

Life Divine Chapter XXIV: Spiritual Evolution of Man

1. Allegory of the aeonic visitor to Earth

- A. The purpose is not apparent though might be perceived by a careful observer.

2. Man & Evolution

- A. Double Movement of Evolution

- Evolution of Forms
- Evolution of Consciousness
- At each stage the form and consciousness have developed in harmony

- B. Science concludes life, mind and spirit are only forms of material activity

- Like assuming electricity is a product of water and clouds because lightning occurs then
- Energy of electricity is the foundation of energy substance
- What seems to be a result is the cause

- C. Psychological progress of humanity is a fact – evolution in consciousness within the type

- D. Social evolution through three stages

- E. Appearance of human mind and body on earth marks a crucial step to conscious evolution

- F. Tradition assumes Mind is the last step

- Tradition misses the teleology of creation

3. What is spiritual evolution? -- stages

- A. Action of spirit in our life

- B. Conscious experience of the touch of spirit on our being

- C. Discovery and realization of Spirit

- D. Ascent to Supermind and Supramental transformation of our Nature

4. Four needs and four aids to spiritual evolution

- A. Occultism

- He must know himself and discover his potentialities

- Man must know his inner mental, vital, physical being and its powers and movements and the universal laws and processes of occult Mind and Life
- B. Religion – ethics
- He must know the hidden Powers that control the world – the Cosmic Self or Spirit or Creator
- C. Philosophy – metaphysics
- His thinking mind must know and accept the principles of things and observe the truth of the universe
- D. Spiritual Experience

5. Religion

- A. Faith is indispensable to man
- Without it there can be no forward journey through the unknown
 - But it cannot be imposed
 - It must be the imperative of the inner spirit
- B. Belief in the Divine Being
- C. Desire to live one's life in accordance with truths of spirit
- D. Religion's true business is to prepare man's mind, life and body for the spiritual consciousness to take it up
- E. Religion in the ignorance must necessarily be a mixture of truth and error
- F. Primitive religions based on crude intuitions of hidden powers
- Mental fungus of primitive human ignorance
- G. Stages of religious evolution
- Intuitions of Nature
 - Individual experience expressed in Symbols -- esoteric
 - Universalization of the teachings – exoteric
 - Intellectualization
 - Catholic vs Protestant
 - Belief, worship and conduct
 - Void of spirit
- H. Western tendency toward intellectualization
- Science replacing religion and rejecting it

- Superficial intellect hacking away
- I. Wide catholicity of Indian religion
 - Not fixed creed, rules and dogma
 - Suited to accommodate each soul
 - Reflects the multidimensional infinity of the Infinite
 - Unity in diversity
 - This is the quintessence of Indian wisdom about spirituality

6. Religion in Integral Yoga

- A. Ceremony
 - Forego tradition ceremonies
 - Daily prayer
 - Pushpanjali
 - Visits to center
- B. Offering
- C. Self-Discipline of the lower nature
 - Eat for living, not live for eating
 - Alcohol
 - Gambling
- D. Sincerity to the teachings and principles
 - Cleanliness
 - Honesty -- no bribes
 - Truthfulness
 - Harmony
 - Soft speaking
- E. Mother's Teachings – Psychic Education
 - Seek the psychic awakening
 - Learn from every experience
 - Do not judge appearances with mind
 - Make progress at every moment

- Do not criticize or blame others – change oneself
- Do not pursue comfort, pleasure or thinking for their own sake
- Seek perfection in everything you do

7. **Occultism**

A. What is occultism

- Acquire power over outer life by the forces of mind and inner life
- It is subtle, not spiritual
- Often descends into magic – black or white
- Invoke subliminal and higher powers to act in life

B. In Integral Yoga

- See the outer as a reflection of the inner
- Make life respond by changing vital attitudes
- Mind over matter
- Move life by your faith
- Prayer for life results
- Take consciousness responsibility
- Silent Will

8. **Intellectual Knowledge**

A. Intellect plays an essential role in religious, occult and spiritual experience

B. But physical mind tries to reduce spiritual knowledge of the infinite to narrow, doctrinaire, limited, hard dogmatic intellectual notions and sterile philosophic disputes

C. West is analytic, East syncretic

D. In the West the connection between philosophy and life and spirit got cut

E. Spiritual philosophy – originally based on intuition

9. **Intellect in Integral Yoga -- Life Divine**

A. Nature and limitations of mind and reason

B. The logic of the finite and the infinite

- illusion of quantity and quality

- C. All problems are problems of harmony
- D. Aim of Life and purpose of the manifestation is spiritual evolution and perfection of life – not moksa
- E. Contradictions are complements
- F. Dualities exist only for the ego – for the soul there is only delight
- G. Finite is the frontal appearance of Infinity
 - Illusion of quantity and quality
 - Unknowable formulates itself to human consciousness and escapes formulation
 - Smallest least significant act can move mountains – Mr Bennet’s decision
- H. The force is conscious
 - No waste in Nature
- I. Supermind is the Creator by Real Ideas
- J. Triple status of supermind
- K. Matter is Sachchidananda
- L. Cosmic determinates
 - Soul & Supermind must sanction all events
- M. Ignorance, falsehood and evil are limitations of truth not its opposite
- N. Absolute includes the relative – all dualities are reconciled in the Absolute
- O. Freedom is the final law
- P. Destiny of the Individual
- Q. Ascent and Integration
- R. Surrender

10. Spiritual Experience

- A. High intellectuality, ethical and moral purity, or religiosity or emotional fervor or all of these combined
- B. Spirituality cannot be attained by external means alone – it requires inner change and transformation of consciousness
- C. **Spirituality is an awakening to the inner reality of our being – to a spirit, self, soul, which is other than mind**

- D. The other three have to open the door to spiritual experience
- E. Spirituality is
 - Inner realization
 - Spiritual being must emerge
- F. **Man is initially concerned with how he can use the spiritual contact to serve his mental and moral ideals or vital and physical interests**

11. Spiritual Experience in Integral Yoga

- A. First fundamental siddhi
 - Now the real work has begun
- B. Awakening to the descent of Consciousness into our being
- C. First stage
 - Spiritual experience starts as a small kernel
- D. Experiencing the silence, peace, power, sweetness, presence
- E. The first true formation is a spiritualization of our natural activities
 - An influence over our thought or emotions
 - An awareness of an inner light, guidance, communion --- not a recasting of the being
 - Spiritual light, power or ecstasy

12. Stages of Spiritual Man

- A. Only now arises the saint, rishi, yogi, seer, sage and mystic
- B. Sage or seer – lives in the spiritual mind
- C. Devotee lives in the spiritual aspiration of the heart in self-offering
- D. Saint moves by awakened psychic being in the inner heart
- E. Highest emergence – liberating man
 - realized the Self and Spirit within him
 - entered into cosmic consciousness,
 - union with the Eternal
 - Total liberation of the soul, mind, heart and action into the sense of the cosmic Self and Divine reality

- Beyond lies the supramental ascent and the Transcendence
- F. Truth of spirit is a truth of being and consciousness to be experienced and lived -- not truth of thought
- G. The fundamental truth of spiritual experience is one, its consciousness of one
 - Diversity in oneness is the law of the manifestation
- H. First fundamental siddhi

13. What benefit has spiritual experience brought to humanity till now?

- A. The real work of spirituality is not to solve human problems and make life better
- B. Nor is it moksa, escape
- C. Spiritual man has spread the power of spirit, compassion, universal love with prodigious results
- D. The solution spiritual offers, is not by external means but by inner change and transformation of consciousness and nature.
- E. Man in the masses has always rejected the inward change
- F. Spirituality cannot change life by non-spiritual political, social, mechanical methods
 - The old ills return in new form
 - Appearances are altered, but man remains ignorant mental being
- G. Only a spiritual change can make a real difference
- H. Till now Nature's evolution of the spiritual man has been in the **human mental being**
- I. Spiritual change has been mainly to look beyond life and focused on the individual rather than the human collective

14. What then is spiritual evolution?

- A. Mind, reason or even spiritualized mind cannot transform the character of human life
- B. Supramental unification alone can harmonize and integrate these diversities, not mind
- C. First it must be established in the individual by the ascent to Supermind and its descent in us to transform our Nature.
- D. Individual must change his mind and life to be in conformity with the spirit

15. Mind sees structure – Spirit is infinite

- A. What determines the things that did not occur?
 - The dog that did not bark
 - The books that did not fall off the shelf
 - The people we did not meet
- B. Holmes vs Sambu
- C. Detective Sambu
- D. His life defies linear logic of mental causality

16. Levels of causality

- A. Surface conscious behavior and intention – Jane, Wickham, Sherlock
- B. Subconscious/ subliminal life response – tolerable, mistress of Pemberly, Mr. Bennet's decision
- C. Social determinism – French Revolution
- D. Thadasthu – the will of Nature
- E. Spiritual evolution is beyond these -- – supermind is the determinate
- F. Supreme Will – infinite manifestation

17. Spiritual Evolution

- A. Individual soul evolves from grade to grade through rebirth
- B. Spirit is something other than and greater than mind and its conceptions
 - This is evident only when it is able to separate itself as inner silent witness –
 - purusha – the self or spirit in Nature
 - Soul looking at Nature
- C. Self-discovery can go further to
 - We can become aware of Self – spiritual substance of our being exceeding soul individuality
 - Spreading in universality
 - Extending into transcendence
- D. Spiritual liberation is the decisive step in spiritual evolution in Nature
 - Then the true character of evolution becomes evident

- Pressure of spirit or self for liberation of psychic from ego, mind and surface ignorance
- E. But it is not the final stage
 - It is spiritualization of mind, but no complete change
 - Inspiration of a greater Self
 - Command of the Ruler of all being
 - Obedience to the Psychic entity's intimations
- F. Supramental ¹¹⁰¹⁹
 - A spiritual consciousness is other than the mental and surface personality
 - Knowledge of itself by identity
 - Brings down a supramental energy and truth consciousness in life and body
- G. Destiny of humanity

18. Triple Transformation

- A. Evolution of consciousness from physical to vital to mental to supramental planes
- B. Psychic transformation
 - Shift from surface ego and mind to psychic in the subliminal
 - Conversion of our whole nature into soul-instrumentation
- C. Spiritual transformation
 - Discovery of the inner divine, the cosmic divine and the transcendent Divine
 - Descent of Light, Knowledge, Power, Force, Purity, Bliss into our whole being
- D. Spirituality helps illumine the inner being and help mind communicate with what is higher than itself

19. Spiritual Faculties and Practices

- A. Aspiration
- B. Prayer
- C. Constant remembrance
- D. Calling Mother – mantra
- E. Rejection
- F. Non-reaction

- G. Consecration
- H. Non-initiative
- I. Surrender

20. Consecration

- A. All our acts are society-oriented, satisfaction-oriented, habit-managed
- B. Consecration means doing an act for the glory of the Divine and with the divine as the center of reference
- C. Consecration is to recast our entire life to place God as the center of reference
- D. Prayer is the human urge that links him with the Divine in the hour of need.
- E. Consecration is a conscious offering of all we are to the Divine intention
- F. To give ourselves, our lives, all we have and all we are and all we do to Her
- G. Decision to consecrate is the decision to Let the divine take hold of our acts
- H. To transform our acts, thoughts, feelings and make them sacred
- I. To make every action and occasion an opportunity to discover Mother
- J. To make self-giving, self-discovery and surrender the real aim of life
- K. Consecration reveals inner outer correspondences
- L. Consecration makes life respond
- M. **Consecration completes what Aspiration initiates and leads to surrender which is communion**