

Life Divine Bk2 Chap 13 Exclusive Concentration – Speech Summary

1. Origin of Ignorance

- A. The Absolute manifests as Being and Becoming
 - fundamental reality and effectual reality
- B. Brahman
 - In the essentiality of its universal being, Brahman is a unity and a multiplicity aware of each other and in each other
 - Something beyond the One and the Many, aware of both
 - There are not two Brahman – active and passive – only one Integral Brahman
 - Passive Brahman is the power of withholding consciousness -- silence
- C. Transcendent, universal and individual are three statuses or poises of the Supreme Reality
- D. Brahman cannot be the source of the Ignorance
 - Ignorance can only be a subordinate phenomenon
 - Brahman is never ignorant
 - The One cannot in its integral conscious being exclude the Many from itself
 - The Many would not then at all exist
 - The One can at most stand back in consciousness from the cosmic play to enable a similar movement in the individual being
 - The Many in the integrality or in each self cannot be really ignorant of the One or of others
 - The Many is in essence one with all others and with the transcendent Being
- E. Ignorance is not the natural character of the soul
- F. Ignorance must be a superficial or partial action of consciousness and energy
- G. Ignorance is Nature's purposeful oblivion of the Self and the All
 - Putting them behind in order to do what she has to do in the outer play of existence.

2. Mind's power to divide reality is the source of the Ignorance

- A. One from the Many and Many from the One
 - Individual from transcendent -- man from God

- B. Many from Many
 - Individual from universal -- ego from not-self
- C. Surface consciousness from subliminal depths
- D. Desire soul from psychic being
- E. Objective from subjective
- F. Idea from fact and truth
- G. Knowledge from Will
- H. Whole from parts

3. Ignorance results from an exclusive concentration

- A. **Origin of Ignorance must be found in a self-absorbed concentration of the Force in action on a separate movement of Force**
- B. **Ignorance comes where individual Consciousness identifies by dividing mind with the separate form – losing contact with the unity of the spiritual essence**
- C. A concentration in separative active consciousness in separative movement
 - A concentration in the force of active being (Prakriti), not in true Self (Purusha)

4. Types of concentration

- A. What is the nature of this absorbing, separating, self-forgetful concentration – obscure miracle of universe?
- B. Concentration is a fundamental power of consciousness
 - Power of attention -- Tapas
- C. Concentration is self-held awareness
 - Essential – sole indwelling
 - Integral -- supramental
 - Multiple -- overmental
 - Single separative – surface
- D. Absolute holds all integrally

5. Exclusive concentration is not a denial of spirit – only a holding back

- A. **Exclusive concentration on a single subject or object or domain is not a denial of the Spirit's awareness**

- It is one form of the self-gathering of power of Tapas
- It is a holding back behind of the rest of self-knowledge

B. Principle of self-limiting knowledge can result in separative knowledge and positive effective ignorance.

C. Jane Austen – actors – readers

6. **Man's exclusive concentration is on the surface = Sea & Stream**

A. Stream = surface consciousness

- Stream is the continuous temporal movement of consciousness and energy concentrated on the surface
- Stream is the natural superficial man
- A concentration on the surface in superficial working – a selection of the totality
- The actor is only a shadow of the author
- A character is a shadow of the actor
- Surface is oblivious of its real, greater self by absorption on the surface
 - It is not ignorant in any essential sense
 - It contains within itself all the consciousness it has forgotten
 - It is like the actor playing a character
 - Surface may be vaguely aware of unformulated existence behind, within

B. Sea = is the whole consciousness behind which is aware of the movement

- Sea = subliminal self
- It includes subconscious, superconscious, circumconscious,
- Soul or psychic binds them together

C. The hidden sea, not the superficial stream, is doing all the action

- Sea is the source of the movement, not the conscious wave it throws up
- Nothing occurs without the sanction of the soul
- Austen is the source, not the character or actor
- Austen is the origin of all her thoughts and actions
- Society and social evolution is the source, not the individual
 - We act socially thinking we act individually

D. This is the nature of exclusive concentration which is the root of the Ignorance

E. Projector and film

F. Plato's cave

7. **Man's exclusive concentration in the moment**

A. Man is an indivisible stream of conscious energy

B. But he lives absorbed in the moment

C. He acts by the sum of past force of working

- Ignorant of his past except what he recalls by memory
- The true consciousness within is aware of its past
- Past still lives
- This is the true rationale of Karma

D. It can also be aware of its future

- He creates his future by past and present action
- His inner being has a field of cognition open to future knowledge
- A prospective as well as retrospective Time-sense
- Cassette vs CD – cassette moves linearly in time. CD can jump in any direction

E. Something in him lives indivisible in the three times and contains their apparent divisions

- *Even the future can be known – we only are concentrating on the present*

F. Habit of living in the present is a second exclusive concentration

8. **Inner self is the real determinator** ⁵⁸⁵⁻⁶

A. In his superficial consciousness, man is the man of the moment

- Not of the past or future
- He links to past by memory and to future by anticipation
- A continuous ego-sense runs through all three as a centralizing mental construction,

B. The knowledge behind determines the formed course of his existence

C. Mrs. Bennet's aspiration – silent will vs. her surface initiative

- When she fails or withdraws, it is not Collins but Darcy who marries Eliza.
- The inner determines the outer

D. His surface personality is what he is at the moment, not his real self

E. An intuition of self is behind, an underlying identity

9. Ignorance erects the limits because the surface needs it

A. Mr. Collins ignorance is his protection for growth

B. Jane's naïve belief in others enables her to think well of everyone

C. Darcy's pride and Eliza's prejudice protect them from self-condemnation

D. Darcy's tolerable is inversely related to his soul's aspiration for Eliza

E. Duryodhana and Arjuna seeking Krishna's help

- D's outer pride relates to inner movement of faith in self-importance

- Arjuna's outer humility expresses his faith in the Divine

F. All he forgets is contained, present and effective, in the all-retaining integral consciousness within him

TYPES OF EXCLUSIVE CONCENTRATION

10. Surface absorption in ego = the stream

A. Ignorant of the subliminal etc.

B. The superficial man can go back at will to the real man within him only by supernatural effort

11. Temporary exclusive concentration any part of his present life

A. Studying Life Divine, the actor, soldier, father, child

B. The particular part is only a separative determination of his Tapas organized for a particular action of its energy

C. Still it is the whole person that acts

D. **This ability for temporary self-absorption is a great power of consciousness, not a weakness or deficiency**

- Mother's attention to the child in total self-giving

12. Complete self-forgetfulness in action

A. Identified with the movement – anger

B. Actor forgets he is acting – Jennifer and Colin

C. NTR really believes he is Rama

D. Soldier becomes the charge or fury

- E. Worker is lost in his work
- F. [Purusha identified with Prakriti]

13. Inconscience as exclusive concentration

- A. Inconscience of material Nature
- B. No more real than the ignorance that limits the waking consciousness of man in our temporary being
- C. The Conscient even in unconscious things is the secret soul
- D. Prakriti, executive Force, becomes unaware of Purusha, the Conscious Being
- E. Prakriti is always acting with the consent, sanction of Purusha
- F. *Indian submission to British rule implies a conscious choice which can be revoked at any time*
- G. *Taste of ignorance binds us – not any real compulsion*
- H. Inconscience is superficial like the ignorance of waking human mind or subconscious sleeping mind
- I. Within it is the All-conscient

14. Summary

- A. Partial knowledge and ignorance in man is partial self-ignorance in the evolutionary return to self-knowledge
- B. In essence, exclusive concentration is the same in the Inconscient, plant, animal and self-limitation and self-forgetting of waking human mind.
- C. The ignorance is effective within the bounds of that movement
- D. Ignorance is real but it is not the whole truth of our being

REASONS FOR THE IGNORANCE

15. Ignorance is necessary for the manifestation of our world as it is

- A. Each side of Ignorance has its justification
- B. *Infinity cannot manifest without self-concealment*
- C. *When all colors are present, we see only white light*

16. Ignorance of past and future lives is essential

- A. It is necessary to work out his present selected relations with his environment in the way intended
- B. Man as the timeless being -- could not have thrown himself into the stream of time movement
- C. Complete knowledge would be too great for him and alter the whole spirit and balance of his actions
- D. *Life has no meaning if we know the end at the beginning*
- E. *P&P is no story if the characters or readers already know the outcome*
- F. *Lydia's elopement, Darcy's confidentiality, Mr. Bennet's decision lose their meaning*
- G. Darcy rejects social conformity for one sided, selfish love in this birth.
 - In another birth, he will learn to give up selfish seeking for his own happiness
- H. Eliza must learn to reject mercenary motives to rise to Pemberley.
 - In another life she can reject Pemberley to rise to true love

17. Man is ignorant of his universal and superconscious self

- A. Necessary for his temporal personality to evolve behind this defense
- B. Necessary to evolve the separate action, personality, outlook from himself as sole or initial centre and point of reference
- C. Necessary so he can work out relations with the world about him
- D. Darcy discovers his own pride and selfishness because he is unconscious of his soul
- E. Eliza discovers her own absurdity

18. Individuality develops in separateness and contrast to society

- A. It cannot develop by full identification with it
- B. The evolution of all qualities and knowledge depend on action from an individual center
- C. We learn to value that which is different than ourselves so that each quality can evolve toward its own perfection
- D. Eliza and Charlotte develop and express goodwill in relation to others which cannot manifest in oneness
- E. Eliza discovers she is absurd for worshipping the appearances of Wickham

- F. Darcy realizes he should not exercise authority over Bingley
- G. Mr. Bennet evolves patience & equanimity through his relationship to Mrs. Bennet
- H. Lady Catherine discovers the limits of her power

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF IGNORANCE?

19. Secret spirit assumes the Ignorance in Nature to trace the cycle of self-oblivion for the joy of self-discovery

- A. Without Ignorance, cosmic manifestation would be confined to higher worlds of divine Existence or typical non-evolving cosmos
- B. Evolution would be impossible
- C. Each being would live in the whole light of its nature
 - Like knowing the end of the story or joke at the beginning

20. What is here the goal would be the eternal condition

- A. The divine cannot be limited to enjoyment of a static perfection
 - It has the freedom to enjoy by evolution
- B. We appreciate things more by their absence
 - Boy lost at the country fair
 - Darcy after Eliza rejects him
- C. Emergence of a mystery is a form of power, creativity and delight
- D. Overcoming obstacles is another form of creation and delight
- E. Courage is greatest when manifest in a weak, timid person
- F. Indian freedom is great in contrast to imperial rule
- G. Indian prosperity is great in the light of its earlier poverty

21. What is here the type would be the perpetual type of existence

- A. Darcy's magnanimity is great in contrast to his earlier arrogance
- B. We admire Darcy not for what he is but for the change he has made
- C. Morris Goodman's act of walking is great because he was paralyzed
- D. Mr. Bennet's assertion is great in the light of his former laziness and irresponsibility
- E. We value Mother's power for its capacity to transform problems into opportunities – if no problems ever arose we would take it for granted

F. The generous act of the poor person is more admirable

22. Sachchidananda put on mask of Ignorance and descended into material Nature to find himself in the apparent opposite of his being

A. Strength is admirable in Eliza when she is helpless

B. Perseverance is admirable in changeable submissive Bingley

C. The soul selects conditions to help manifest the most perfect perfection of a vibration of being

- How can love most powerfully express itself?

23. Object of birth of soul in human body & labor in cosmic cycles

A. Goal is not merely a return to perfect heavens

B. The soul strives to discover and divinely transform itself in the conditions created by original nescience

C. To realize the Ananda of the Self in conditions of cosmic being

D. To find heaven of joy and light even in the oppositions offered by the embodied material existence

E. To find and embody All-Delight in an intense summary of its manifoldness

F. To realize a possibility of the infinite Existence which could not be achieved in other conditions

G. To create out of Matter a temple of Divinity

24. Self-discovery of Delight in its opposite

A. Darcy rises from arrogant pride to humble affection

B. Darcy's delight is greater because she called him the last man

C. Three marriage are incredible because she thought all was ruined forever

D. Indian freedom was wondrous because of centuries of servitude

E. A black US president is remarkable because they were once considered subhuman

F. Reunification of Germany is a marvel because it looked like it would take decades

25. Ignorance is instrument of spiritual evolution

A. Diamond in the rough and cut

- Life unearths the stones

- Digs them out
- Sizes, cuts, trims, polishes, buffs and places them in a setting

B. Darcy

- The complex circumstances leading to the refinement of his personality

C. Eliza

- Folly of believing Wickham
- Mercenary appeal of Collins
- Affection for Jane
- Inheritance from Mrs. Bennet
- Freedom of Mr. Bennet

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE IGNORANCE?

26. Ignorance does not belong to Supermind or SCA

A. Ignorance belongs to Prakriti

- Prakriti is an action of the All-conscience developing from its integrality of light and power

B. Ignorance does not originate in Sachchidananda

- These are the supreme infinite planes of existence from which all else derives
- This is the plane of Jane Austen the creator

C. Ignorance does not originate in Supermind

- In supermind the infinite light and power are always present even in the most finite workings
- Consciousness of unity embraces consciousness of diversity
- This is the plane in which all the actors know all the parts and can play any of them

27. Ignorance emerges on the plane of mind

A. In Mind putting back of real self-consciousness becomes possible

B. Mind is the plane in which each individual character is separate from and ignorant of the rest

C. Mind is the power of consciousness being which differentiates

- **Rainbow and prism**

- Mind, the prism cannot create colors – it is not a source of light
- Light comes from Supermind

- The sense of diversity is prominent
- The sense of unity is behind and can be contacted only because Supermind is behind it

D. A veil falls between mind and Supermind shutting off the light of Truth

- Rays come through diffused, scattered, reflected but with distortion and division

E. In Overmind, a golden lid hides the face of supramental Truth but reflects its image

- **One way mirror** – Supermind can look out on creation, mind cannot look back to Infinity
- The Gods each think they are the All – the Infinite
- Unity is always there to support it – but creation is unaware of it – Gods are supported by the One

F. In Mind the lid becomes more opaque and smoke-luminous

G. The action of mind constitutes such a veil

- **The characters in the story cannot look back to Austen, but Austen (Integral force) always holds all the characters** (partial forces) in her consciousness and they exist in it even if veiled by Ignorance

28. The characteristic movement of Mind is

- A. Self-absorbed, Mind looks down on the diversity
- B. Mind looks away from the supreme unity which diversity expresses
- C. Mind forgets the unity which supports and makes its activities possible
- D. The absorbed energy is unaware of its own origin and greater real self
- E. Mind is absorbed in its workings and identified with the energy
- F. It becomes totally self-oblivious in the trance of work
- G. It is still supported in its somnambulist action, but is no longer aware

29. The last stage of descent of consciousness is an abysmal sleep

- A. A fathomless trance of consciousness
- B. This is the profound basis of the action of material Nature

30. There is no real division of integrality

- A. A partial movement of consciousness-force absorbed in forms and actions does not imply any real division of its integrality
- B. What is behind is only made occult to the frontal active energy but not shut out
- C. The integral Force is there veiled by the Inconscience
- D. The frontal being acts supported by integral Force and integral self-being

31. Reversal removes the veil of Ignorance

- A. Conscious Force of being reverses the action of exclusive concentration
- B. It quiets the frontal movement of Prakriti in the individual consciousness
- C. It concentrates exclusively on the concealed inner being – the Self or true inner psychic or mental or vital being (Purusha)

32. Reversal need not exclude cosmos

- A. It need not remain in this opposite exclusiveness
- B. It can resume integral consciousness or global consciousness including
 - both being of Purusha and action of Prakriti,
 - soul and its instruments,
 - Self and dynamisms of Self-Power
- C. It can embrace manifestation with a larger consciousness free from limitation or forgetfulness of indwelling Spirit

33. Reversal can lead to transformation

- A. It can quiet the whole working it has manifested
- B. Concentrate on a higher level of Self and Nature
- C. Raise the being and bring down powers of the higher level to transform the previous manifestation
- D. Consciousness-Force in our being can raise its evolution from mental to supramental level

34. Ignorance is a power of Knowledge to limit itself

- A. To concentrate on the work at hand

- B. Exclusive concentration in practice does not prevent the full existence and working of the whole conscious being behind
- C. All conscious self-limitation is a power for its special purpose, not a weakness
- D. All force of concentration is a force of conscious being, not a disability
- E. Self-concentration in Supermind is integral, comprehensive, multiple, infinite
- F. In Mind concentration is dividing and limited
 - It creates perverse as well as partial, false or only half-true values
- G. Power of self-limitation is one of the powers of the manifold energies of the Infinite

35. Ignorance helps express the Ineffable ⁵⁹⁵

- A. Ignorance is a power of manifoldly self-absorbed, self-limiting concentration of the conscious being
 - A natural capacity of variation in his self-conscious knowledge
 - One possible poise of relation of the Absolute in manifestation,
 - A poise of the Infinite in its series of finite workings
 - A poise of the One in its self-enjoyment of the Many
- B. The power of self-absorption to become unaware of the world is one extreme of this capacity of consciousness
- C. Ignorance of Self by self-absorption in the cosmic workings is a reverse extreme
- D. Neither really limits the integral self-aware existence of Sachchidananda
 - It is superior to these apparent oppositions
- E. **Even in their opposition, they help to express and manifest the ineffable.**
- F. **Our own ignorance, incapacity, weakness, can be the basis for the development of individuality because this is the cosmic principle on which the entire universe is founded**

36. Purpose of ignorance in character

- A. Mother says everything and everyone is perfect as they are – nothing to fault
- B. The Ignorance conceals the unity and helps it evolve
- C. Even the characteristics and temperament are selected by the soul to provide protection and support for the evolution of his psychic being.
 - Had Elizabeth had money - should have attracted and married Wickham

- Collins ignorance is his protection so he can develop in society without being crushed
- Lydia's strength is able to fully express itself because she is shameless
- Hamlet's mind emerges because it is horrified by the vital impurity and corruption of Denmark
- Same for Eliza to rise to mind – surrounded the vital urge and mercenary motive
- Steve Jobs illegitimacy and stupidity are necessary for his individuality to emerge – being outside the society helped his nascent individuality to emerge
- Jane's stupidity is an aid for development of her goodness
- Darcy's pride makes his exposure by Eliza far more powerful
- Dr. Thorne's pride in family name compels him to act magnanimously and rise so high in life.

REVERSING THE EXCLUSIVE CONCENTRATION

37. Consciousness Responsibility – in space and time

- A. Darcy -- Assumes responsibility based on prior events
- B. Mr. Bennet -- In spite of current and future constraints
- C. Dr. Thorne -- Based on deeper obligation to preserve family reputation

38. Other methods

- A. Problems are opportunities – change of attitude
- B. Others point of view
- C. Goodwill & Self-giving
- D. Silent will
- E. Non-reaction
- F. Non-action
- G. Remembering Mother & Calling
- H. Consecration – Thy Will

39. Notes

- A. Two people in the same situation respond very differently
 - Collins and Darcy to Eliza's refusal

- Ayala and Charlotte to poor prospects for marriage

B. Negative and Positive support one another

- Jane – naivety supports the development of her goodness
- Bingley – submission to Darcy helps him evolve consistency of purpose
- Collins – lack of self-consciousness supports his aspiration