

1. Title slide (paragraph number correspond to slide numbers in the presentation)

2. Introductory Chapters of Life Divine

Sri Aurobindo builds on the tradition and transcends it without contradicting or rejecting it.

Chapter 1 – do not stop in the middle

Chapter 2 – reconcile matter and spirit

Chapter 3 – unity is the basis of all existence. Until you can experience it, act on Faith

Chapter 4 – need to reconcile 1 without a second with all is Brahman

Chapter 5 – Unite the subconscious with the Superconscient to overcome evil at its source

Chapter 6 – Shankara rejected the universal as maya.

Sri Aurobindo affirms the reality of the universal as a status of brahman.

Chapter 7 – ego is not the creator. The dualities exist only in ego. Supermind is the creator.

3. Sri Aurobindo and The Tradition

a. Tradition -- affirms Purusha, ego, Maya

- It rose to Intuitive Mind, then descended into metaphysics
- God is witness Purusha
- Maya is the creator
- Life is evil, so it must be rejected
- Mind is the highest level of manifestation, so it seeks moksha
- Matter and Spirit are irreconcilable, so Divine Life is impossible

b. Sri Aurobindo -- affirms Iswara, psychic, Marvel

- Based on integral knowledge of Supermind
- God is the immanent Iswara
- Supermind is the Creator, not mind or ego
- Life is Marvel to be realized
- The goal is Spiritual Evolution, not moksha
- Matter is Delight of Being

4. Greatest mystery

a. What is the reality of Brahman in the universe?

- What is the reality of Spirit? What is its value?
 - Tradition says the invisible, indefinable, indescribable formless Spirit is the Supreme discovery and the source of Infinite Delight.
 - Whole philosophy & Divine life for man depends on that process and relations
 - What is the process governs the relations between Sachchidananda & ego?
 - But how can we know it? How can we experience it?
 - In Ch 8 he tells us it is knowable and measurable by a higher form of knowledge.
- b. In P&P, what is the reality or value Darcy discovers in Elizabeth?
- What does he gain?
 - What makes him take such extraordinary efforts
 - To change himself
 - To help others
 - What does he gain by serving Bennets? Paying Wickham? Marrying Eliza? Saving Lydia?
 - What is the source of his indescribable joy and fulfillment?
 - It is not measurable by the senses in terms of dowry or beauty or popularity.
- c. The very same applies to our relationship with Mother.
- What is the difference between being devoted to Mother and worshipping the Gods or success or money?
 - What is inexpressible in words is very real to our integral experience.
- d. We need a different method of knowing reality.

5. Chapter 8

- a. This chapter tells us the means of gaining that knowledge and making it real in our lives.
- b. We must reject the errors of the ascetic and materialist
- c. Knowledge of the senses, the physical mind or the reason are not capable of this knowledge
- d. Knowledge is completed by Integral Experience

6. Errors of the Sense Mind

- a. So long as we confine ourselves to sense-evidence and the physical consciousness, we can only conceive and know the material world and phenomena.
- b. This is the error of the materialist denial
- c. Sense mind (manas) bases its knowledge on the information of the five senses
- d. To know the higher reality, we must select the right instrument.

- You cannot see electrons, Xrays or ultraviolet light with the naked eye
 - You cannot see distant galaxies with a microscope
 - You cannot you hear the mind's ideas – we can only hear the spoken voice
 - You cannot see love or goodness – you can only see their expressions
 - You cannot know and experience the reality of God with the senses
- e. **Errors of the sense mind**
- Wickham's appearance fools everyone
 - Why does Darcy misjudge Elizabeth and call her tolerable?
 - Charlotte warns Jane to be careful of appearances which people mistake for reality.
 - Sense mind believes only what it sees and already knows
- f. **Knowledge of Sachchidananda is true knowledge and true power**
- That requires us to transcend the limitations of the physical mind and senses.
- g. **The first of these higher powers is reason.**

7. Mixed Reason -- based on senses

- a. **Double Action of Reason**
- b. **The mixed reason judges everything by their appearances based on the senses**
- "There was truth in Wickham's looks" -- Eliza
 - Collins' reasons for marrying -- proposing to Eliza
 - Thinks only from his own egoistic point of view
 - Mistakes the external circumstances for the reality
 - Collins has a good income, entail, patroness
 - Eliza has no dowry and may never get another proposal
 - Charlotte accepts Collins proposal thinking she will never get another
 - Mrs Bennet's reaction to loss of the entail – she feels family is ruined.
 - Darcy's advice to Bingley not to marry Jane
 - Eliza tells Darcy "you are the last man on earth"
 - Lady Catherine's logic to Elizabeth at Longbourn (316)
 - Darcy is engaged to Lady Anne
 - His family will not accept it
 - You have no fortune or social status.
 - Your sister is a disgrace
- c. **Mixed reason gives to much importance to past experience and what already exists**
- Eliza believes Lydia is lost forever.

- Eliza's logic "I'll never see him again."
- Eliza believes Darcy will be persuaded by Lady Catherine
- Impossible! – it could never happen
 - Eliza about Charlotte and Collins
 - Lady Catherine, Mr. Bennet and Jane say it about Eliza & Darcy
 - Eliza is sure Wickham can never be prevailed upon to marry Lydia
- How many times we say it or think it?
 - Eliza meeting Darcy at Pemberley is a miracle, but she never conceded there could also be a miraculous solution for Lydia
 - When miracles do occur, how insistently we repeat our conviction the next time around!
 - That is the typical response to Appa's offer of Rs 100 crores
- Abandon faith in the mind's externalized way of seeing things
 - SOY: First necessity is to dissolve that central faith and vision in the mind which concentrate it on ... the old externalized order of things. (66)

8. Pure Reason

- a. **The use of the reason to transcend the limitations of the senses makes man superior to all other animals.**
 - Pure reason brings us from physical to metaphysical knowledge
 - Detachment from sense data takes us to pure reason – great discovery
 - Unwillingness to be reasonable is the source of all our problems
 - Darcy wants to prevent Bingley, but marry Eliza
 - Wickham wants to elope with Georgiana
 - Lady Catherine expects Darcy to marry Lady Anne
 - Mr. Bennet wants to send Lydia to Brighton
- b. **Even when it appears to be based on senses, it goes far beyond them**
 - Copernicus
 - Newton's apple
 - Einstein – $E = mc^2$
- c. **Sherlock Holmes**
 - Silver Blaze – he solved the mystery by noticing what did not happen -- dog barking
- d. **Charlotte understands Darcy's interest in Eliza which Eliza misinterprets**
- e. **Mrs Gardiner tells Eliza why she cannot marry Wickham**
- f. **Eliza reasons about Darcy & Wickham and sees the error of her mind**
 - "one has all the goodness"

g. **First rule of Psychic Education**

The first and perhaps the most important point is that the mind is incapable of judging spiritual things. All those who have written on this subject have said so; but very few are those who have put it into practice. And yet, in order to proceed on the path, it is absolutely indispensable to abstain from all mental opinion and reaction.

9. Psychological Experience p.61

- a. **Metaphysical knowledge satisfies the mind, but it does not satisfy our integral being**
- b. **Our nature sees through two eyes -- Idea and Fact, concept and experience**
- c. **Concepts are unreal until they become experience**
 - **Eliza discovers Wickham's falsehood first hand**
 - **Lydia's elopement dispels the illusion of casual error of youth**
 - **Darcy's proposal is not real to Eliza until she experiences Pemberley**
 - **Appa saw the potential to end the Cold War -- ICPF**
- d. **How can we directly experience metaphysical truths?**
- e. **This requires a different faculty -- psychological experience**
- f. **Psychological Experience has a double action – Mixed & Pure p.62**

10. Mixed action – sense dependent

- a. **All experience is psychological**
- b. **Sense data has to be translated by the sense-mind, Manas – 6th Sense**
- c. **Mixed action is how we experience the external world as object**
 - **It comes because ego has separated us from the world**
 - **We experience the external world through the senses**
 - **Darcy admires Eliza's fine eyes and perceives her liveliness**
 - **I could be mistress of Pemberley – Darcy's proposal was not enough for her to believe it.**
- d. **Mixed action of Psychological Experience -- when we seek to become aware of the external world – it depends on the senses**

11. Pure action – direct awareness

- a. **Pure action occurs when we try to become aware of our own existence**
 - **By self-awareness we experience ourselves as subject**
- b. **The direct experience of truth without depending on the senses – know the world from inside instead of from outside**
 - **Mrs. Bennet perceives that Bingley will marry Jane**
 - **Lydia "senses" that she shall marry first**

- MD who diagnosed by looking at the patients – Dr. Guruswamy Mudaliar
 - Wickham knows what he can speak to Eliza
 - Darcy knows he can trust Eliza with the secret of Georgiana
 - Eliza instinctively withholds information from Jane about Darcy
- c. **When mind seeks to become aware of itself as subject -- direct knowledge by identity -- aware of our emotions**
- Becoming anger
 - Elizabeth – detaching herself from sense impressions

“Pleased by the preference of one, and offended by the neglect of the other, on the very beginning of our acquaintance, I have courted prejudice and ignorance, and driven reason away, where either were concerned. Till this moment, I never knew myself.” (185)
 - Darcy’s realization about Elizabeth – P&P p.328

“What did you say of me, that I did not deserve? My behavior to you at the time, had merited the severest reproof. It was unpardonable. I cannot think of it without abhorrence... my conduct, my manners, my expressions during the whole of it,”
- d. **All experience is in its secret nature knowledge by identity**
- e. **This is concealed by the ego's distinction between subject and object**
- Ego separates us from the world
 - Ego compels us to develop processes & organs to commune with that which we have excluded.
- f. **Existing limitations are not inevitable.**
- Mind can liberate itself from dependence on matter and senses and take direct cognizance of objects without the aid of the senses
 - Usually impossible in waking state because waking consciousness
 - Possible in sleep or hypnosis – subliminal mind – when surface mind is out of the way
 - Subliminal reveals itself as the one all sufficient sense, manas
- g. **We can develop other senses by which mind perceives directly**
- physical means are only a starting point and means of contact with the object.
 - Sense of weight
 - Count any number of dots or notes
 - Mind finds the right value directly through its perception
- h. **Just as pure reason can act based on initial input from the senses but go far beyond them & even contradict them, sense mind can also.**
- Eliza’s knowledge of Wickham
- i. **Manas can directly know content of objects -- thoughts, feelings.**
- Mr. Bennet perceives Wickham’s character: Wickham will jilt you

- j. **Inner senses -- sense powers**
 - Can perceive experiences that are not material

12. Self-awareness p. 64

- a. **These faculties do not lead to the psychological experience of metaphysical truths that lie beyond the perception of the sense but seizable by the perception of the reason**
 - How can Elizabeth know Wickham's true character?
 - How can Elizabeth directly perceive Darcy's goodness?
 - How can Darcy directly know Elizabeth's soul?
- b. **They give only a larger field of phenomena and more effective means of observation**
 - Truth of things always lies beyond the sense
- c. **Sound rule: Where there are truths attainable by the reason, there must be in the organism possessed of reason a means of verifying them by experience.**
 - One faculty left – knowledge by identity
- d. **Extend the faculty of pure psychological experience (mental self-awareness) to awareness of the Self beyond and outside us**
 - Elizabeth knows Wickham's falsehood when she feels it within herself
 - Darcy knows Elizabeth's soul by discovering his own soul
- e. **Knowledge of the contents is contained in knowledge of the continent**
 - To know Brahman is to know everything
 - It is to be Jane Austen the author
- f. **Vedanta sought knowledge of the universe through knowledge of the Self**

13. Reason becomes Intuition

- a. **Mental experience and reason are not the supreme self-existent identity**
- b. **The truth of things always lies beyond our senses and mind**
- c. **Reason is a mediator between the subconscious All and the superconscious All.**
- d. **Subconscious – master word of Life is Act**
 - Intuitional knowledge is expressed as action or effectivity and concealed in the action
 - Wickham's subconscious instinct that he can lie to Elizabeth
 - Eliza's instinct to confide in Darcy about the elopement
- e. **Superconscious – master word is Light**
 - Knowledge is primary, action automatically expresses the knowledge

- “I could be mistress of Pemberley” brings him
- Mr. Bennet decides to repay Mr Gardiner’s -- automatic capacity for realization
- The knower and the known are one by conscious self-identity
 - Darcy’s confidentiality
- f. **Intuitional knowledge is common to both – we know them directly**
- g. **Mind and Reason work between these two states as intermediaries to liberate knowledge out of imprisonment in the act**
 - Eliza’s abuse at Hunsford does it for Darcy

14. Intuitional Knowledge

- a. **Our self-awareness is Knowledge by Identity**
- b. **The knower and the known are one in knowledge**
 - Darcy intuitively feels the truth in Eliza’s abuse of him at Hunsford
 - Eliza recognizes the truth of herself reading Darcy’s letter
- c. **Reason fulfills itself in intuitional knowledge which is the highest state of our knowledge in which mind fulfills itself in Supermind**
- d. **When self-awareness in mind applied becomes luminous self-manifest identity between the subject and the object, then reason converts into intuition.**
 - Darcy identifies his soul with her soul directly and worships her
- e. **This is the highest state of our knowledge when mind fulfills itself in supramental.**

15. Intuition p.67

- a. **Intuition is our first teacher – God, Freedom, Light, Immortality**
- b. **It gives us a luminous perception of the unknown**
- c. **It always stands behind our mental operations**
- d. **Intuition gives us the idea of what is behind and beyond all we know**
- e. **It cares nothing for the contradictions of the reason or denials of experience.**
- f. **Intuition is a messenger from the superconscient -- therefore our highest faculty, reason is only a deputy**
- g. **It knows because it is and comes from that**
- h. **Highest intuitive Knowledge sees things as a whole in the large and details as sides of the indivisible whole**
- i. **Tendency to immediate synthesis and unity of knowledge**

16. Intuitive Knowledge of Vedanta

- a. **Principal conclusions of Vedanta are the best previous foundation for divine Life. p66**
 - Only best previous because it stopped with Intuitive mind and did not rise to Supermind
 - Earlier truth must give way to new expression as dawn succeeds dawn
 - As old treasure as our initial capital, or as much as we can recover
- b. **What does Vedanta tell us about the nature of reality?**
 - Infinite absolute pure existence, Sat Brahman, is the last concept Vedanta arrives at in its view of the universe
 - Entirely beyond sense mind and sense experience
 - Senses can tell us only of form and movement
 - Forms are always mixed, combined, aggregated, relative
 - Going within we can get rid of form, but not of movement, change
 - We glimpse behind phenomenon of self-awareness something immutable and immovable, vaguely perceived as what we are beyond all life and death, change and formation and action.
 - Reason finds no place in Upanishads
 - This is the one door in us that sometimes swings open to truth beyond.
- c. **Starting point for another play of consciousness than sense mind -- the play of intuition.**
- d. **Intuition tells us of the Pure Existent**

17. Three great declarations of Upanishads

- a. **I am He.**
- b. **Thou art That**
- c. **All this is Brahman. This self is the Brahman.**

18. Age of Rationalistic Speculation

- a. **After thousands of years, man has not exceeded the knowledge of the rishis.**
 - They stopped with mind and could not go beyond to Supermind.
 - They believed individual cannot transcend ego
- b. **When you stop growing you go in the other direction**
- c. **Intuition is unable to give us the truth in that ordered and articulate form which are nature demands.**
- d. **Tradition descended from Intuition to Metaphysical Knowledge (pure reason)**
 - Upanishads based on intuition, not logical reasoning p.68

- The higher knowledge had to descend in organize itself in our surface being (mind) so that all parts of our nature can develop in a balanced manner
- e. **Age of Intuitive Knowledge of the Upanishads gave place to the Age of Rational Knowledge**
 - Inspired scripture gave way to metaphysical knowledge
- f. **Adopted double attitude toward Truth**
 - Recognition of Sruti as inspired Revelation superior to Reason
 - Started from Reason and affirmed only results supported by Sruti
 - Avoided begetting sin of metaphysics -- tendency to battle in the clouds by dealing with words as imperative facts instead of symbols

19. Reason

- a. Reason proceeds by analysis and division
- b. Assembles its facts to form a whole
- c. Its assemblage contains opposites, anomalies, logical incompatibilities
- d. Natural tendency of Reason to affirm some and negate others which conflict
- e. Mistakes the symbol for the reality, e.g. money

20. Descent from Metaphysical knowledge to Science p.68

- a. Natural trend of Reason to assert its own supremacy eventually triumphed
- b. Metaphysical knowledge (pure reason) gave way to experimental Science (mixed reason).
- c. Rise of conflicting schools each founded in theory on the Veda and using its text as weapon
- d. What appears a descent is actually a circle of progress in which the lower faculty takes up the higher
- e. Necessary for the full development of our being

21. Ascent of Knowledge

- a. Darcy goes through all the stages
 - Tolerable – mixed reason
 - Hunsford Proposal – pure reason
 - Fine eyes – mixed experience
 - Pemberley – pure experience of her beauty – he wants her
 - Longbourn proposal – darling Elizabeth – Knowledge by Identity

22. Descent of Knowledge

23. Ego, Self-giving and Knowledge by Identity

- a. Ego is real obstacle to higher knowledge – sense of separateness -- selfishness
- b. Our knowledge is based on mixed action of sense mind and reason which is ego
- c. Every man's ego wants others to serve him
- d. What we receive from others is limited by our identification with them and our self-giving to them.
- e. Every man wants to marry a loving wife who will worship and care for him, not knowing that a woman's capacity to love the man directly depends on his capacity to identify with and give himself the way Darcy did.
- f. Darcy's gain was by self-giving to the Self he discovered in Elizabeth.
- g. She got Pemberley. He got Spiritual fulfillment.

24. Practical Application

- a. Give up reliance on appearances
- b. Do not judge from sense impressions
- c. Give up all opinions and preferences
- d. Give up egoistic point of view
- e. See the other person's point of view
- f. Discover truth of inner outer correspondences & life response – they never lie
- g. Reject Doubt – it returns no matter how many times we see Mother's action
- h. Take everything Mother and Appa say as literally true
- i. Act on Faith, not reason

25. What does intuition tell us about P&P*

- a. Jane's goodness
- b. Mr. Bennet's honor
- c. Elizabeth's goodwill
- d. Darcy's sincerity and self-giving
- e. Human aspiration for freedom and equality is working itself out in the story

26. What does intuition tell us about Mother and what She offers us?

- a. Sense mind? Reason?
- b. They can know nothing of any infinite and Absolute existence
- c. Mother's Love, Truth, Power, Grace
- d. We can know Mother best by loving Her and surrendering to Her