

# Discovering the Infinite

Webex talk on December 5, 2010

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## Introduction

- A. Book One – Omnipresent reality & the universe
- B. Human Aspiration
  1. Divine Life is our earliest aspiration and our ultimate destiny.
  2. It is inevitable.
  3. It is God's intention.
  4. Why does he say in Chapter 1 that
    - Contradictions is Nature's profoundest method – why?
      - **It has to do with the nature of Reality which is an indivisible whole**
    - Contradictions are really complements. Why?
    - All problems are problems of harmony. Why?
    - Evolution is inevitable. Why?
    - Divine life in an animal body is our path to humanity's ultimate resting place.
  5. Answer is that the Infinite is involved in the finite and is evolving in finite form.
  6. Everything depends on our understanding of His conception of God, Divine, Absolute, Brahman.
    - It determines the goal of our existence.
    - The power of God to act in the world.
    - Our true Self.
    - Our destiny -- Humanity's ultimate resting place.
  7. Sri Aurobindo describes Brahman as Reality Omnipresent
  8. The whole key to Life Divine is understanding Infinity

## What is Infinity?

- A. A very big number -- number
- B. A very long distance that goes on without end -- road
- C. Limitless space – the whole universe-- Galaxies
- D. The opposite of finite
- E. A formless vast
- F. The sum of all things like a bag that contains everything
- G. A mathematical abstraction which does not exist -- Infinity Sign
- H. Sri Aurobindo gives us a clue when he says the Finite is the frontal appearance of the Infinite
- I. Appa says we must understand that Infinity is real – a **practical concept**

## Practical Concept of Infinity

### A. Infinite Quantitative Self-multiplication in the world

1. Population from 8000 BC
2. Economic Growth from 1800 AD -- prosperity
3. Growth of the Internet
4. 2.9 million emails sent per second
5. Visa international
6. American Pioneers
  - Impoverished peasants in the American wilderness built the most prosperous powerful nation
  - generating 25% of world GDP by 5% of world population
7. Why do things keep increasing?

### B. What about India – do you see it?

1. 2 wheelers
2. TVs
3. Software exports
4. Money supply & bank deposits
5. Cell phones in India
6. India in 1980 and after 1995

### C. Infinite Quality – do you see it?

1. Qualitative changes are immeasurable
2. Revolution of rising expectations
  - TVs, Cars, homes, job in USA
  - A driver can become CM
  - Pooja's USA trip
3. Obedience and submission of pre-Independence period vs Freedom
  - Every husband knows that the attitude of women in India has changed infinitely
  - Every parent knows that children are very different today – compare generations
4. India can become a world leader

### D. Infinite Knowledge

1. Nothing that is not in Mahabharata
2. Life Divine is infinite knowledge – more than all the sum of human knowledge

### E. Individuality

1. Life Divine tells us that the potential of the individual is infinite

### F. Where does all this potential come from?

1. Where does all this potential come from?

## Practical Concept of Infinity

### A. Infinite Possibility

- B. What is the limit? What is possible?
- C. We say anything can happen anytime
  - 1. A black man can become President of USA
  - 2. Lizzy can love Darcy who she hated and become mistress of Pemberley
- D. Unimagined possibility becoming reality is Infinite expressing in the finite
  - 1. Darcy arrives before Wickham's elopement with Georgiana
  - 2. Lizzy meets Darcy at Pemberley –infinite expressing in the finite
  - 3. Darcy comes to the Inn while she is reading Jane's letter
- E. Where does all this potential come from?

## What is Infinity?

- A. Unending quantity -- Endless line or series
  - 1. Unidimensional concept
  - 2. Boundless finite is not Infinity
- B. Multidimensional Infinity
  - 1. Imagine endless series in 4 directions, 360 degrees, spherically
  - 2. Imagine each one changing color each second or each mm of its endless length
  - 3. Imagine the lines as
    - Money – different denominations, currencies
    - Cars & TVs each a different size, model & color
    - Flowers of a different type
    - Plants
    - People – each a different face, fingerprint
  - 4. Infinite in all directions, all quantities, all qualities
- C. None of these are infinity. Why?

## Infinity is not the sum of things – it is the SOURCE

- A. Not a sum of parts

*This is the complete and That is the complete. Subtract the complete from the complete, the complete is the remainder (p339)*

- B. Infinity is not any thing, but the essence of everything

*All things are the self-multiplications of that reality.*

- C. Not just an unlimited amount or duration but a Self-existent which is Illimitable and Indefinable (338)

D. Infinity is that from which all finite's come yet it is not just the sum of all finites

*The One becomes the Many, but all these Many are That which was already and is always itself and in becoming the Many remains the One (p.339)*

*Creation adds nothing to the Infinite.*

E. It is the potential from which all actualities emerge

### **Finite is the frontal appearance of the Infinite**

A. white light

1. How big is white light?
2. How much can it contain?
3. It has no dimension, yet it contains every imaginable color
4. 7 primary colors in various mixture and shades of light dark give rise to 16 million colors
  - Human eye can see 10 million
  - Account for variations in lighting, individual capacity, surrounding color =  $18 \times 10^{33}$  decillion

### **Relative & the Absolute**

- A. Activity & Passivity – Silent and Active Brahman
- B. Silence is the basis for all creation
- C. Silence makes speech and music possible
- D. Activity (Relative) is born of the silence (Absolute)
- E. Unchanging is the basis for all change
- F. Being is the source of Becoming. Becoming is the expression of Being.
- G. A book or painting must have an author.
- H. A work of intelligence implies an INTELLIGENCE that created it – the whole universe is the work of an Infinite Intelligence.

### **Finite & Infinite are not separate or different**

- A. There is no division, it appears divided but is not
  1. Waves of the sea are the sea
- B. Silence and Sound -- AUM
  1. Thoughts arise from the Silence which is pure formless Consciousness (Austen)
- C. Form & Formlessness
  1. Form and formless co-exist
  2. Formless is not the opposite of form but the condition of form like -- Gold and jewelry
- D. Finite and Infinite are inseparable

1. Incoercible unity
  2. Fire and Light
  3. Digits and numbers
  4. Alphabet and words
    - Is there a limit to words that can be spoken? – speech is not a quantity, it is a creative capacity
- E. Human Imagination
1. Jane Austen’s creative consciousness cannot be separated from her literary works – Elizabeth is inseparable from Jane

## **Infinity is the whole**

- A. The tree and the seed
1. Tree, seed, air, water, soil, sunlight
  2. They do not exist in isolation
  3. They depend on the soil, rain, air, environment, sunlight
  4. Cosmos is the source of the Tree and the Seed. God – the Infinite -- is the source of cosmos
- B. The Absolute does not move but it is always ahead -- Satprem’s story of God’s kingdom
- C. Omnipresent Reality includes both the
1. Finite and the Infinite
  2. form and the formless
  3. One and the Many
  4. Transcendent, Universal & Individual
  5. Manifest & Unmanifest
  6. God, Nature and Man
  7. Spirit & Matter
  8. Brahman-Maya
  9. Purusha-Prakriti
  10. Iswara Shakti
  11. Knowledge & the Ignorance
  12. Divine & the undivine
  13. Evolution & Involution
  14. Superconscious, Conscious, Subliminal, Subconscious, Inconscious
  15. The animate and inanimate
  16. Corporeal and incorporeal
  17. Intelligent and unintelligent
  18. Time & Timelessness & Simultaneous Time

19. Being & Non-Being

20. Relative & Absolute

D. Relative exists in the Absolute and vice versa

### ■ Infinite is the source of all qualities

A. The indeterminable determines itself as Infinite and finite 326

B. Forms are not arbitrary inventions out of nothing

1. All finite realities are powers, forms, self-shapings of that substance

2. figure, line, color, design, mass express the secret values and significances of an unseen reality (337)

C. A quality is the character of a power of conscious being (334) -- flowers

D. The finite must be seen as the Infinite through forms, character, silence

### ■ Infinite is that which is inexhaustible because it grows by

A. Infinite is that which cannot be exhausted

B. Addition and subtraction do not change it

*This is the complete and That is the complete. Subtract the complete from the complete, the complete is the remainder (p339)*

C. Ramanajum's ZERO (God), One (Universe) – fathomless zero

D. Kamadhenu

E. Draupadi's vessel? – akshaya patrinum – inexhaustible source

F. Cornucopia

G. Same is true for income and expense – they grow together

H. Increase of money increases as outflow increases – banking – banks multiply money 10-100 fold

### ■ Infinitesimal as also the Infinite

A. In a second of time and a point of space, a passing circumstance (338)

B. Sub-Atomic Microcosm

C. The leaf is infinite in the infinitesimal -- fractals

D. Varieties of life -- Discovery of Microorganisms

1. 2000 varieties of bacteria live in us

2. 1,000,000,000,000,000 -- 10 times more than the number of cells in the body

E. **ACT** is a microcosm of the universe

1. Like the atom and the solar system

2. Thoughts, opinions, attitudes, sentiments, believes, motives, urges, impulses, sensations
  3. One word says all – “yes”
  4. Darcy calls her Tolerable – contains the whole story
- F. Every moment and event is unique
1. No two experiences ever repeat
  2. Darcy’s arrival at Pemberley

### It includes all opposites and is the whole from which they emanate

- A. That is why it manifests in terms of dualities
1. Darcy & Wickham
- B. That is why all contradictions are truly complements – aspects of a greater whole
1. Spirit & Matter
  2. Knowledge & Ignorance
  3. Being & Non-Being
- C. It reconciles all opposites

*Death is only a change in immortal Life*

*Pain a violent backwash of the waters of universal delight*

### Non-Being

- A. Brahman is iti iti
- B. But the Infinite exceeds all positive descriptions
- C. It is neti neti – free from all limitations of description – illimitable, indefinable -- UNKNOWABLE

### Individual is the Infinite

- A. Man seems so small and insignificant, yet man is the Transcendent
- B. Uniqueness is an expression of Infinity – Individuality – a vibration of Being
- C. 1 man can change the world
1. Gandhiji
  2. Churchill
  3. Napoleon
  4. Sri Aurobindo
- D. Individual can accomplish anything
1. Material Prosperity
  2. Psychological Prosperity -- Darcy

3. Spiritual Prosperity – evolution of individuality

E. Jane Austen – author, actor, director, person

## Why do we not see the Infinite?

A. Our view matters

B. The Infinite expresses as finite because of the limitations imposed by Mind

1. Insistence on the senses

2. Material Intellect – Physical mind

3. Believing only what we can see or what we have already experienced

4. No progress would ever occur if our past experience set the limit on future possibilities

C. Ego cuts us off from our wider self and makes us see everything as finite

1. Darcy viewed everyone in terms of class & money – Eliza was only ‘tolerable’

2. His soul awakened to the light in her eyes

3. He realized he had been arrogant and selfish

4. Finally he acted for the benefit of all parties

D. Family & society limit our view

1. Our view is a structure formed through education, school, religion, community.

2. Till 16<sup>th</sup> century people believed the earth was flat and you could fall off into hell

3. In 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian tradition said leaving the country you get polluted – now it’s a blessing

4. Outside these structures, all men are equal.

E. Our view determines what we believe is possible

1. Manned flight in 1905

2. Thomas Watson – 5 computers

3. Bill Gates about the Internet

4. 10,000 – one lakh? – 10 lakhs – 1 crore – 10 crores – 100 crores – 1000 crores – a lakh crores

## Reaching the Infinite

A. How to see the Infinite with the Mind?

1. Deconditioning reveals the infinite in the finite leading to Self awareness

2. Pure Existent sees the ocean of energy

3. Shift from Ego

4. Self-esteem – self-reliance is self-limitation

5. Non-reaction

6. Non-thinking – Grace SIL

7. No complaints against anyone – perfect harmony for a year



8. Convert contradictions into complements

B. Believe in the impossible

1. Don't accept the idea of limits

2. Belief in the tradition is to be finite

- Lower part of tradition counsels modesty, humility, don't be greedy, don't ask for too much
- It can at best lead to growth within limits
- Higher tradition affirms the infinite – no limits
- Shift from Ambition to Aspiration

3. Values

- Mr Bennet created something out of nothing by higher values
- Truthfulness releases the infinite

4. An impossible thought becoming possible is the Finite becoming Infinite

5. Lydia's marriage after elopement

6. Eliza accepting Darcy in marriage after everyone believed it is impossible

7. Contemplate an impossible thought and let it become possible

8. Belief in that inspired knowledge moves Life

C. Perfection in the Infinitesimal

1. Perfection moves toward comprehensiveness, from part to whole

2. The Absolute can be reached by any perfection.

3. No errors

4. Perfect Accounts

D. Self-Giving

1. Grow by giving

- Banks
- Insurance

2. Grow by feeding on what it consumes – self-augmenting

3. Like knowledge

4. More you give the more you grow

E. Shifting Faith

1. From what we see

2. From what we know

3. From what we have achieved

4. From what we think we can achieve

5. From our endowments and capacities

6. From our family, friends, organization, community, nation

7. From finite to Infinite

If the Omnipresent Reality, the Truth of our Being and existence is Infinite, then what should we have faith in? Should we have faith in our limited understanding, our limited capacities, the apparent limitations imposed by opposing forces in life around us? Or should we shift our faith from the finite to that in and around us with is not subject to any finite limits? All our capacities, all our accomplishments, all our knowledge, all our experience is less than a drop in the limitless ocean of Infinity. Yet that Infinity is the essence of our own being. He says we should not err by taking a few of our own existence as insignificant. The Infinite may not matter to us, but we matter very much to the Infinite, because it has become us for the purpose of manifesting its infinity. When we rely on ourselves, we insist on our privilege to be finite, limited, ignorant and egoistic. When we rely on Mother, we shift the center of our existence from the finite to the Infinite. Nothing is impossible. Be prepared for the unexpected.

F. One act fully consecrated