

Bk 2 Chapter 18 Evolutionary Process -- Ascent & Integration

Process of evolution in the ignorance

- Foundation
- Ascent
- Integration

Three Stages in the Process

- Inconscience
- Ignorance
- Knowledge

Interaction between substance & evolving powers

- Emerging powers are modified by the nature and law of the basic substance
- Emerging powers modify the basic substance by its own nature and law

Evolution of Life in Matter

- Matter limits the expression of Life
 - Material life is mortal – death-bound
 - Material life acts in and through physical body
- Life elevates and integrates Matter
 - Life makes Matter mobile
 - Living Matter grows
 - Living Matter reproduces itself
 - Living Matter can assimilate other substance
 - Life organizes Matter to create living substances

Evolution of Mind in Matter

- Matter limits the expression of Mind
 - Mind is rooted in Inconscience & veiled by Ignorance
- Mind elevates Matter
 - Mind converts inconscient Matter into conscious Matter
 - Mind enables Matter to sense and know
 - Mind organizes the human brain
 - Matter creates new forms & new property of substance – plastic
 - Mind imposes organization on Matter -- silicon chip
 - Mind directs material energy as force – technology
 - Mental consciousness acts on Matter – water crystals
 - Mind exercises mastery over Matter – Morris Goodman

Mind Elevates Life

- Plants responds to human emotion, music
- Animals respond to human contact
- Mind can sublimate vital desires
- Mind can delay aging & death

Neither Mind nor Life are the
original creative or evolutionary Power

Original Creative Power

- Inconscient material Energy cannot create Life & Mind
- Life & Mind cannot emerge pure and free in Matter
- Mind and Life are only instrumental partial powers

- Original power is a Supramental Consciousness-Force
- Only evolution of Supermind has the power for entire transformation of Inconscience and Ignorance

Gradation of Evolving Forms

- Material forms and forces
- Vegetable life
- Animal and half-animal man
- Developed mental human beings
- Spiritual beings

Continuity of Evolution

- Science observes gaps between stages in evolution of forms
- The evolution in consciousness is continuous
- Gaps or furrows between the levels prevent a fall back
- Each successive level takes up and includes the former
- The past was a slow, unconscious evolution
- The present mental evolution is slowly becoming conscious
- Future will be more rapid, conscious evolution of spiritual being

Gradation of Evolving Consciousness

- **Minerals** – metal is fixed in the unconscious – capable of reactions
- **Plants** – sub-mental sense-vibration
- **Animals** – mentally conscious vital mind -- awakened sense-mind, emotion & practical intelligence
- **Human** – intellect capable of reflection, ideas, invention, religious & ethical thought, feeling

Ascent & Descent

- Ascent does not abandon the lower grades
- Ascent is followed by descent
- Involved Superconscious & Inconscious move toward each other
- Aspiration & Grace
- Complementary movements

Consciousness in Matter & Plant

- Life, mind and Supermind are present and at work in the atom but subconscious – The Universal Inhabitant
- The outer form is lost in the physical action, oblivious of what the governing consciousness is doing – somnambulists atom/electron
- Plant is in state of sleep with nervous dreams
 - Vitally responsive though not mentally aware
 - It turns physical contacts into life values which Matter cannot do – converts sun for photosynthesis

Consciousness in Animals

- Animal is mentally aware of its own existence and of others
- It puts forth and receives a higher range of contacts
 - Language, Collaboration, Threats. Play
- It can sense body, life and also mind
- It has conscious sensations, memories, impulses, emotions, mental associations, feeling, thought and will
- It has practical intelligence -- capable of cunning, strategy, planning, invention and adaptation
- The animal prepares human intelligence
- Mind in animal is the unskilled primitive artisan

Human Consciousness

- Heightening of force of conscious existence
 - Transition from vital mind to thinking mind
 - Higher powers of observation, invention, imagination and artistic creation
 - Co-ordinating & interpreting reason
 - Self-detaching intelligence
- Widening range of consciousness in space & time
 - It embraces past and future
 - From local to global
- Mind takes up lower grade and gives intelligent values to their actions/reactions
 - Gives mental values to physical functions – health, nutrition,
 - Gives social and psychological significance -- eating, clothing
- Mind in man is the skilled craftsman and master

Downward gaze of human mind

- The highest developed stage today is the human mind
- Mind takes up the lower parts of life by downward gaze
- Twin power of knowledge and will
- Man integrates the lower for greater delight of existence
- He accepts the lower on the condition that the lower admit the higher values
- True meaning of ethics, discipline is to purify and prepare the vital-physical-mental instruments
- Each ascent refines, subtilizes and elevates the lower intensity and acquires control over it -- culture
- Man sensitively mentalizes the lower experiences

Upward & Inward Turn of Consciousness

- Animal is satisfied – not consciously seeking to rise
- Man is capable of conscious choice to improve
- He turns gaze upward towards what is above him and inward towards what is occult within him
- Man's double nature
 - Nature -- not entirely slave of executive Force
 - Soul -- also a conscious developing soul seeking mastery
- Man is too involved in Nature to be fully free and master
 - He feels the spirit within him aspiring for greater heights
- Both individual & the race are compelled by Nature to seek self-transcendence by conscious evolution₁₇

THREE LEVELS OF MIND

Physical Mental

- Mind itself is a series of sub-planes
- Physical mental plane is the lowest level
- It depends for evidence of fact and sense of reality on the physical brain, sense organs and sense-mind
 - Attaches more importance to objective things, and outer life
 - money, property, status, society,
 - Gives Little importance to subjective, inner existence
- Vital part of physical man is preoccupied with sensations, desires, hopes, feelings, satisfactions dependent on external things
- Mental part of physical man is preoccupied by customary, traditional, practical, objective, and respects things for their physical utility
 - Mental elements are not fully real or valued

Vital Mental

- Above physical mind is an intelligence of the dynamic, vital, nervous life-mind
- It concretely senses and contacts the things of the life-world
- It attaches importance to satisfaction & fulfilment of the vital nature
 - Ambition, power, strong character, love, passion and adventure
- Vital-mentality is supported by secret subliminal vital being
- Vital man is man of desire, sensation, force, action, passion, emotion, dynamism
- Nature's first impetus toward enlargement of being
- Mental life of vital man is often enslaved to desires & passions
- He can become the mental adventurer
- The vital mind is kinetic -- a great force in evolutionary Nature

Mind Plane

- The mind-plane is of pure thought & intelligence
 - Philosopher, thinker, scientist, intellectual creator, the man of the idea, the man of the written or spoken word, the idealist and dreamer are highest summit
- Mental man's vital-physical existence is controlled & subjected by the thinking will and intelligence
- Mental man cannot transform his nature, but he can control and harmonize it

Highest Mental Stage

- The subliminal mind is behind the mind of pure intelligence
 - It is open to the action of a world of mental forces
 - It senses directly all the things of the mind plane
 - It feels action of ideative influences we cannot experience
 - These truths demand to be realized in earth nature – freedom
- To live in mind plane is to be an intelligence, rather than life & body
 - This is our highest position short of spirituality
- Mental man – thinker, sage – self-formative, self-dominating mind
 - Highest normal summit of Nature's evolutionary formation
- The physical, vital and mental mind are the steps of Nature's evolution of mental being towards its self-exceeding

Social Ascent & Integration

Physical Mind

- Language
- Agriculture
- Property
- Physical relationships -- Family, Tribe & Caste
- Crafts

Vital Mind

- Social relationships – nations, religions
- Citizenship & Patriotism
- Social manners
- Law
- Status and prestige

Thinkin Mind

- Science & Technology
- Education
- Individual character
- Rationality
- Cultural Values

Man's self-exceeding

- The vital and mental man has had immense effect on earth-life
 - Acts only within the bounds of the already established evolutionary formula of the human being
 - Cannot change or transform the principle of consciousness or its characteristic operation
- True self-exceeding is possible
 - if we can live in the inner being and make it direct ruler of life or
 - station ourselves on the spiritual and intuitive planes of being and transmute our nature by their power

Double Opening beyond mental man

- To go beyond the mind, man has to
 - Go inwards and bring out the secret soul, the psyche, or
 - Ascend into planes of spiritual mind in direct contact with the infinite
- Soul, inner mind and vital behind surface mind can open to the occult spirit
- Rising to greater Ascent and larger Integration
- Spiritualizing all the powers of our nature
- The spiritual man is Nature's supreme supernormal effort of human creation

Spiritual Stage in Evolution

- Evolution until now has been by enlarging the bounds of surface Knowledge-Ignorance
- The spiritual man differs from the past process in two ways:
 - it is conducted by a **conscious effort** of the human mind,
 - it is not confined to a conscious progression of the **surface nature**
- The mental stage of evolutionary Nature attempted
 - To go inwards and discover the soul
 - To become united in consciousness with God and with all existence
 - This is the final aim of mental stage
 - Initial step toward radical transmutation of Ignorance into Knowledge
- Spiritual change begins by an influence of the inner being & higher spiritual mind
 - It is a first approach of mind to spirit on the surface
 - It can only lead to illumined mental idealism, religious mind, some devotion in heart and piety in conduct
 - It cannot make a radical change

Spirit can create a higher type of being in Nature

- Man can evolve by
 - Heightening of our force of conscious being
 - Widening of our consciousness and life, and
 - Transformation of the lower grades is possible
- Man must learn to
 - Live deeper within
 - Put inner forces into the outer instrumentation
 - Rise to dwell on higher and wider levels
 - Bring down higher powers on physical existence
- Each step leads to a more divine being, consciousness-force, and delight of existence
 - There could be an initial unfolding towards the divine life
- All religion, occult knowledge, yoga, psychic experience and discipline point to occult self-unfolding spirit.

The entire race must advance

- The constant upward effort has kept humanity alive and in front of creation so far
- **Where humanity chooses to conquer it can conquer**
 - Witness miracle of physical Science
- Still humanity doubts in spite of the constant evidence of life
- Man is restricted by & obeys the pull of matter and the physical intelligence
- Man has a great capacity for skeptical folly, indolence, intellectual and spiritual timidity and conservatism
- Man repels the new call – only a few individuals respond
- Only if the entire race advances can victory of Spirit be secure
- Otherwise, humanity may decline or remain fixed

Principle of the process of evolution

- Foundation
- Ascent and reversal of consciousness
- Integration of the whole nature from the greater height and wideness

Conscious Participation in Evolution

- **Foundation** – the new spiritual status above or the soul-status within will become the foundation
- **Ascent & Reversal** -- The concentration of the being will shift upwards and inwards
- **Integration** -- the old unconscious foundation will become conscious
- Integral consciousness is the basis for an harmonisation of life through transformation, unification, integration of the being & the nature

What keeps us down

- Valuing property -- Charlotte
- Valuing social approval and prestige -- Collins, Lady Catherine
- Competitiveness -- Caroline
- Sense of superiority -- Darcy
- Sarcasm -- Bennet

SATISFACTION

How do we move inside?

- Non-reaction -- equality
- Goodwill and Self-giving
- Service
- Humility
- Remembrance

ASPIRATION

How do we move up?

- Silence
- Faith
- Calling
- Calm & Peace
- Non-initiative
- Non-action

Consecration