheard of. Though it was a private institution, in view of the government grant, it was under a government department. The employee had a friend as a gazetted officer in that department. The officer, though not a close friend, exhibited extraordinary interest in the case and made arrangements to cancel the suspension orders forthwith. The orders were cancelled without resort to appeals by the invocation of the Spirit.

The employee, who is in the habit of invoking the Spirit, was intensely anxious to help the officer. There was no way. It was only a kindly thought. The officer was selected to the IAS cadre. The officer desired his IAS selection to have a retrospective effect and went to court which sanctioned it. The employee saw in the papers that the officer who was selected to the IAS had been given the retrospective benefit from 1962 which was the year in which the officer had helped him.

It is the experience of this employee in his later years that many friends and relatives who were well disposed towards him rose in life far higher than their own expectations. **Spirit that develops in one SIMULTANEOUSLY develops in all those connected with him. It is infectious in its growth.**

140. Happy Home

Someone who was brought up in a tense, quarrelsome house visited a happy family. With a sense of amazement he said, "Indeed, it is a truly happy family, remarkable in being cheerful. Harmony is the only note they know. At anytime there are about ten people there. About twenty people dine there. Hospitality is their life breath. The family knows nothing of what we describe as family quarrels. It is unheard of in that family that one person is not on speaking terms with another. **In short, if any sad person comes there, soon he would become happy, as the atmosphere is infectious.**" Perhaps they are people of good will, and mild, sweet manners in a place known for its culture for long. It is clear the Spirit of life presides over their living.

Is it possible to bring a little of that vibration into families that are less fortunate? It is, if people let their own inner Spirit emerge in their outer life. Once the Spirit surfaces, family life will be rich and sweet. The same joy can be arrived at by several ways through good manners or ingrained culture without resorting to the help of Spirit.

No simple method can change human nature forever; but it can make a family see that it is possible for the duration of a month. Even when a depressed family changes into a happy one for a week, it will certainly show the possibility. Next to invoking the Spirit, the best rule is: **every member of the family should, during this period, vow to do his utmost to make every other member happy.** Vibrations of **JOY** will emanate from where vibrations of abuse issued. Even if all agree **NOT** to do or say anything to vex another, something of this will be achieved.

Home is known to be happy home, sweet home to which children long to return from their studies, and elders love to come back from their short tours. It is a sacred duty to keep that home **SWEET**. The invocation of Spirit by all, at least by the heads of the family will surely render any home **RICH, SWEET, VIBRANT** with **JOY** of a higher dimension. If not the best, one should keep tension, dissension, quarrels and disputes out of the home.

141. Persistence in the Righteous Course Brings Reward

The *I Ching* is an age-old tradition in China. It is a book of 64 hexagrams and cryptic statements. Reference to the book is an elaborate religious ritual of meditation, tossing of coins, etc. **When referred to properly, *I Ching* reveals the future as well as past very precisely.** A constantly recurring theme there is given as the title to this article, "Persistence in the Righteous Course Brings Reward".

In the world of human affairs, resort to righteousness ends up as the delusion of self-righteousness, because he who carries the day is not the righteous one but the person who is **STRONGER** in the given circumstance. **Life is amoral. It rewards the more organised, not the more honest.** Honesty can expect reward not for its own merit but for its capacity for organised action which is **STRENGTH**. Still, the *I Ching* says the above and it is true. It is because **RIGHTEOUSNESS** proves to be more organised in the long run and that is why *I Ching* speaks of persistence.

Righteousness is knowledge. Will that is unenlightened pushes ahead and carries the day. The above advice is to stand by your highest enlightenment. It says it always brings the Reward. In 1975 two partners of a property quarrelled. The junior partner was willing to relinquish his right. The senior partner refused to accept the offer and put up the property for sale against the wishes of the junior. The *I Ching* asked the junior to seek legal redress which was anathema to his moral consciousness. He refused and kept quiet. Strangely, the senior went to law disregarding the offer of the junior to quit. In the meanwhile, the Government acquired half the property. Later the case was compromised and the entire property came to the junior on a certain payment. Now, half the property was taken away. The Government moved on its course. **There was a rule that orders that are subjudice are invalid.** The junior was all admiration of the Spirit he used to invoke constantly, at the wisdom of seeking redress at law. The all-powerful Spirit acted through the all-wise *I Ching*, which he had unwisely disregarded.

142. Krishna's Flute

When the heart opens to the soul by its devotion, it hears the celestial music, known in India as *venuganam*, the music of Krishna's flute. A young unmarried lady, past marriageable age was endowed with that spiritual maturity in her heart. **It is pure saintliness.** She was on the threshold of heavenly Bliss. Taking to any spiritual discipline, she would have blossomed into a Saint. She was not aware of her own inner endowment beyond the moments of ecstatic **JOY** given by the music of the spheres, nor was she spiritually inclined.

All that she needed was marriage. Born in an orthodox family with a retired father of a meagre pension, a complication presided over her life. Her elder sister married into another religion and deserted the family and later ended her own life under the stress. So, this girl decided against wedding and advocated it as a policy to others. Still, she was undecided. When she began to meet one given to Spirit, she consulted him as to the wisdom of her decision. It was plain she desired marriage.

He took her to his centre where her heart melted and being dissolved so much that she even forgot her one passion in life - marriage. It was January. By lucky circumstances, the day of her visit happened to be her birthday according to the Tamil calendar. **She was so ripe inwardly that no such visit was needed for such a tiny problem of marriage.** She knew of no Spirit, no significance of birthdays when souls surface to take a fresh, higher birth.

She was married in the last week of March without any obstacle whatsoever. She mistook it to be the blessing of the person who had taken her to his centre and visited him after the wedding to seek his blessings! She was a blessed soul who could have become a saint or enjoyed a purely saintly life.

143. The Auspicious Hour

Atheists or unbelievers may be serious or causal. In a verbal contest a believer challenged his unbelieving friend. "My dear friend, I cherish your opinions, but I beg to differ here. For example, I know Sundays and Thursdays are auspicious for you. You may be irreligious or non-religious, but these astrological facts are inexorable. Tell me the most significant event or events of your life. **They will be on such days.**" His eloquence charged the atmosphere and the listener was mellowed by the authority of the other's conviction, if not humbled by the remembrance that confirmed the challenge.

"Yes, Sir, you are right. The most significant event in my life, apart from my marriage was my Darshan of the Divine Mother. It was on a Sunday, August 15th, 1958 and my wedding was on a Thursday", was the corroborating reply. People who consciously defy the inauspicious hours pay dearly. The believer here was an orthodox government officer who, on the request of his Sanskrit teacher had recited *Subramanya kavasam* to successfully relieve the teacher's fever when the teacher's own repetition had failed. **The auspicious hour announces a powerful subtle truth, but it has its limits.** The above believer was a teacher and the unbeliever was his student.

The teacher's father was suffering from a fell disease when the son's pious recitation of the *kavasam* failed. The father, without the knowledge of his son, wrote to his son's student requesting a blessing packet which cured him. The Spirit **NEVER** fails, while the powerful auspicious hour which is an expression of Subtle Life has limits, as subtle life ends where the causal plane begins. The Spirit dwells beyond the causal plane, the plane of cosmic consciousness. Civilised life in the West, partly even in India, is more powerful than these subtle truths, as civilisation has moved beyond the subtle vital life. The claim of astrologers that events of history good as well as bad will confirm the truth of auspicious hours, is no longer true in the West or in India, where superstition does not hold its sway due to tradition.

144. The Grace of the Copious Rainfall

In this century, there were three occasions of excessive rainfall. One was in 1914. That was the year when the Divine Mother first came to India to meet Sri Aurobindo. **Her arrival was heralded by the material Grace of rainfall.** Another was in 1950.

Any good act is announced by life by expressions of Grace which we call good omens. As soon as he took to Spirit, someone desired to enter agriculture. It was the end of 1959. The year 1960 witnessed the third record year of rainfall. The season's rains precipitated almost by the end of October. November was a phenomenal month. In that one month, there were 27 inches of the annual amount of 40 inches. It rained every day and on one particular day the rain was 16 inches, a thing unheard of. All schools were closed, not so much because of the rains but because of the leaking roofs. There was not one building old or new, concrete or mortar, that was not copiously leaking. As houses begin to leak, inmates moved to non-leaking corners. Soon there were none.

The gathering cyclones on the Bay were constantly announced by the radio and newspapers. Now that the walls had been soaked for more than 30 or 40 days, any wind of even a mild speed would bring down innumerable houses. No hut would be spared. One day a cyclone was definitively announced. The adventure of agriculture was a coconut garden on the seashore. If a cyclone struck, he would lose the entire property he had recently acquired.

He tried to evoke the Spirit and found his inner planes **CALM**. But the external threat was real. During the night, he was able to sleep. Early morning news announced that the cyclone had gathered in strength **but had moved away to 150 miles north.** The sun shone for the first time the next day in that memorable November.

145. Carrying out Instructions Precisely in Their Spirit

Instructions are descriptions of work one has in mind to be communicated to another for execution. To have one's own ideas expressed in work by oneself is not always fully possible, as the factors involved in the transition are many. **Another mind is a rich resource that can contribute to the work and distort the outcome.** Unless the receiver of the instruction is a passive instrument faithful to the instruction, the message ends up differently. When the giver of the instruction is fully clear in his mind, he cannot ensure it will be equally clear in the mind of the receiver.

If the mind that gives the instruction is subjective, the mind that receives the instruction is equally subjective. It gets delivered to a third person. Each of these three men live in their own mental contexts. The message has its own work context. The scout movement which has realised the importance of right communication used to ask a line of some thirty boys to transmit a message of a single line. By the time it passed through thirty minds, the distortions the message underwent underlined the enormity it suffered.

An Iyengar magistrate was sitting with his barber outside his house. An orthodox Iyengar passing through the village picked out this magistrate to secure a piece of pickle. The magistrate asked him to take it from his wife inside. When the traveller, who was resourceful saw the lady decked with rich jewels, he lighted upon an idea and asked her for her jewels instead of the pickle. She shouted from inside, "This man is asking for something," to the husband outside. "Give him what he wants", was the reply. **The pickle in the context of the magistrate sitting with the barber underwent a metamorphosis into gold jewels.** The jewels were lost.

When the major tragedies of a big company over a long period are listed, at least one of them will qualify as an instruction wrongly delivered. In order for instructions to be passed on rightly, objectivity is required in a free atmosphere. One who trains himself to give or receive instructions is one who endeavours to act through his Spirit.

146. Imagination is the Power of Future Potentialities

Thinking is known to be the mind's most valuable endowment. Imagination is superior to thinking. In grading the powers of mind and its representatives, Sri Aurobindo puts the philosopher below the poet and the yogi above the poet. The philosopher thinks, the poet exercises his imagination. A great poet like Shakespeare or Valmiki is born when in his imagination personal experiences are transformed into impersonal truths. The phrases into which such ideas go remain in the language forever. When we speak "Physician, heal thyself" or "Brevity is the soul of wit", we scarcely remember that we are quoting great minds.

Before the mind receives the full benefit of academic training, it mistakes imagination for fantasy and even frowns on it. In truth, rather in **Spiritual Truth**, imagination is that faculty of mind which renders a real possibility into actuality. In 1969 when Indira proposed the nationalisation of banks, the President of the club of bank chairmen opposed it saying, "This is not going to do any good to any one". After the meeting ended, Indira commented that he had no imagination. That the banking industry in the intervening period grew 300-fold belies the renowned Bank chairman and confirms the imaginative truth of Indira's vision.

In the movement of activities there are three stages, viz. possibilities, imperatives and actualities. The Mind sees two of the three and misses the important link of the imperatives in the middle. **Imagination sees in possibilities the shape of things to come as actualities and lends the power of the mind to realise the actuality.** All great minds that have accomplished are endowed with Imagination. A self-trained mind can develop its faculty of imagination with the help of literature. But, it is the Spirit of Mind that shapes Imagination in a person by its transcendental power. Imagination is the efflorescence of a rich, powerful mind.

147. Wedding is a Gift of the Benevolent Spirit

When a domestic servant married a Tamil Canadian citizen, it raised many brows. It was generally understood as a gift of the place where she was working, as there the Spirit is their inspiration.

Wedding is a major event in one's life. Often it becomes a major problem. **Spirit responds readily to calls from unmarried people, as it issues from one's depth.** A girl remained unmarried, refusing every groom that was not in **USA**. She visited this institution with her parents and found an acceptable groom, though he was not in **USA**. Both the parents and the girl consented and the alliance was finalised. When she returned home, a groom from California was waiting for their return and the wedding took place in two weeks.

Another girl who joined this institution got married to a Tamil national, now a citizen of France, before one year of service was over. These events were rationalised as a reality in the mind of another unmarried girl working in the same institution for six years. Internet brought her candidates of Tamil origin from Canada, Malaysia and Norway. Even a Pakistani approached but nothing materialised.

Finally, a candidate came from the same town through the Internet. He had been employed recently in the government in view of his public service. Soon she found out that there was no one among her contacts who did not know this candidate. Newspapers often carried reports about him, and even his photograph. She found him soft spoken and everyone who knew him spoke well of him. During his meeting with her, he offered to secure her a government job too. She found his family very affectionate and known to be so in their town. It is a united family of a few brothers all married. On seeing these developments, she resolved to be absorbed into their family and not exercise the prerogative of modern girls to set up an independent establishment. Finally, she too received the coveted gift of matrimony.

148. Strength of Timidity

For timid persons, social authority is more than real, and psychological authority is a subjective, oppressive Reality. One such person has succeeded in weaving a web of warp of opinions and woof of illusions around him. For several years, he has felt safe within it. **It gives him a rare protection in all social encounters.** What is a total reality to him outside his house is not without its disillusioning moments. They are the hours when he is with his own family where he is overflowing with the energy of joy more unfettered than most.

This dual personality is almost a split personality. Anyway, he has found the self-defence worthy of survival-value. His shyness is described and understood by those whom he shuns as arrogance. He is discussed as an object who has several secrets to hide. **The world to him is a chain of threatening events;** and every day he successfully enters into this sea of threats and has been emerging into freedom. Life has shifted him to a far off place where he is totally free of this inhibiting atmosphere. Now a situation arose which was central to his survival. He was urged from inside to return to the old atmosphere in a fashion that would raise impossible questions. Even if one question were raised, he knew, he could not survive psychologically, he would faint.

The hour demanded action. He had already decided to act. There were no two opinions about his visiting the lion's den. No hesitation arose in his mind. **He came, completed the work to his satisfaction and returned.** After returning, it occurred to him **HOW** no questions had been asked of him and **HOW** no questions arose in his own timid mind. It long remained a mystery to him; nor was he willing to analyse and release a ghost that lay there dormant. **In a life-threatening moment, the Spirit surfaces on its own. As he is one who has lived by invoking the Spirit, there is no wonder in its rising to his protection.**

149. Know Thyself, Know Your Strengths

The one thing man cannot know is that he is at fault, that the error is not of anyone else, but only his. What is hilariously strange is, it will be blatant to every other person. The accusing finger arises from all sides of the society, but the only thing the accused knows is hostility, jealousy and that he is the victim of mean, perverse, low culture. Introspection, self-criticism, self-awareness have thus become more and more important socially. The Bible speaks of this and any culture has a few proverbs on these values. What makes man so blind? The urge to put down the other person is greater than the aspiration to rise, as the former is easier. **So he is alert in finding every defect of others, little knowing they are his own, or rather the reflection of his own.**

There was a very popular man teaching in a school, popular with his students and teachers. He was the conscience keeper of his colleagues. He was a graduate in history with mathematics in his pre-degree course. So, in his teacher's training he was trained for mathematics which disqualified him as a permanent teacher in either subject. His popularity was due to the fact that he had the uncanny faculty of knowing the other man's sensation, which is a rare endowment in a student of literature. He was unaware of it and resented the fact when pointed out, out of a suspicion of ridicule.

Unusual circumstances combined and he landed in M.A.English literature. Soon his capacity was acknowledged by his classmates as well as teachers, which made him a miniature celebrity in the university. No longer did he need to return to the high school for teaching. Early in his career his services were sought after by another university from where he left for USA to do Ph.D. What he possessed was sense mind that is below the Mind. **In knowing that one is Spirit, not Mind, he knows the highest in him. A further stage is to know his evolving soul, the Psychic Being, to which this column pleads for attention.**

150. Pilgrimage to Prosperity

For fifty years, India is aspiring to abolish poverty and to usher in Prosperity. At the same time we hear as a chorus, 'Money must not be a goal. It makes man mercenary. It rekindles our greed.' That cry finds an echo in our hearts. We sink low, as our lofty aim is here described as a mean motive. This is a confusion and not a real issue. Who are these people who voice this moral indignation? At least half of them own more than half a crore. To answer them is easy. 'Let man not seek money. Let him stop his search when he reaches your level of affluence.' The other indignant ones are those who are sure of not getting rich due to lack of talents and opportunities.

People who are passionately greedy for money try to reach **MONEY** which is located nowhere. Hence the frustration. **In my view, patriotism today is to work for national prosperity and the only realistic way of accomplishing it is in one's own life.** How can someone working in an office or factory become vastly prosperous? No one will deny now that education is the foundation of today's prosperity. Money that issues out of physical labour is better earned when education, a mental tool, is added to it. I advocate the next higher **TOOL**. It is seated in the Spirit as skills. Values are spiritual skills.

Whatever your vocation, when you add **values to it, you will see Prosperity in abundance is the result.** Honesty, integrity, truthfulness, fairness, and justice are higher values. Punctuality, politeness, pleasantness, record keeping, orderliness, soft speech, cleanliness, accuracy, precision, workmanship, and thoroughness are physical values. Perfection is the wider term that covers both. Be where you are. Do what you are doing. Add values to your work. Go on adding them in quantity and quality. **You will reach the heaven of Prosperity.**

151. The Godhead I Love and Adore

The African tribals are great worshippers. **Their prayers are invariably answered**, as they are an invocation of their own powers, perhaps the power of their collective community. There are occasions when their prayers fail. They have a way of "God's Accountability". They drag the idol of God and beat it to their hearts' content for having failed to answer their prayers and throw it into the sea. Very pious families beset with great tragedies sometimes suspend their worship or even give it up. It is too much to tell them that this, too, is an act of God.

It is common for the Pillayar temple to be crowded with students during exams. Unmarried girls ardently pray for marriage, as do unemployed people for jobs. **As tragedies pull a few people away from worship, a larger percentage of people suddenly become oblivious of their serious worship when affluence overtakes them in good measure.** In a broad sense, Man worships comfort, convenience, riches, wealth, etc. and in that he is worshipping mammon and he is mercenary.

At the same time, we find a small number of people pursuing these mercenary goals with a vengeance and getting less than others, sometimes nothing. The rule is what you seek goes away; the more you seek, the more it goes further away. The secret is most of us have deep down true faith in God, though the surface mind hankers after material results. **What comes to us as wealth is really in response to our inner faith and *in spite* of the worship of the surface mind, not because of it.** Those who pursue it with a vengeance are those who have no real faith and that is why they are rewarded with total failure. The best is to seek God for His own sake and educate the mind out of its ordinary motives of mercenary pursuits.

152. Self-justification Fortifies the Present

Fortifying the present is preventing growth of Prosperity in the future. We go back to our village after twenty or twenty-five years and meet our neighbours who remain as they exactly were before. **Some of them will be proud not to have changed anything in their lifestyle.** There is an opinion that not changing is of value. It is a kind of mental conservatism. Psychologically, it is a good definition of misfortune of conception.

It is the idealism of the inept that has no avenues of external growth and no energies to seek it inwardly. It may or may not be all right for incapable persons. Sometimes capable men learn to espouse such an ideal and miserably stagnate at the level of career they entered. An idealist in 1943 was employed as a university lecturer after ten years of no employment. His idealism was not to seek money or status in matrimony, but he sought a graduate bride.

As he was determined, his parents gave way and they found a graduate girl in the house of a manual training teacher. **She quickly disabused his mind of any idealism, proclaiming her infinite superiority in every respect.** Many young men sought various kinds of advice from him, as he was an idealist. Several came for advice about marriage. He changed his tune and advised young men to marry into advantage, as his own idealism had led to a matrimony of disadvantage. His own brother took an engineering degree soon after. **The idealist brother arranged for an unidealist wedding into advantage.** The wife who had unsuccessfully pleaded the cause of her own sister to wed her husband's brother, lamented loudly that foolish young men were gathering around her husband who was really not an idealist, as he had prevented her sister's wedding. **Self-justification is not idealism. It is the impertinence of inept ignorance or inexperience.**

153. The Touch of Low Consciousness

The high mental concentration needed to grasp abstruse mathematical theorems or intricate points of any scientific idea is not developed by a few hours of study or a few days of practice. **It does not come to all. When it comes, it comes by years of cultivation.** Spiritual concentration is not to be had for the asking. Over a period of months and years, you may succeed in such a concentration.

It takes you to celestial regions of light and peace, resulting in an inner elevation. As you come out of the meditation room, your brother who was at the club until 3 am and got up only at 9:30 am comes behind you and puts his affectionate arm on your shoulder. **The whole experience of your meditation dissolves, never to reappear.** The touch of dissipation is the touch of low consciousness.

Consecration, too, develops higher spiritual consciousness in work. This higher consciousness is not confined to meditation. It is expressed in work. Doing the work, whatever it is, without losing the inner elevation attained in meditation, or doing the work so perfectly that the inner concentration develops to this level is consecration or invoking the Spirit in work. This is not something that can be lost by any touch except temporarily.

"Let him contemplate a sea of nectar in his heart, in the midst of an island of precious stones, the very sands of which are pulverised diamonds and rubies. Let the yogin imagine a beautiful kalpa tree with four branches -the four Vedas. Beneath the tree let him imagine a rich platform of precious stones and on that a costly throne inlaid with jewels on which sits his particular deity chosen by his Guru." This is a meditation of the Saivite tradition which becomes real if done appropriately, but this too can be lost by that *TOUCH*. These are the fleeting glories of inner life which the Spirit in life renders permanent.

154. The Music of Human Life

High fever, acute pain, unbearable discomfort, pain in the back, etc. renders one unfit for work. An employee takes leave of absence from his work spot until he is relieved. In extreme youth when the energy of life is overflowing, when the very flavour of life is to express this energy, age overlooks similar conditions in favour of living abundantly. **The same conditions that find a well-to-do man in bed with several persons attending on him, will find a poor person at work.** He may not be able to afford losing his wages or his boss will not take cognizance of his illness.

When one such poor man rises in affluence, he may be one who continues to disregard his minor illnesses or he may be very opposite. He may tend to pay greater attention to himself. Such a situation will be a sight to see. What happens to the poor man who works with his rising temperature? His employer will let him off when he faints. Or, as he works with fever in his nerves, he will discover that there is in him a capacity to overcome the fever and work. Should that become a habitual ability of his health, his face will acquire a dark shadow, his hopes will be pitched lower than before, his hardihood will rise and he will be efficiently functioning at one level lower than before. **The music of his life will be playing one Key lower.**

What I described above is physical attention to oneself. There is a universal phenomenon of psychological self-attention, by which a few people begin to live their lives taking themselves the centre of their lives. These people will live an intense life. They are those who feel that without them their office cannot function or their party will fold. By evaluating every event of life in their own terms, they give an unparalleled intensity to their daily lives. **Should they pay the same intention to their Spirit, before long their Spirit will rule their lives and all their fantastic dreams will become the reality of Spirit in life.**

155. The Invisible Spiritual Infrastructure in Human Personality

Often low profile opposition political parties are surprised by a landslide victory in elections. **They are generally unaware of the extent of the good will of political support they were creating all along.** A party that has created a vast powerful support in teenagers will not get their votes in this election, but will be taken by surprise in the next election as chunks of voters will suddenly come of age.

The spread of nursery education in India, and professional education in the 80's was an inexplicable phenomenon for observers. **It is true that a very wide sector of unseen potential of social readiness exists at any time ready to surface.** He who knows the nation is called *one who knows the pulse of the nation*. It is a political language. Successors of religious orders are often selected from such an undisclosed store of information in the incumbent. The success of Green Revolution in a decade to double food production was one such phenomenon missed by the founder of the movement who left the Food Ministry in the first 1 1/2 years.

We hear very successful men declare, "Even now, I do not know what happened. I started something **which unleashed every force around me to work in my favour.** You see, I am here what I am." He may not know, but it is a **MOVE** from the unseen Spirit for which he had a lucky inspiration. It occurred unconsciously and even after the success is consummated, he remains uninformed of what happened at the great initial **MOMENT**.

Every man is largely endowed with a vast reservoir of personality infrastructure - Spiritual infrastructure - all the time. Man's mind is groping on the surface for a promotion or a better employment while the whole world of **LUCK** is waiting for him to call. Constant, conscious invocation of Spirit in every walk of his life will one day bring him face to face with those infinite potentialities, either unconsciously or consciously. **Either way, he will find himself buried amidst PLENTY.**

156. The Role of Management in Nation Building

Half of the 72,000 crores of uncollected bank advances could have been initially avoided had there been an insistence on Management Training for aspiring entrepreneurs. Every field needs experience. The thousands of crores of funds thrown away on young men of inexperience form the foundational basis for acquiring that rare experience. **Very few people realise the value of organised *management* knowledge in entrepreneurs, as they realise the value of capital.** All the bank managers who have lost their advances now sorely know the truth of this.

Twenty years ago or at the dawn of Independence, who could have imagined institutes for teaching English or places to trim one's muscles in this number. They are growing in number. One is of extreme value for health and the other will further anyone in business outside his state.

We observe cultured families readily availing of the new by opening opportunities because their culture is really a greater psychological ORGANISATION. Hence, the other sections of the population eagerly imitate them even in speech. Management knowledge given to all those in activities of production and insisted upon for all beginners will raise any nation higher. That is a theme close to the heart of every patriot who longs for a Prosperous Motherland.

One aspect of that is the Individual acquiring that inner ORGANISATION of creative spirituality. Its feeble outward expression is productivity that is luck in one's life. Conscious acquiring of capacities of organisation is the best. Next best is to acquire their spiritual values. **The basic energy for all such activities comes from the Spirit astir.** To reorder our life so that the Spirit of Life - the Psychic Being - emerges in our daily activities is the final consummation of that course.

157. Luck is Psychological Management

Luck is that power which manages affairs rightly, those affairs which man's initiative mismanages. Those who are around lucky people know that the Master constantly takes the wrong foolish initiative which all others dread, but somehow things come around ultimately successfully. They see a **FOOL** in action and also perceive a **FORCE** that sets right his conscious folly and, in spite of his initiative brings success. After some experience, they declare in despair, "What! This fool is lucky while I am not".

Management is a system that dictates the right procedures and ensures right results and more importantly prevents human meddling, even if it is from authority. On such occasions, people see and say, "Our company is organised, systems are in place, rules are to be obeyed, no one is above **LAW** and that is the value of our company." Systems take care of production where man can fail. Systems prevent officious human interference. Organisation requires systems, and systems require details of precision. Communication at all levels is paramount. It needs to be received in time, which means punctuality should preside over the entire company. And much more is required.

Man's character is the psychological organisation by which he functions. His values are the Spiritual skills that work the organisation of character. Men of character are men of accomplishment. They are known for their numerous values that are commendable. Character offers high accomplishment. Still it is not Luck. **Luck is the protective Spiritual energy enveloping one's character as well as personality to ensure miraculous results life has in store, in spite of stupid human initiatives.**

Invocation of Spirit ensures Luck at once, but slowly helps build character and personality in anyone. Spirit makes one see the existence of luck and shows it is not beyond his reach. But what comes in, comes in to consummate the work on hand. It cannot stay. **For luck to stay forever, there must be a fabric of personality that retains it.** That is character, which is an organisation of inner energies into that fabric.

158. The Spiritual Power of Truth in Ordinary Life

When someone calls me on the phone and another person says I am not at home while I am there, it is a lie. To say I am there is a **FACT** that is true, but not **TRUTH** itself. Behind our small family is life outside, the government, the society, life and Nature in succession. All these may be true or false. Behind Nature is God who can only be true and never false. Philosophically, Truth is the outer expression of Sachchidanandam, an objective status.

What have ordinary mortals to do with Sachchidanandam? Or, by espousing Truth do you want **MAN** to undergo the ordeals of Harischandra? It is not very inviting. **Those ordeals are not the order of the day if Man invokes the Spirit, the Psychic Being.** For a person in life which is nature, those ordeals are in store, as they are bound by karma. He who invokes the Spirit belongs to a different class by itself and will not be touched by the trials and tribulations of Harischandra who was bound by karma. How to know that high, philosophical, Spiritual Truth and how to stand by it?

Nothing is simpler than knowing the True from the false in a work. If the same truth is there in successive layers of existence - which means there is no admixture of falsehood at any level - it is Truth, pure and simple. One easily knows such Truth about property, jobs, rights, etc. Such possessions are unassailable; they need no defence of law, argument, etc. If your work is true, your right is true, and the benefit the property received from your work is true, **NO** force on earth can take it away from you. The property, the job, the right will take initiative to come to you, to be with you. **The truth in them will stir in favour of the truthful man.**

When an attempt was made to take away the property of a person with unwritten rights to half of it, the whole property came to him. Another who never had any rights and never harboured any such claim but gave the **TRUTH** of service and support to another property was offered that property even without claiming it. **Truth defends itself; it needs no defence. Only that any defence the society requires must be given as true defence, without being mixed with untruth.**

159. The Dominant and the Submissive

The submissive daughter-in-law of the earlier decades can be seen as the tyrannised mother-in-law of the modern era. **The submissive continues to be submissive even when conditions change.** Among partners, friends, spouses, and colleagues, this is a reality. He who dominated once continues to dominate; he who submitted in the beginning, as a rule, continues so to the end of his life.

Spiritually a soul takes birth to experience one vibration, a guna, a trait - such as courage, generosity, stupidity, intelligence, etc. - in one birth. That is why the human soul needs endless births, as it needs to have **ALL** experiences before the cycle is completed. The stages can be successive births of higher and still higher courage until the soul comes to experience the purest expression of the greatest courage. **In the subsequent births, the soul usually seeks the opposite experiences of fear, timidity, weakness, etc.** If this is the law, the submissive is condemned to be submissive forever. Yes, it is so as long as you accept the Law of Karma.

It is not obligatory and you can refuse to accept karma. Karma will not have a hold on a man when he chooses **NOT** to submit to it. **Karma always expresses through gunas.** To give up that guna through which one's karma expresses is to give up one's karma. In a fallout between the dominant and the submissive, the ever-present rule is the submissive goes back and makes up. The rule of the dominant continues. The submissive cannot restrain himself from submitting.

In one such fallout - a quarrel - if the weak member instead of rushing back to the strong member chooses to seek the Spirit inside, **he will see the phenomenon of the dominant member coming back to him and reconciling.** One such refractory husband who was all along dominating came back to his docile wife saying, "After all we are husband and wife, how can we be apart?" The wife had a private joke, saying to herself, "Because I went inside instead of rushing to you in obedience."

160. Flat Dullness, Interest and Liveliness

A work can be done at the above three levels. Flat dull work needs no explanation especially where there is no accountability. A visa application is pending for five years as there is no follow up from the applicant or no supervision from above. It is a common experience in Indian universities that research there lies unattended for years. Sometimes families as a whole degenerate into this ideal of dull flatness. Soon they move down one level in the social hierarchy.

All institutions that forge ahead will be informed in their work with the attitude of interest. When a visitor enters there, he will be able to see that it is an organisation where everyone does the work with interest. Beyond these two levels lies the work that is **lively**. Such work can be seen only in idealistic institutions that maintain the high original standards created at the time of inception. Flat dull work is done by energyless bodies that are suffering from malnutrition. Most of them will not be endowed with the skills needed for the work.

Interest is evinced by a dynamic organisation determined to achieve through organised discipline and work values that keep up the standard of the product. **Expenditure of express energy will be in evidence at all points where man meets with an event that is work.**

What ideal institutions uphold is available to all of us when the Spirit is evoked. In an established school of repute, composite Mathematics was not as much in favour as English was. Year after year, this subject witnessed the greatest number of failures, the maximum having a ceiling of 80. One year when the teacher appealed to the Spirit of the students, luckily there was a total response. **That year there was no failure, only three pupils scored below 50%.** One boy secured centum and five scored more than 90. Sixteen of them stayed above the previous maximum of 80. The bulk of the class was in the range of 60 to 80. The last score was 43%. How was this achievement possible? In an atmosphere of 100% rote memory, the boys consented to **UNDERSTAND**, which is the spirit of learning. Spirit evoked at any level will perform this miracle.

161. Self-awareness is Self-evaluation

Wise men of the world have known that stupidity views itself as exceptionally wise. WISDOM is known as Self-awareness. What helps one arrive at self-evaluation is the desire for self-awareness. There is not one exclusive method to arrive at that desirable goal. Accomplishment, intelligence, manners, character, values, social status, others' opinions, professional ability, resourcefulness, etc. are the means resorted to to evaluate oneself. How often one had to revise his opinion in the past reveals his judgement. One acid test of personality is to disbelieve a rumour.

Rumour spreads by word of mouth and each mouth expands it exponentially. In an institution whose sixty years budget total was Rs.50 crores, highly educated professors were outraged that Rs.500 crores were swindled. Their number is legion. One can say 'I am an innocent good person. Several people speak several wild stories. What am I to believe? It is not my fault that I believed the false news' and he may be able to justify or self-justify his belief.

The Spiritual truth here is 'you are what you believe'. If there is truth inside the outer falsehood, it will jar and no belief will take shape inside. At least he will suspend his judgement. He who readily becomes a victim to a malicious rumour is an unformed personality. He may be good; but life cannot reward him for his goodness if he is vulnerable to the charm of falsehood.

The great majority of the 'informed public' are anxious to readily accept the rumour because it gives a certain relish to their psychological existence. Therefore, one way of our knowing our worth is how often we have believed rumours and how readily they were acceptable to us. **In one who lives by the Spirit or in the habit of invoking the Spirit, something in him readily rejects the onrush of rumour. Its very atmosphere is unsavoury to him.** One can evaluate one's self worth by this yardstick.

162. Pre-occupation of the Being

Loneliness is unendurable. One always seeks company. To us companionship is friendship. **Psychologically it is occupation or chewing the cud.** The educated man is mentally occupied, i.e. his mind gets meaninglessly engaged with trivialities. **He who does not fritter away his mental energies thus becomes a thinker.** The efficiency of the Westerner arises from the fact of his Individuality that is work-oriented. Man seeking company for its own sake seeks vital occupation.

Such vital occupation renders us inefficient whereas the Westerner is efficient because of his work orientation and Individuality. The lower personality seeks occupation. In silly superstitious characters, it degenerates into pre-occupation. He who does not seek physical pre-occupation becomes the efficient worker. He who does not squander his mental energies in mental occupation blossoms into a thinker. **Yoga or tapas is a process by which the Spirit is relieved of its various occupations as well as their minor versions of pre-occupation.** That leads to moksha, the liberation.

The highest efficiency is the efficiency that arises from our psychological detachment. To be able to do a work without being attached to it is *nishkamya karma* whose efficiency is the highest. Mind is not capable of full detachment, while the vital - feelings - is incapable of detachment of any description. Spirit is incapable of attachment. So, the Spirit emerging in the Mind and working makes for the highest efficiency and it is the very antithesis of Occupation or Pre-occupation. Unfailing success and ultimate efficiency combine to create **LUCK** when the Spirit is commissioned to undertake our routine daily work. The superstitious person is occupied with religious rituals. The vivacious social personality loses itself in social functions and delights in it. The serious thinker refuses mental preoccupation; the one who seeks luck invokes the Spirit.

163. The Fisherwoman of Paramahansa

A fisherwoman who was trapped in a flower shop late at night by torrential rains found the fragrance of flowers interfering with her sleep. She fell asleep when she covered her face with her basket. **She is in her elements** with her head **inside the basket**.

People who take to the life of Spirit suddenly find their problems disappearing and life lifting them far higher than they had ever imagined. Often they long to go back to their old temperament, which kept them poor. By such an attitude, many lose their further opportunities and some lose what they have gained.

Man is unconscious, stingy, temperamental, competitive, silly, shallow, shabby, jealous, etc. When invoked, the Spirit overlooks these defects and discovers the very opposite of these qualities in people and enters their life as inconceivable luck. **Now that one's business has expanded ten times or one's status has risen from the last 5% of the society to the top 5%, he should endeavour to shed his jealousy or stinginess, etc.** Very rarely people are aware of that. Now that they are better than before, some of them, instead of shedding the unwanted traits, -- at least some of them - insist on those undesirable qualities. Life gives the warning by reversing the positive trend. They pay no heed.

Jealous people cannot restrain themselves from harming others, especially now that they are better positioned. Stingy people cannot raise their offerings commensurate to their growth. One whose business rose from Rs. 70 lakhs to 5 1/2 crores was unable to think that his original offerings of Rs. 150/- needed to be changed. The incoming Prosperity needs the support of personality and its acts. Like the fisherwoman of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, they are in their elements while jealousy or stinginess is active inside.

No rule of creation or Nature or Life permits even God to help those who are anxious to cover their faces with the fish basket and breathe its odour in nervous comfort.

164. Quarrel is the Uncultured Embrace of the Ununderstanding Vital – (feelings)

Mental relationship is conversation. Vital (emotional) relationship is being together pleasantly. Unintelligent conversation or conversation of unintelligent persons degenerates into a verbal contest. Life has many paradoxes. One of them is unpleasant characters like each other. Quarrel is one way they relate to each other. **Their quarrel will not necessarily lead to a break. Actually, the more they quarrel, the closer they may come in certain instances.**

When people are not brought up in cultured ways and still like each other, their trying to understand each other better is expressed as quarrel. They often develop a philosophy between themselves: "Quarrel is common between us. It has become a way of life. We must learn to live with that." It is not impossible for quarrelling friends or couples not to give up quarrelling.

Man quarrels. After the heat subsides, he takes the initiative to reconcile; the relationship is restored. It is restored without removing the cause of quarrel. At best, both try to avoid mentioning that issue. The result is the quarrel will surface after some time, as the seed of the quarrel is there undissolved.

It needs a certain patient understanding or humility or goodness to speak out and say, "Well, I was hasty. It was unpardonable on my part." This appears to be a small gesture between husband and wife or friends, but **it is significant**. Once this is done, quarrel of this particular description may not arise again or at least for a longer time than usual. To realise one's defects is introspection. To express it to the offending individual is cultured behaviour. In the upbringing of children, they pick up these cultured ways from the parents or are reared into culture. Quarrelling is an uncultured exhibition, but its other side is it is one person's attempt to understand another vitally better.

165. Sign of the Presence of the Spirit

Spirit is old, but the Spirit I speak of is not known to the world. **This is the evolving Spirit, called in the terminology of this new yoga, Psychic Being.** As this version of the Spirit has not been known at all, the results it brings about also carries the stamp of it - it acts through an agency not in existence **NOW**. This evolving Spirit is seen acting through newly evolving laws or rules.

A boy foolishly exhausted the four attempts allowed at SSLC in 1963 and failed. What is the alternative to his career now other than becoming a shop assistant? He was an obstinate boy in every way and was not amenable to the advice from any quarter. Someone who had infinite faith in the Spirit he invoked gently suggested to this boy to accompany him to his own spiritual centre. Luckily the boy consented. Of course, he was a passive participant in the otherwise **LIVE** proceedings of the emerging souls. **A couple of days after this visit, the Government changed the rule so that candidates could take the SSLC exam any number of times.** The faith of the one who had taken him to the centre was redeemed.

Every time the Spirit acts, it carries this stamp of being new. As it is the evolving **SOUL**, it compels life and its rules too to evolve. A village - the first village - got bank help by the bank changing its age-old habit and offering to help the farmers. An American author came to India to write a book on Management based on the spiritual principles of Life. Someone collected a birthday purse without telling anyone that he was collecting a Purse. Almost all those who contributed offered their contributions on their own. A salesman was surprised when his customer offered a ten dollar raise per unit of product over the price quoted. A client called his consultants at his own expense, contrary to the established practice in the trade.

166. I Do Not Know What to Pray For

On most occasions, we know exactly what we want and what we wish to pray for. Occasionally we are in situations where this faculty deserts us. **Spiritually, it is a fine moment**, as the meddling mind is rendered powerless to interfere leaving the entire field free for the Spirit to act.

The Divine Mother, who answers the invisible calls all the time, sometimes even stopping **HER** work, says that when a man is in utter despair it is the best moment for him to call Her, as She can act readily and without the fetters of human interference. At these moments, devotees say, "My prayers are usually answered, but somehow, this time they are not only answered at once but the results are abundant," not knowing the freedom they chose to give the incoming Spirit.

A lady government employee was approached by a co-worker for a loan of Rs.5000/-. She explained she had to return 20,000/- to another person but was short of 5000/-. This lady was quite willing to lend it, but she had no ready cash. She had no heart to refuse a co-worker. She suddenly asked her friend for a day's time or at the most two day's time.

Having come home, the problem was not so simple as at the time of asking. When her friend asked, it was simple that she had no money to give. Now several issues crowded in her mind so that she declared to herself "I do not know what to pray for." Her mind went blank. She could not actively consecrate, but the issue did not constitute a weight on her mind anymore. Later in the day, the friend who needed the money approached her with a beaming face to say, "I had a call from Karur Vyasa Bank to which I had applied for a loan of Rs.50,000/-. It was sanctioned." The devotee felt a complete relief on more than one account but never understood that her own perplexity had removed her mind's interference in the issue which enabled the Spirit to act largely on the whole of the issue.

167. The Soul's Longing for Spiritual Peace

Love of adventure is often seen in various walks of life. **The large majority of the population longs for a peaceful life.** "I have worked long enough. I wish to have a place where I can rest my head" is what man after thirty or forty years of labour is heard saying. Parents who have worked hard, long for children to take over so that they may retire. That is human, sweetly human. Great souls are in love with adventure. Even at the last moment, they seek adventure of one type or another.

The Spiritual secret of Life is one gets what one deeply longs for.

It does not matter whether it is spiritual or human, but what matters is the deeply felt longing. An elderly lady in good health, surrounded by affectionate members of family got introduced to Spirit. She found she could invoke the Spirit - the Divine Mother - inside every time she tried. It was a delightful experience to call the Spirit and receive an unfailing response. Never in her life had she had a prolonged period of prayers answered without fail. It was not so much the petty results of prayers as the emerging Spirit's embrace of the surface mind. It gave her transports of JOY.

She planned for one more visit to her beloved centre. For some inexplicable reason she voiced an unusual prayer, this time that she should go **PEACEFULLY**. Her health was good. Everyone loved her. There was no felt or unfelt complaint in her life. But it was her soul's choice. Not many who are in agonies of various types who constantly declare their wish to die really wish to leave. They would rather prolong their life of agony as long as possible. **But this elderly lady took a great delight in voicing that prayer and felt a relief in speaking it out to the utter disbelief of those who accompanied her.** Strange are the ways of one's own inner soul even as the ways of the Almighty are inscrutable. She returned home and was at total ease. The next evening, she passed away peacefully while watching the TV.

168. Home Sweet Home

Coming out of his office, a man has developed the habit of going to the park where he stays till 9 p.m. before returning home. This he does to avoid spending any time with his wife. **He says his sweet home has become bitter.** Another man who has no quarrel with his wife or mother dreads home, as he has to listen to endless stories of their internecine quarrels. There is one simple solution for sometime. There is a vine with flowers called **HARMONY** - (botanical name: *antigonon*, common name: Coral Vine) - with pink coloured small bulbs found everywhere. People can make it a point of bringing a bunch of it every day and keeping it at home. Quarrels will disappear. The lasting solution is to work on their own unstable temperament to find a desirable psychological equilibrium.

A wife sharply abused her husband in the presence of a guest to which he replied, "My dear, you are truly a remarkable woman" and smiled pleasantly. By taking an irrational attitude of entirely adoring the wife's unpardonable behaviour, he dissolved the seeds of contention. **The same results can be positively achieved in the same situation by rising to the heights of his manliness and deciding NOT to contribute to irrational behaviour.** If he ever succeeds in doing so, that will be last occasion for her outburst and there is a chance of her regretting her own behaviour, whereas in the former case the husband's docility may fuel her temperament.

To put up with another's refractory behaviour is excellent manners; not to be disturbed inwardly by such behaviour is a noble expression of character; to be able to smile at another's lack of culture is strength of personality, all of which will yield good, desirable, social **GOOD** of domestic peace each at its own level. To conceive the other person's substandard behaviour as a true reflection of what one is inside is a spiritual realisation of rare strength. By invoking the Spirit from such an inner poise, one will be uplifted into Peace that is *Shanthi* which will abide with him forever.

169. Universal Love

Human love is selfish. It can turn into hatred and enmity. We hear occasionally of life long friendship turning sour and bitter. **Love is incapable of becoming anything other than love.** It is incorruptible as it is *Ananda* received by the Soul behind the heart.

People who fall in love used to think that their love is divine love. Divine love is defined as love of the divine. It has nothing to do with the love of one human being for another. The Bhagavat Gita calls for surrender of the ego. It calls the dissolution of ego as *Brahma nirvananam*. When the ego dissolves, the Psychic Being emerges. The Psychic Being is the evolving soul, a deputy of Jivatma in evolution. Its widest reach is the whole universe. Surrender is its native attitude and its one emotion is Love. **It is universal love capable of spreading all over the universe.** The love of the psychic is a vibration of the universe. In bhakti yoga the psychic being comes forward. It can lead to moksha or to Supermind as we choose.

Once Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was walking towards the riverbank. Suddenly he felt a whip lash on his back. Turning around, he saw someone whipping his bull. Love is a universal vibration. In theory, all acts are universal. An act, here the act of beating the animal, is universal. We do not feel it, as we are closed to the universal plane. Love, the truly divine Love, when it is born in the human vessel, opens his entire being down to his physical body to the plane of the universe. So, he is able to receive the vibrations he is open to. The subtle knowledge, the subtle power of infinite variety in the different worlds - planes - is known to our ancestors. One of them is what is called in the massive, pregnant Sanskrit phrase *prakriti laya*, a trance of the body from which the **JIVA** can go out for centuries and return safely, provided the body is kept intact during the period when the soul is journeying outside.

170. The Quest of the Scientist for the Ultimate Reality

The latest conception of Science is the ultimate Reality is Energy. Indian yoga and philosophy had known that even before the Buddha. Man's highest instrument is mind. **It is capable of illusions. It has one peculiar capacity of becoming a slave to its own creation.** It is man and his mind that created that wonderful institution of Money whose power continues to grow with every passing year. It is a well-known fact that Man, the discoverer of Money, finds himself a slave of Money. So also, Mind can allow itself to be conditioned and further take that conditioning as Reality.

In the film "The Matrix" this theme is very well portrayed and the total extent to which such obsessions can grow is depicted very well. Science was born a few centuries ago to fight superstition that was enthroned in the society. Science grew in eminence and society conferred its recognition to Science while the society was still under the spell of superstition. **Having accepted the recognition of the society, Science longed for greater recognition of the society rather than maintaining the pristine purity of Science.** Thus, Science gave in, not to social influence but to that of superstition.

When one of our members spoke about the new inspiration Science needed to a former President of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, he wished those ideas to be presented to the members of the Academy. In addition, he declared, "These ideas are interesting, but unless some eminent scientist espouses these ideas, there is little chance of your being heard". It means Science no longer has its own authority of truth, but needs the external authority of social eminence which indirectly means the authority of superstition. We presented some of those ideas to the Academy at its conference in 1994. **There was total interest, but no response.**

Indians went two further steps beyond Energy as the ultimate Reality. We hoped that Indian scientists would be better able to appreciate our line of approach and placed those ideas before two eminent scientists. One never showed any interest while the other showed total interest but never pursued his interest. Let me explain in the next issue what we placed before the Academy and these scientists.

171. Theory of Creation

Science is trying to discover the ultimate Reality, the process of creation and the future implications of them for humanity. In our ancient past the ultimate Reality was discovered but not the process of creation. **That was discovered at the beginning of the twentieth century and was written about in detail.** The world of scientists would do well to examine this theory. It remains for the past eighty years unnoticed.

Man is occasionally awakening to the reality of himself, but it is all for a brief period and in matters of smaller significance. **The Indian scientist born of this Spiritual tradition has a glorious opportunity, as he is the son of the spiritual soil.** It is considered that science was born in Europe and is being nurtured in USA. This is a partial truth. Experimental science was born in Europe and USA is nurturing scientific technology. Science is older than the experimental science of Europe.

Science is knowledge of the process. Experimental science discovered innumerable such processes that enable man to produce the objects thus studied. Beyond the process is the essence. The knowledge of essence enables one to know the theory of creation. USA has become the cultural leader of the world by virtue of its economic status. For anything to be valued in India, the population here needs the sanction of US life-style. The Indian scientist need not look to an economic giant for scientific inspiration as the Indian masses. Science is inspired by the sources of knowledge and possibilities of such knowledge.

Should the Indian scientists examine the Theory of creation given to the world eighty years ago by an Indian sage, they are in a better position to appreciate its inherent value for science. The world is conditioned socially and psychologically. The scientist is not one who allows himself to be so conditioned. He is the **ONE**, as Neo was the **ONE** in the film "The Matrix". The contribution Indian scientists can make to the fundamentals of science is great, if they examine this Theory of creation.

172. Follow the Heart

The heart that loves is more sacred and more powerful than arrangement of matrimony is the ruling law of life in the West. In the film "The Matrix" the whole world has become a victim to its own obsession created by the mind. The few who are outside the obsession are looking for the **ONE** - an individual - who can serve the world realising the truth of his Being. Neo was that chosen one. Trinity who is outside falls in love with him and **believes he is the chosen ONE**. When he is told so, he asks why and demands an explanation. The valuable secret here is he can save himself and the world only when he realises by himself that he is the chosen **ONE**, not when it is explained to him.

He half rises to the occasion, but is never able to know the truth himself. And he dies. The Mind fails. Trinity who has the knowledge and who loves him with her heart repeatedly tells him of her own belief. He comes back to life. **The heart, being more powerful than the Mind, succeeds where the Mind fails.** Faith of the Heart is a power to enlighten the chosen one and save the world. And thus the world is saved in this story.

A young aspirant to the Spirit drew my attention to this story, as all that I had been saying for a long time was brought home strikingly by this story. **If the heart is this powerful, the SPIRIT is more powerful.** For all of us, the Spirit thus evoked showers all that one can wish for in earthly life, an overwhelming inner peace buried among the abundance of riches. This is a personal gain.

Should he be a scientist and wish to make an original contribution to the body of knowledge, pushing the frontiers of knowledge to celestial frontiers, he need not make fresh original discoveries. They await his availing of them, waiting for him to seek them. **The Theory of creation has long ago solved the mystery Science is looking for.** The world of scientists abroad is buried in the obsession they have created for themselves. When the Indian scientist invokes the Sprit, he will emerge into the Truths the world is waiting for. Mother India is lovingly offering her children a rare treasure. Will they acknowledge her abundant love and receive it?

173. Family Deity, its Blessings and Limits

A foreigner going round collecting instances of prayers answered will collect hundreds of thousand of events in towns and villages. The same is true of the Church going public in the West in terms of wish fulfilment. Devotees cut across religions in search of such relief. A rich man had a heart attack. **His wife had a good lot of jewels on her. Her first thought was a prayer to her family deity to save his life and she offered all the jewels on her person.** He was saved. Of course, it is a very famous temple.

When people are well educated, liberated from ordinary superstition, they awake a little in their souls, but they cling to these prayers and rituals, forgetting that the deity that grants so many prayers is no longer capable of playing a role in their lives, as their souls are awakened. It is a paradox. **It is an unconscious awakening!**

One such person paid his annual visit to the same place. On his return, he met with an accident and was in bed for long. Next year, he faithfully went there. He got a fever no one in Kolkatta could diagnose. He suffered for months, until his awakened soul sought its own remedy. To these awakened people, each time they visit their family deity, a very bad news awaits at home. They rationalise, "In spite of God's protection, I suffer this much." If the soul is more awakened, even before the visit life, health and mind bring in minor tragedies. Generally, the deity is given up in the next generation out of circumstances.

Boys often develop sentimental attachment to their teachers of earlier classes and cling to them even when the teacher says, 'I am not competent.' One such boy declared to his eighth standard teacher who was reluctant to teach him at home while he was in SSLC, "Sir, I do not care whether I pass. If you are not going to teach me, let me not have tuition at all." This boy did pass, perhaps because of his devotion. The awakened soul is not inimical to the deity. When the quality of worship in a temple degenerates to superstitious rituals, the **ORIGINAL** deity installed there leaves, and his place is occupied by vital spirits whose touch is enjoyed by superstition. People evaluate temples by their popularity, not by their spirituality. Spiritual discrimination is desirable. On entering the premises, spiritual elevation is a sure sign of Spiritual Presence.

174. Unemployment and the Unemployed

There are certain rules of life that have no exception, as when you eat hunger is quenched; at night exhaustion brings overwhelming sleep; beauty attracts; power energises. **One such rule is overflowing interest in work - not a job that gives a salary - gets anyone employment.** This rule has no exceptions. Generally those who are unemployed are, in the words of the former President of the World Bank, unemployable. Those who have no skills, no education, no training are out of work. Worse still are those who have no energy. The worst of them are who hate work, whose ideal is **NOT** to work. No wonder they are out of work and find it difficult to get it.

It is equally true of those who seek promotions. In spite of the atmosphere of politics, intrigues, and corruption in some offices, **he who has acquired the knowledge of the higher post and is a willing worker**, will readily get promoted. Those who are denied promotions are those who crave for the higher post with higher remuneration but are averse to work. Invocation of Spirit readily gets one a job or longed for promotion because it energises his faculties. If invocation is a spiritual method, changing the mental attitude to work is a method of mind. To accomplish any work, high and desirable, or tough and impossible or routine, flat work methods can be devised in each of the planes - physical, vital, mental, Spiritual or Supramental.

When the aim is employment, it matters little which method brings the job. The best example I have is of the man who said, "When I finish breakfast if I see a bed anywhere I long to lie down and sleep". At the age of 45, he moved to 19 jobs and lost the last one on Rs. 800/-. He is too much even to the Spirit, I thought, and refrained from any initiative. Perhaps under pressure from his wife, he began to pray for a job. He could get one on Rs. 3000/- and a daily allowance of 450/- for 20 days in a month. After enjoying it for three years, he reverted to his **ideal and lost the job**, after which he avoided my relationship. Longing for work, unfailingly gets a **JOB**.

175. Discovery of India

From the jail, Nehru wrote pages of history everyday to his daughter. It was published as *Discovery of India*. When Indira visited the USSR, she exclaimed that on whichever side she turned it was *Discovery of India* that she thought of. His autobiography published in England in the thirties was the best of autobiographies published that year. Admirers of Nehru, rather every patriot in the 40's and 50's lost their hearts to these two books of Nehru. To them they were almost sacred documents. Such books are borrowed from the libraries, not usually purchased.

There was a well-read professor who had collected over 5000 books in his personal library. He had purchased *Discovery of India*, but put off reading it for various reasons. As his own reading in history was wide, though he belonged to another faculty, he needed to read the book only out of love for Nehru. He was an atheist and prided in calling himself a rationalist. At last he came to the book. Before he crossed the first ten pages, a news distracted him and the book went back to the shelf. This happened a few times and each time he now remembered it was bad news. **The rationalist in him awoke.** He said to himself, "I am not going to be a victim to all these superstitions. This time let me complete the book". He started reading. **A telegram came saying his brother had died in an accident.**

The atheist and rationalist disappeared into thin air. The brother in him was outraged. "I am not going to touch it anymore" said he. Sri Aurobindo calls it psychological Ignorance, the ignorance of the subtle worlds, occults worlds, causal worlds that are around us. All this happened in the fifties.

When Sanjay died in a plane crash, Indira was assassinated by her own guards and Rajeev welcomed the murderers in spite of the abundant warning, the dark vicious atmosphere that had enveloped *Discovery of India* explained itself. Rationality is not defined as defying the unknown.

176. Not a Pretty Face; but a True Heart

Man is charmed by a beautiful feminine face which initiates romance. The handsome masculine appearance of a tall man is of instant appeal to the feminine heart for which the woman is willing to die. This romantic charm is, the scientist explains, because of the smell of a hormone secreted in the armpit. Whatever it is, the spell of the charm is inescapable and endless. At the altar of marriage, all this is sacrificed or buried, if not at once, after a while. **Still the one thing for which the heart finds a ready answering chord is its permanence.** Eternal romance is an ever-living ideal of the human heart and the human soul.

When married people find ardent youth utterly giving themselves to the pursuit of romantic ideals, they say, "You are outside and are eager to get in; I am inside but am anxious to get out." When for any reason such as the wife's death a man is outside again, he is equally anxious to get back in. The truth is what attracts is not the pretty face but a true heart. A true heart never dies or grows old, rather its intensities of longing grow with age. Even in countries where marriage as a valid institution does not exist anymore, the longing of the unfulfilled heart is alive.

We know of Romeo and Juliet; Laila and Majnu; Dante and Beatrice. What is it that actuates them? **It is not even the true heart, but the true Spirit in the heart.** Why has man not ever attained it? Is the failure only of Man? Has woman succeeded in the effort? Is Romance, eternal romance, ever attainable? Civilisation as well as its whole, the creation, is sustained by the evolutionary energy generated by the eternal aspiration for the Eternal. In the Mind it dawns as the attraction for Beauty. In the heart, it emerges as fullness of rich emotions for which one is willing to die. It is life giving. When sour, the same emotions can take another's life. In the Spirit, it is Love. It can give itself wholly. It revives the dead heart. It lives for Love as it energises Life. It is consummated at the level of the Spirit.

177. Disbelief in Superstition

In earlier centuries all over the world, superstition was a way of life. Often it was an occasion for pride. Not to believe things that are superstitious is the present way of life. **Of course, one must have the discrimination of what is superstitious and what is not.**

There was an army officer who after retirement presided over the family industry. Being pious, he built a temple for Kali where he sung bhajans for hours on end. Among his establishments he owned a hospital of 175 beds. Once he had an attack of suffocation which turned his body blue. He was rushed to his own hospital where, though they could not diagnose him, restored him to health in a few days. These attacks recurred periodically. No other hospital could handle the case except his own. Friends suggested it could be black magic. He refused the suggestion out of hand. After some time he received a letter that said "I did black magic on you lured by big money. Now, whenever you sing at your temple it comes back on me. I am on the brink of death. Please pardon me and give my life back to me."

But his own attacks continued. Now he consented to meet magicians but no help came from any quarter. Except for praying to Kali he would not seek any other help. His family and friends took him to several places on the sly. The ailment remained. Being a powerful rich man, no one dared to offer him help which he resented. He was brought to Pondicherry a few times but he would not pray for help. Once he consented to listen about stories of relief. **As he was listening, he inwardly felt relief and listened further.**

That led him to pray for help. Some time after the party left Pondicherry, he who had spoken about those stories desired to know if there was any positive result. Another said, "Before he left Pondicherry, the thing left him on the same day". When people get into a mind set, they value that above everything. It leads to a position where they even unconsciously risk their lives. Opinion rules. Its rule is the ultimate law. Rarely do they reflect that to believe in superstition and to disbelieve in it are equally superstitious.

178. Let Thy Will be Done; Not My Will

This is an old formula. The latter part -- 'NOT my will' -- is more important than the former part. If one starts repeating it non-stop, the first thing he will discover is in a matter of minutes he will stop it. It will stop by itself. **He will forget it. He will forget that he undertook such an exercise and it was forgotten.** It means he is unrelated to this formula or God. Such a person lives physically or vitally. Maybe he lives mentally. God is not part of his scheme of things.

Suppose he does not forget but continues to repeat it, he will find the words missing or jumbled. In cases of exact repetition it may be "Let My will be done; Not Thy will" which he may not notice for some time. This is exactly opposite. **Human nature is perverse and even hostile to the Divine and that is why this inversion.** Let us forget these insufficiencies and perversities and consider one who is capable of **RIGHT, GOOD** repetition. It is great. He is a devotee. On further examination, the repetition will be from the surface mind.

Make this repetition complete, let it go behind when you are at work. In TRUE cases, it will be only for a small part of the day. To increase its duration is like getting a promotion in an office each month or each week. But it is possible with persistence. A moment comes when the whole day is covered by that. There is an innermost centre in us where we live all by ourselves where the closest person has no access. Move this repetition to that centre and gradually spread it all over the day. **Let it be your spiritual companion.**

By filling the day with it on the surface, all one's problems will vanish. Repeating it from the deepest centre all day, **MAN** will be unable to think of problems or opportunities as he will be pervaded by the Spiritual Peace - *Shanthi* - or Light in his inner being. Though he may not rise to the position of a realised soul, he will radiate joy to all who come in contact with him. It will make for inner contentment unknown to him until then. That will be a good foundation and the first step for any spiritual progress he may aspire for.

179. Strange Are the Ways of Life

When corrupted, the best does not become imperfect or half corrupted but the very opposite. When values like honesty, chastity, etc. are not perfect, they are not honoured at all. Idealism partly qualifies for this high standard but not always.

In 1943 a brilliant young man after ten years of unemployment was employed as a lecturer in a university. In a few years, his idealism prompted him, the junior-most employee, to set himself on a mission of reforming his institution. **His job was at stake; even his life was.** His was a contract job for five years. He was remarkably successful. He became a Member of the Senate, the Academic Council and he sat on the Syndicate too. He knew he would lose his job and he did at the expiry of the contract. He was the hero of the campus as an idealist of a high order. His idealism made him close to the students whom he addressed as 'Sir', in an effort at equality.

One of his students who was part of his campaign against the institution was also an idealist who admired his teacher for his courage, idealism and nobility of character. All great qualities press for their own compensation. This idealist lecturer was often approached by his admiring crowd of students to secure a pass they had not deserved. He happily acceded and in his 'generosity' gave them II class while they had really failed. **The idealist student was sore with him on this score, but it was not for him to pass a judgement on the teacher, being an elder.**

The student's rigidity was silently laughed at by his idealist mentor. Two of his children became doctors and a third an engineer. The last son was put in B.Sc., as the father ran out of resources in his retired life. The doctor son was lost to the daughter-in-law. The last son became sour and hostile and never attended classes as he was not in B.E. He refused to meet the father, turned a loafer and was a potential psychological time bomb. The father begged him to SIT for the examination so that he could get a degree for the prodigal son, as he had passed numerous students of his. **The son stoutly refused.** How could the idealist know that when he was indulging his students, he was only totally spoiling the whole career of his own son?

180. Examination Results

Compelled by self-imposed ideals, a young man denied himself the avenue of higher education as he could not bring himself to spend on his own education funds earmarked for the weddings of sisters. Having spent his early twenties in pursuit of political ideals and devotion to family, he joined the teachers' training course at the age of 29. By that time, he was no mere student, but a family man of full responsibilities. Those responsibilities constantly took him away from the classes with the result he had no requisite attendance in all three terms.

On a few occasions when he attended the classes, friends exclaimed in genuine surprise, "Oh, you are still in the course". It was a light course and the subjects were taught at an elementary level. Some students were studious and prepared thoroughly. One man went round the hostel making a list of students who had not failed in their career. Legend had it that if one had not failed till then, he would fail in B.T. There was another tradition that no one who was the secretary of the hostel had ever passed B.T. in the first attempt. As he qualified on those two counts, this student who was going round announced that the family man would certainly fail. A month before the examination, one who had thoroughly prepared for the exam offered to help this family man with his own notes. **He took his own notes from it.**

From the age of 18 to 29, the family man was given to reading books of interest and that made him feel the examination was no challenge. He was a fast writer and in the exam, he answered all questions ahead of time and left the hall. It gave rise to the rumour that he left the hall in the first half an hour. He accepted a job in a new place, but had not yet settled down when the results came out. So, when he saw someone reading a newspaper he asked if he could see. That man, a lawyer, desired to see the results himself and could not find the number. The lawyer passed the paper to the student. He also could not find the number. "I have answered all the questions well. There is no way I can fail," he thought. He requested the lawyer for the paper again and found his number in II class to his utter relief.

Doing one's duty is service to the highest - the Spirit. The Spirit never fails. At school he was offered condolences for not securing I class which was awarded only to two students in the state.

181. An Accomplishment Out of the Ordinary

Great men exude energy that charges others. One can aspire to be great and it is welcome. **Many ordinary souls accomplish far above their levels. Each has fashioned a method for himself. Here I consider one of them.** There is a European belief that any aspiration comes to fulfillment in one year if one is able to formulate it in his mind on seeing a meteor falling. I often refer to that.

There is a Japanese story of a youth seeking a fencing master to learn the art. He was readily accepted and was asked to cook. While he was at it, the Master came behind him and hit him with a thick stick. He was given no lesson in fencing or any work other than cooking. **The pupil was so alert for a year that he never received another blow, as he found the Master at his trick all the time.** At the end of one year, the master benevolently called him and said, "Go into the world and be an excellent swordsman". To the baffled pupil he explained, "In fencing, **NOT** to be struck is important. Anyone can strike. I know you will never allow anyone to strike you." He later became as famous as his Master.

All successful men are alert and fresh. That energises them to accomplish. There is a **GREAT** spiritual truth behind the belief in the falling meteor. It is the capacity to be ever fresh. There are several unusual noises all the time such as slamming of a door, firing of a cracker, a rude shout, the chiming of a clock, a calling bell, etc. Make it a point **NOT** to start at these sounds. Let them not startle you. Behind the daily occupation of routine work, **BE** awake, alert or alive. Whenever any one of these unusual sounds arises, catch them before they give you a start. **Putting yourself on such a constant alert, your Spirit will be almost on the surface, your energies will continue to be on the rise.**

It is for you to fruitfully use these newfound energies directing them to become a force, organising them into power, offering them skills you possess so that the power yields tangible, palpable practically usable results. If you are presently suffering from any minor ailments, they will all vanish. You will find yourself in a new environment which will offer you opportunities instead of the known problems that sail towards you from the atmosphere.

182. Sincerity of Purpose

A forward thinking man was advocating that men and women should be free to decide their actions uninhibited by social moorings or moral compunction. This annoyed all his friends married and unmarried. He got married, and wisdom dawned on him. He confessed to his friends, "I am ashamed of having thought of free action by men and women before my marriage. It looks barbaric now that I am married." He was sincere in his convictions before and now. But it was the sincerity of vital feeling, not rational thinking. **The phrase *Sincerity of Purpose* has a wider implication, wider than the thinking Mind.** It speaks of Truths not locally valid for a context or person, but eternally valid.

Sincerity of Purpose is of the Spirit. We are in our vital emotions. Rarely in issues that do not bother us personally, rational minds speak rationally. A head of the family had some ayurvedic preparation meant to sustain health. It was brought as powder to be taken with rice as if it is sambar. Everyone revolted at its smell. They were all browbeaten into compliance. Tyranny succeeded over the revolt. Finally he sat down to that 'elixir'. He found it abominable. He got up without eating it, saying, "I did not know it was this bad." Nobody had been permitted to open his mouth to say, "you taste it first". Nor had he conceived of it earlier.

The Sufi teacher who asked the mother of the sugar loving child to come later had the humility **NOT** to preach what he had not practised. He gave up eating the sugar before the mother returned and that was why his advice had an effect.

People who start a lucky venture often voluntarily promise 50 % of the profits to their faith. When the profits come, they conveniently forget it. If some busybody reminds them of the promise, the usual reply is, "I am not that generous." The **FACT** as far as they are concerned is they were sincere in their promise when it was made. Now too they are sincere. There is no hypocrisy on their part. **Only that they are living in the living Present.** It is the Spirit that lives in all three times, past, present, and future.

183. Salary Arrears

Employment, especially in Government, is a great psychological cushion of security in the society. Minor and major frictions may develop inside the department but rarely do they lead to drastic actions such as suspension or dismissal. **Whether it is just or otherwise, woe unto the man who is such a victim.** Once that happens, the ordeals, ostracisms, hardships, indignities, privations and their impact on their personalities can be appreciated by those who have undergone them or witnessed them in close quarters. A talented individual about to be promoted as the head of the institution was one such victim. He had to fight the battle for four years and could win only at the High Court.

It is difficult to run the family even when salary comes every month. How to survive for four years without salary? After legal success and reinstatement, he had to go to court again to collect salary arrears. We often hear "These things should not occur in one's life. If they do, even God cannot help us." A gazetted officer lost his job in 1965 and was reinstated after three months. Again he lost his job at the end of a year. Again he was reinstated after three months. For years he could not get the arrears.

Once a friend got hold of an MLA and sent this man to the Minister with him. It did not work. He consulted friends whether he could invoke the Spirit. **He was told that a prior condition is his mind must withdraw its reliance on rules, influence, short cuts, etc.** He readily agreed, but his mind was not under his control. He was waiting to invoke the Spirit for the mind to cooperate. For a few days, he was in a dilemma. One week passed. On his entering his compound one day, the peon told him he was wanted in the office. "Office" for him was ousting. He shook from head to foot.

The peon guessed it and said, "Sir, it is good news." He would not tell him what. It relieved the officer somewhat, but not fully. On reaching the office he learned that half his arrears had arrived under a new dispensation that any contentious issue could be finally settled later, but monies due may be paid in part at once.

184. Sin and Virtue

These ideas possess human minds as if they are Gospel. It is much more so in India. In one of Hardy's novels, a drunken man auctions his wife who is purchased by a sailor. She lives for 15 years with the sailor in Canada. One day, a friend explains to the woman that her marriage has no sanction of the Church and therefore it is a sin. The outraged wife returns to England in search of her old husband. Hell is a real threat to pious people.

When the MIND stands on its own, outside social usage, it says that ACTS are neutral. There is no sin in any act. Sin, if it is there, is in the mind of the doer. A father steals the drugs of his son. Is it stealing? Is there theft in the mind of the father? It is said that when the tiger eats its prey, the prey feels love for the predator.

Not to put vibhuthi or namam on the forehead was a cardinal sin in the pre-war days. Is it a sin now? Or is doing so a sin? It may be laughed at as folly. We may be able to condone several such habits. When it comes to moral issues of honesty, loyalty, chastity, and integrity the mind will refuse to be this rational there, as Mind is moral. Acts are amoral. It is at the beginning of the twentieth century that free thinkers of Europe raised these issues before the public. Man accepts the changes that society endorses. Beyond that, it will be lip sympathy.

Lord Krishna acted outside the social codes, asked Arjuna to act against his conscience. We accept what the Lord enjoined as Arjuna's duty. The saying is, "Do as Krishna has asked you to do, not what he did." As the twentieth century is over, it is right the intellect gives a fair trial to these ideas as a mental exercise before leaping to Spirit and declaring 'There is no Sin'. Spirit acts in the world mostly within the social rules man's conscience will permit. Still for those who aspire for a life of Spirit, an intellectual consideration of such ideas is worthwhile.

185. Srinivasa Ramanujam

President Dr. Abdul Kalam has suggested that instead of waiting for a Hardy to discover an Indian genius, we should set about seriously searching for one. It is a laudable suggestion from an eminent personality. **It is not a question of creating a genius but of searching for one who may be lost in the oblivion of obscurity.**

India has witnessed a procession of spiritually realised souls, not in hundreds but maybe in thousands over the millennia. Genius is the penultimate stage where, deviating from his own avowed goal of moksha, the Rishi diverts himself in a subject such as astronomy, mathematics, medicine, music, etc. The spiritual realisation in one generation, it is said, is never lost after that. It will be mostly in their descendents or those kindred souls that have picked up the vibration of Spirit. That blessed soul may not be aware of its presence in him. **But it will never be totally suppressed and buried. It will show itself to the discerning eye, expressing itself in another unexpected field.**

All those who possess out of the ordinary talents in their own respective fields, whether it is tractor driving, building or public speaking are potential candidates to be approached. The team that is on the lookout for the **ONE** must be given the training to look for extraordinary talents in a graded scale. On the surface it will be talent par excellence. Behind, it will lurk as essence of talent, a conceptual comprehension of the field hitherto unknown. Such people would be ridiculed in their own work spot. The potential candidates will be, more often than not, **QUIET** and will be lost inside themselves.

To frame all the criteria for such a search and reduce it to workable administrative procedures that are most likely to land on the target is possible. Should the parents suspect such a latent possibility in their child, **the very best method to help it emerge is to teach the child utter truthfulness.**

186. The Genius of India

Genius is greatness of the Mind that knows all that is relevant to his subject, not by plodding search or research, but by virtue of his being a genius. **A genius is born, not made.** In the occult worlds, there is a place where the memory of the earth is stored. He who can go there will have access to it. Inside us, there are zones where Sachchidananda is known as *trikaladrshi*. and prior to that another zone where all the knowledge one needs is stored. One who can go beyond the waking mind - *Jagratha* - can have its benefit. The theory is all knowledge comes from above and is available inside. Intuition gives us access to it.

The 64 Sastras of yore were created in that fashion. Legend has it that a princess who met a prince parted by a curtain drew his portrait. She said she could do so as the toe of the prince was seen under the curtain. The science of physiognomy - *Samutrika angalakshanam* -- enables one to know the whole figure from one part of it. It is a subtle science. Crossing the faculty of intellect through the aid of insight, one enters the zone of Intuition which enables one to have such knowledge.

The soil of India is saturated with *Shanti*, spiritual peace. The bodies of Indians carry Spiritual light. India is a land of Rishis. Spirit is our very breath. In order to cultivate that Spirit and culture its growth in our lives, what is needed is total Truthfulness. Science in the West is true to the core when it comes to its facts. Facts, findings are sacred to them as the *swaram*, pronunciation is to the Vedic scholar. Indian soil will put forth not one, but innumerable men of genius, when her poverty is transformed into prosperity and those who aspire to Spirit cultivate it by **TRUTH** in word and deed. Man needs a goal, must aspire for perfection and needs a binding conduct that ennobles him. His goal is the Spirit; the law of binding conduct is to honour his *swabhava* nature. He seeks divine perfection in life.

187. Eisenhower

Ike, as he was affectionately called, could have been re-elected several times, if the constitutional prohibition had not been there. Fearing that Roosevelt would be President for life, it was the Republicans that enacted a ruling that no President could hold office for more than two terms. One rising to world eminence will have multiple gifts as aspects of his personality. **I wish to deal with one aspect of it where he reached the spirit of things.**

Army officers constantly engage themselves in missions, campaigns projects, etc. at the end of which they submit a detailed report to their superiors. Each time Ike submitted a report, his boss took out its kernel or essence, and spoke it back to him. It was a revelation to him. **It is obvious that the one who writes a long report without realising the subject on which he is writing is plodding along and the one who reaches the essence sits on top.** It is there Ike learnt the value of the difference between work at length and its essence. In truth, the essence is the Spirit of the work.

When he became the President, he sent back wordy reports of length to be written briefly, bringing the essence out. He discharged his duties from the centre of responsibility and not from the details of work. In every work, one can go to the essence by insight and to him time will not be in short supply. A reviewer reading this incident in a management book laughed at the explanation and declared that it is merely due to lazy reading habits. He overlooked the simple truism that all men who rise quickly in all walks of life go straight to the essentials of a situation without losing themselves in a plethora of details. That is the route for a reporter to become an editor.

The Spirit of things in any walk of life lays itself bare to insight. Insight comes from Intuition which is the door to the Spirit above.

189. Longing for the Spirit

A man whose life ends in a spiritual centre or institution can look back and discover the invisible call of the Spirit for years until he finally arrived. **In half the cases, there would have been active or conscious efforts to refuse the call.** But the call prevails. Many seek it, respond to the call, and happily end at their destination. As elsewhere, people, rather souls, arrive at their spiritual destiny by all possible routes.

One of two intimate friends took to the path of the Spirit. Another who this man introduced pleaded for his intimate friend to be invited. The man refused. Four years later when that friend came to the same destination on his own, the topic was referred to. "Had you invited me, I would not have come" was the reply. Several leave the path several times to come back. A good number rush into Spirit and rush out.

There was one who had nothing in common with the Spirit. People wondered why she was here. She too said 'I do not know'. She was a foreigner. Her visa got into trouble and was cancelled. Knowledgeable people saw it was 'she' who was in the way. She had to return to her country for five years. That which had kept her here without her knowledge awoke. It longed for the Touch now lost. **The longing gave an opening to her inner being which felt the TOUCH even there.** Never before had she felt that felicity. It came and stayed for two full days, making her feel the celestial joy which no earthly accomplishment can ever give. It was memorable.

Soon the circumstances changed. She left the suffocating atmosphere of her country and reentered the soil where she could breath peace. Nothing in her now contemplates a return to her native soil where amidst plenty there is no spiritual richness.

Each person is unique. **Having experienced a rare elevation, she is now capable of refusing the opportunity to make it permanent or at least frequently recur.** Perhaps she is able to value the Spiritual significance at a distance, at arm's length.

190. Rain in Kutch

Spirit in life is a rare power, a fascinating one; one that makes idealism practical. **A power realised seeks expression.** Its application is universal. Why Hamlet delayed unconscionably the execution of his father's mission is a knotty question in literary criticism. This approach yielded a convincing result. An authority on English literature in South India was approached with these findings. He said, "Perhaps, it may be the solution. I shall approach L.C. Knight as soon as his sight recovers from the cataract operation."

With similar thoughts in mind, we sought an interview with J. R. D. Tata, presented our view of Management, pleaded for the export of his buses to USA. He was pleasantly intrigued. The irony of the presentation was he was struck by our view of rural development and sought advice for his own project in 40 villages in Kutch.

It is a desert with only ten inches of rainfall. His chemical plants were situated there because the region has scanty rainfall. The salt that he produces there would be washed away with higher rainfall. Robert Macfarlane who worked in the Society's rural development project visited Kutch, went to almost all the villages covered by the project, studied the existing conditions, explored the potential for service, exercised his mind on innovative lines, caught every casual phrase so that a potential could be explored, returned home and wrote a report to be sent to them.

Ostensibly, we are trying to invoke the Spirit in rural development, but we are not free to talk to industrialists of this eminence of the Spirit. So, we commission our thinking to draw up a report of ideas that would be acceptable to them. Robert Macfarlane carries the vibrations of Rishyasringar. That year Kutch received copious rainfall unknown to many previous decades! The parched villages were blessed by the touch of Spirit through Mr. Macfarlane's predisposition to bring down rain. **The Spirit defies even spiritual methods.**

191. The Roving Ambassador of India

Chinmayananda was going round India and delivering lectures on the *Bhagavat Gita*. He came to Madras where he delivered thirty lectures. Pious audiences gathered in great numbers and listened with rapt attention. The swami was fluent in English and offered forceful arguments. He punctuated his lectures with lively examples, striking parallels, anecdotes, and analogies.

V.K. Krishna Menon went to London where he organised the India League. Fighting for the cause of Freedom in the Lions' Den he became so famous that in the late thirties Nehru was known in London as Krishna Menon's friend. Menon was a scintillating speaker and a voracious reader. He was for some time the Editor of Penguin publications. As soon as India attained freedom, the old guard of the National Congress was so entrenched in the leadership that an arch enemy of conservatism like Menon had no place in its venerable leadership.

Menon played a great role in the UN, defended the cause of Kashmir in an 11 hour long speech - the longest ever heard in the UN - visited every capital as India's ambassador of goodwill. Chinmayananda, digressing from the *Gita*, explained at length the great power and popularity Menon had acquired. The audience that was in rapt attention was now listening with admiration. Chinmayananda asked, "From where does Menon get his power?" and answered the question himself: "Because he represents India". Then, he said, "I ask each of you to be a roving ambassador of the Lord." The audience broke out into prolonged applause, as the analogy deeply touched them. **We all know full well the great value of an M.P. or an industrialist or a senior IAS officer and treat them with appropriate deference. Do we equally know the value of the Spirit seated within?**

192. Establishment and Political Leadership

During the seventies and eighties we were analysing every aspect of national life from the point of view of the Spirit. **If there is a spiritual view, it must enliven the field and energise work.** We came upon innumerable views on agriculture, hire purchase, adult education, GDP, inflation, practical programmes, tourism, traffic on the highway, etc. We meticulously prepared endless articles and published them. One of our findings was, "India is more developed than we are aware of, than our statistics reveal."

Based on our new inspiration, we thought of studying a village and selected one of the ten census villages of Tamil Nadu, Thadagam. Our data, and the statistical calculations based on them confirmed our evaluation. We believed that this idea would be of interest to the top establishment of the country and the political leadership. Actuated by this inspiration we met a Member of the Planning Commission, a Chairman of a leading Institute, an ex-Governor of Kashmir who was an M.P., an advisor to the Government and one more VIP. All of them were unanimously of the opinion that that idea would not interest the Prime Minister.

It then dawned on us that only the political leadership would be open to new views. Our members met Indira Gandhi who was busy with hundreds of children. She said, "You speak interesting things. Please wait." After listening to our member, she was all appreciation of the view, spoke to a gathering of scientists that same evening and gave an order to convene a national conference on development indicators. Our member addressed the conference.

The Spirit of understanding national priorities is more with the political leadership of the country than with any other sector such as administration or other wings known as establishment. In a few years, the World Bank revised its idea on statistical evaluation and announced a new scale known as PPP in place of the earlier measure which was partial.

193. The Grace of Culture

Major Grantly was left with five year old Edith when his wife died. He was the rich heir of his father the Archdeacon. Grace was the nineteen year old daughter of a poor clergyman, Mr. Crawley, an austere, dutiful scholar of Oxford. It was a wilful fate that clamped on the devout preacher a false case of theft, a theft of 20 pounds. His daughter Grace had a high education in Greek and Latin. She was eminently a lady by virtue of what she was. Major Grantly loved her and his father the Archdeacon was furious. He was bent upon breaking the engagement, if there was one.

News of Grace's stay in a friend's house nearby stirred the father to action. He announced himself at that house and asked to meet Miss Grace Crawley. Somewhere from the kitchen she presented herself in her old clothes. Against his will, he was struck by her bearing and was all admiration for what she was. 'How can my son not love such a lovely girl?' he said to himself. His fury came down to a frown. She was not defiant, but her firmness had a charm for the old man. There was a conversation of sorts. The Archdeacon was swept off his feet by the utter truthfulness of the girl when she spoke of her relationship with his son.

By this time the old man, who had been at the other end of the room was standing close to her with tears in his eyes. He told her how impossible it was for her to marry his wealthy son because of the scandal over her father's head. She promised him voluntarily not to marry his son until the slur on her father's good name was wiped out. It was too much for the Archdeacon. He came closer, bent down his aged proud head, kissed the head of the young angel and told her if the blot was removed, he would withdraw his opposition to the marriage.

He could see the girl was cultivated and magnanimous. At moments he saw she could be described as majestic. The Major's father, who had been foul-mouthed about the alliance was won over by the cultured grace of the poor girl. Though he himself had no elements of graceful behaviour, he had enough education to admire the attainments of Grace Crawley. **Her endowments were not directly spiritual, but bordered on spirituality through high education and rich culture.**

194. Individuality

No two individuals carry the same fingerprint; the response to any situation is not the same for any two individuals. **Each man is unique in what he is.** The personality of the individual is Individuality. In less developed societies, men have more of the common character. In advanced cultures, individuality is better formed. **Nothing achieves as Individuality.**

For a talented, gifted Individual, the organisational common maximum is his minimum. The weakest link in the chain decides the maximum strength of it. Therefore, a wide organisation pulls down the performance of the capable one when he wants to conform to the generality. As the number of a select group in a big organisation becomes smaller, the level of achievement rises. The Individual achieves most, his very best, when he breaks out of the group. **The genius performs as a genius, as he is not fettered either by the social norms or the conventions of any sect.**

The scope of efficiency of Individuality is indicated by the scope of the genius in intelligence. So far, I am speaking about Individuality as a social phenomenon. A higher version of it is the Individuality of psychology. The musician, the artist, the poet emerge out the social milieu as psychologically developed individuals. Ours is a culture which values conformity to the group, to the family. That way, families and organisations will outperform others of the same kind. Teams of scientists working together do not emphasise Individuality.

Individuality is fostered and nourished by self-confidence, self-esteem, self-respect, self-awareness, privacy, independence, self-reliance, etc. **What emerges in the Individual is the Spirit of the person or the Spirit of the capacity of the person.** The Spirit I wish to evoke includes all facets of one's being, viz. the mind, the vital, the physical, the work, the past, the environment, etc. It is a multifaceted entity that emerges in a particular situation to deliver a particular result, whereas it contains all.

195. Two Sides of Human Nature

Life contains heaven as well as hell. It is for us to choose. Individuality that is a high endowment can also be used to create opposite results. In the best sense, the concept of Individuality means exclusive concentration of a person on himself so that his endowments will reach an acme. The idea is this Individual will serve the community at his best.

Formed individuals do not share their personal problems with others. It is considered personal. The community too considers knowing the personal problems of another inappropriate. The concept of privacy is thus taken to ridiculous limits which leads to unwanted problems. The individual who thus shuns others finally comes to shun all. He is shut up in his own life which creates stress, dryness and a sense of loneliness.

Very quickly, people make an ideal into a fad. Healthy sharing of experiences is termed as imposing on others or interference. The result is unbearable stress, physical as well as psychological. One person at the age of 83 had pains in the neck and back that travelled all over his body and caused an agony. The doctors said the only cure was pain-killing tablets. It was not in him to speak of his pain to his own family members, as he says, "I was brought up that way. To speak out my ailments to another is improper."

Whatever this is, it has nothing to do with privacy or individuality. One makes a prison for himself and shuts himself in it. When he spoke of his pain to another member of his family, transgressing his holy rule, this phenomenon was explained to him. It made sense to him. He could see it was an absurdity. He came out of the shell of his privacy and most of the pain he suffered for years began to leave him in a matter of days. **Great thinkers say that not much thought has gone into what is known as Human Choice.**

Life is in one sense simple, rich, abundant, full of delight. Man has the choice to enjoy it as it is or to convert it into its opposite.

196. Pilgrimage

Laws are eternal. They are to be obeyed, never to be disregarded on the score of courtesy, friendship or anything else. When you are on a pleasure tour, you can entertain friends, take them at your expense, but not on a pilgrimage. Going to a sacred place where God lives, one cannot do so at someone else's expense, as it is believed that the *punya* will go to him who spends on your behalf.

There was a lorry owner who was a confirmed bachelor at the age of 40. He was devoted to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and was the secretary of the local branch. A regular visitor to the Mutt was an elderly learned man who was also regularly visiting another spiritual centre. At this centre was a young admirer of this learned man who arranged for his stay, board and transport while he was at the centre. Being a young man and an admirer, he did so with reverence and affection, but he had the clear unequivocal knowledge that it was not right. Once the lorry owner evinced interest in visiting that centre and brought the elderly man in his car.

The young man was at dilemma whether to extend the usual courtesy that he gave to his learned mentor to his guest also. He saw that both of them expected it! It was readily arranged and paid for by the affectionate young man. As usual, the young man was all attention to his guests. His courtesy extended to his paying for the few books and photographs the lorry owner bought. The lorry owner expanded so much inwardly that he began to speak of his next visit. The elderly man was very impressed by his guest's spiritual expansiveness.

When he met his young friend alone, he said, "The lorry owner will return here very soon as he has become an ardent devotee". The young man had an enigmatic reply. He said cryptically, "He won't be able to visit here again". The intrigued listener pressed for a reply in vain. For years, the lorry owner never visited the place. After four years came a M.O. of Rs. 41/-, exactly the expenses he had incurred during his visit. The confirmed bachelor had married. With his wife, he visited again. The confirmed bachelor's deep wish had been, perhaps, marriage. **The learned man who visited the place seven times a year forgot the centre forever.**

197. Suffering from Surplus

Money is in surplus in the West. The deposits in banks get an interest of 3 %, in Japan no interest. House mortgages are on 4 1/2% for 30 years at the end of which it is renewed, which means one need not return the capital but can own his house for 4 1/2% interest which is lower than the market rental value. **Gone are the days when Money is to be deferentially approached by the borrower.** Accumulated money seeks the productive user for very low interest. Organisations have grown in their capacities to generate great wealth if only they can persuade the user to produce more by taking their capital and repaying part of it. More so, these organisations pursue higher social goals which are beyond the imagination of common people.

To educate a few talented boys is a national service which people know. To help low producers produce more at one's cost is equally a great national service that is hard to believe. **Man cannot believe that such service has in it more gratifying benefits than accumulating wealth.** The 17 billion dollars Marshall Plan spent on rebuilding Western Europe rewarded USA later with a far greater market. It was a policy of foresight. Society has now matured enough to appreciate that it is not at all in its own interest that a portion of it is poor, as permitting an epidemic to linger because eradication of it is expensive.

Talented men of proven integrity can get all the capital they need if they all organise themselves into local productivity or district development. This is not fully appreciated. Seven or eight hundred years ago, banks came on the scene and produced non-existing Money to render the local population prosperous. Banks multiply their deposits nine times, says a banking expert. **Money is not in short supply for any productive work in India.** The required organisation is not yet in place. Even the idea of surplus of money, which is somewhat in vogue in higher financial circles in the world is not fully appreciated here in India.

There was a time when Man was under the tyranny of a local bully and many incurable diseases and insoluble problems. It is no longer true in the same measure. Paucity of **MONEY** is a real, felt pressure. The Spirit behind **MONEY** is willing to wipe it out. Man should emerge out of the fatalism he has long been under and patronise the Spirit within and the Spirit behind everything.

198. Spiritual Truth in Human Life

For a hungry man, in the words of Gandhiji, a morsel of food is the most valuable **TRUTH**. The same truth will be a matter of shame for a self-respecting man if he has to ask for it. **The truth in life is the food must be worked for.** Spiritually it is far more different. If one is spiritual, he will never suffer for want of food. There is a Spirit in Life which is neither life nor Spirit, but the Spirit evolving in life, as at a first stage mind evolves in life. **One who lives by the Spirit in Life will be an abundant source of plentiful FOOD to all who relate to him.**

Let me explain what I mean by the Spiritual Truth in human life. Life, human life, is what we know very well. Spirit is the goal of the sannyasi. One who expresses in his life the spiritual values of honesty, integrity, patience, Self-giving, etc. seeks after the spiritual truths in human life. A small businessman espousing this ideal will treat his work as sacred. To him, treating the customers honestly is an article of faith, as the customer carries a spirit in him. Endless expansion is the character of Spiritual energy.

The spiritual attitude of life releases Spiritual energy in work. The result is everyone concerned will be happy enjoying a spiritual ease. As this ensures absence of friction, there will be no problems at all in any walk of his life. **Expansiveness attracts expansion on all sides.** If all working people are at ease, if there are no problems, if expansive circumstances sail towards him from all over, surely he will enjoy prosperity. It is spiritual prosperity. Our tradition is full of it. Only that it is limited by Karma. When faced with Karma, tradition has learnt to bow to it.

Mother is of the Spirit. She is the Spirit. **Karma does not bind the Spirit.** One who invokes the Spirit and lives by that finds the truism of life given to us by the tradition not only a valuable support to live successfully, but a dynamic scaffold that will raise us in life without stop. In tomorrow's column I should like to mention some of those cherished truisms.

199. Truisms of Spirit in Life

- Should we long for luck to come to others, money will move to us.
- To earn is difficult; to preserve it is more difficult.
- He who has earned money, should also earn common sense.
- To know the Spirit is to be inwardly full. Should we accept it as a way of life, the outer life will be abundant.
- **Problems arise when we are unable to handle ourselves dexterously.**
- For one who will not repeat his earlier errors, money will never be scarce.
- He who treats falsehood as truth can never invoke the Spirit. If he ever does it, it will lead to no result.
- Scarcity in funds reveals lack of good temperament.
- Resorting to shortcuts removes one from Spirit.
- Cleverness of any type will eliminate the Spirit.
- One can cheat anyone, not himself.
- Self-deception leads to incompetence.
- One who betrays someone cannot be true to another.
- Purity of mind in a wife ensures the longevity of the husband.
- Vain pride will eliminate the results and will elude the seeker.
- Shortcut to ruin is jealousy.
- If one hopes to reach the Spirit through falsehood, he is one who tries to touch the sky by outstretched hands.
- **No problem will remain unsolved when the heart that created it by offending others changes.**
- Seek life for expressing the Spirit, do not seek Spirit to enrich your life.
- Man seeking cruelty will be met by life with darker cruelty.
- Ridiculing the fallen man will lead you to die starving.
- He who challenges to ruin another will surely meet with utter ruin.
- Should you wish for abundant prosperity, do not cringe before the wealthy.
- **The other name of Luck is humility.**
- When every wish is fulfilled and when unexpected good luck also overtakes one, it does not mean all this will generate **FAITH** in him.
- Jealousy makes life mean and perverse. To be jealous of a spiritual individual is certain ruin.

200. U Thant

U Thant was teaching in a school in the 40's when his boyhood friend Aung san became the Prime Minister of his country, Burma. The Prime Minister drafted U Thant into his Cabinet and later sent him to the UN as the leader of the Burmese delegation. He was entirely egoless and unambitious. Many people desired him to be the Secretary General which he refused, as he was afraid of being asked for a second term. His silence, absence of ambition, egolessness and humility had generated a great power.

When the post fell vacant, he was pressed to accept it. **He was utterly reluctant as he was not combative. He accepted the nomination having extracted a promise that a second term should not be proposed to him.** His very refusals, by virtue of their sincerity carry the power of **SILENT WILL** in a greater measure. Silent will is effective even as a policy. Before your boss if you do not have the temerity to speak out your wish, even that becomes Silent will and the boss exactly proposes to do what you have not had the courage to ask for. That happens even if a sore throat prevents you from speaking.

U Thant was not practising silent will. He had no will for ambition. Its power is consummate. At the end of his first term, the promise at the time of his nomination was forgotten and he was compelled to accept a second term. He never sought that post or any post. His not seeking generated that power of attraction. At the time of accepting the second term, he firmly resolved that that should be the last term and murmured it in the hearing of his supporting admirers.

Of course, a third term too was proposed to him to which he turned a deaf ear. Silence is powerful. Silent thinking is infectious. Silent will achieves. **To one who resorts to the Spirit, there is a Silence behind Silence, which is a Silence behind No action or literally behind no movement.**

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