

## Chapter 26: Ascending Series of Substance

### 1. Essential Framework of LD

#### A. Starting from the comprehensive integrality of Supermind

1. Ultimate Reality is the Absolute
  - It is a multidimensional Infinity
  - Unity, Identity, Freedom are its secrets
2. That reality is an infinite Oneness
3. The dynamic movement of this Reality is from unity to multiplicity and back again – an infinitely variable Oneness
4. Atma, Purusha, Iswara are three poises of that reality
5. The transcendent, universal and individual are its three aspects
6. The entire cosmos is an expression of the quaternity above
  - The four above manifest as the four below
7. Spirit and Matter are its two poles of expression
8. Involution and Evolution are its grand movements
9. There is a pressure from below for the hidden principles to emerge and from above for the unmanifest to manifest

#### B. Starting from the Ignorance

1. We start at the other end in the ignorance
2. All is divided – lost in multiplicity, unconscious of oneness
3. Infinite and finite appear as contradictions
4. God, universe and individual are totally different and separate
5. Spirit and Cosmos seem to be mutually exclusive
6. The cosmos seems to have no purpose and no direction
7. Either God is an illusion or world is an illusion

#### C. What is the solution?

1. How to bridge the gulf of Ignorance that prevents us from knowing and living the Divine Truth?
2. The solution is to Go Within
3. Starting from divided mind, if we try to know reality, we can only go to moksa
  - A dividing instrument can only achieve a dividing goal
4. Go within from the divided surface to the psychic depths

- The psychic can reach the universal and know the transcendent
  - Move from the center of division to a center of integration
5. There the individual can reunite the three aspects
  6. There Superconscient and Subconscient can be reunited in integral consciousness
  7. Release the hidden powers from within the lower principles by evolution of consciousness and substance to Supermind
  8. Invoke the descent of the hidden powers of supramental consciousness and substance from above to descent and transform the lower for Divine Life

## 2. The Problem of Divine Life

HUMAN LIFE IN A MATERIAL BODY	DIVINE LIFE MEANS
Unconscious and ignorant	A life that is fully conscious and knows all
Divided from all	We feel our oneness with all others
Subject to the forces of external world and therefore extremely limited in its power	A life with the power to accomplish anything
Subject to pain and suffering	A life of delight free from pain, suffering, limitation of any kind
Death of body is inevitable	A bodily life which is immortal

### A. Divine Life is not possible

1. If we are limited by the characteristics of the material body
2. Unless we can alter the nature of material substance or acquire a different type of body
3. Divine Life is not possible if matter and spirit are truly contradictions
4. Chapter 24 says Matter is a form of Sachchidananda
5. In this chapter Sri Aurobindo tells us there is an ascending series of substance ranging from Matter to Spirit

## 3. Central message of Chapter 26

- A. Matter and Spirit are two forms of one energy, one substance
- B. There is only one substance which is the pure Existent
- C. Substance is consciousness experiencing itself as object
- D. As the consciousness varies, so does the substance
- E. Substance takes on multiple expressions from Matter to Spirit

- F. Because they are various expressions of one Existence, Matter can be transformed into Spirit or rather Spirit can fully express itself in Matter
- G. Through involution, the higher four principles have become and express in the lower, but are concealed behind the veil
- H. Through evolution, the higher principles can each express in the terms of the lower as Life now energizes in inert Matter and Mind expresses ignorantly in Life and impotently in Matter.
- I. Next Supermind must express in Mind, then in Life and then finally in Matter as Supramental Being which is the basis for Divine Life.

#### 4. **What are the Characteristics of Material Substance?**

- A. Gross
- B. Solidity and tangibility
- C. Impenetrable
- D. Resists change
- E. Fixed and rigid
- F. Unconscious or Inconscient energy
- G. Inert – helplessly subject to external forces
- H. Material principle Symbolized in Veda by Earth
- I. Associated with the sense of Touch
  - 1. Other physical senses based on series of more and more subtle and indirect contacts
- J. We judge the reality of substance by these characteristics
  - 1. It was so real I could feel it
  - 2. I saw it with my own eyes (Eliza ‘saw’ Wickham’s goodness)
  - 3. I was so close I could smell and taste it

#### 5. **Why was Matter created?**

- A. Essential object for creation of Matter
  - 1. Why do the poet, painter and sculptor create?
    - To give concrete expression to their inner inspiration of love, vision of beauty, emotions of joy, aspirations for freedom

- Why did Shah Jahan build the Taj?
2. Why did Jane Austen write P&P?
    - To give form to her inspiration
    - To express her creative powers
    - For the sheer joy of creative expression
    - Why do we enjoy seeing it as a film?
  3. Formless Spirit seeks to manifest itself in form
- B. The artist needs materials from which to create**
1. The poet uses words
  2. The sculptor stone
  3. The musician sound
  4. The Spirit uses Matter, Life and Mind as the materials for its self-expression
- C. How to manifest what is formless, shapeless and evanescent?**
1. Mind needs durable, firmly seizable images on which it can rest and base itself
    - Mind depends on words and concepts with a fixed meaning
    - When I say I am pleased, cheerful, hesitant, fearful, impatient, tired, irritated, angry, excited, apprehensive, anxious, happy, delighted, joyous, or ecstatic, you know what I mean because these words have a fixed meaning for all of us
    - Austen starts and builds her story with a two very simple ideas
      - Five unmarried daughters
      - A rich man in need of a wife
  2. Life needs relative surety of permanence of form
    - Life is built on stable relationships
    - He is my neighbor, landlord, brother, husband, father, friend, student, employer, customer, employee, lender, borrower, supplier, benefactor, teacher, guru
    - The first thing Jane Austen has to do is explain to us the life relationship between the characters in the story
- D. Matter is last stage in cosmic progression from pure substance as spirit to form**
1. Form in its utmost development of concentration, resistance, durably gross image, impenetrability
  2. It is the culminating point of distinction, separation, division.
    - This is Darcy's property, not Wickham's
    - This is Eliza's family
  3. Matter is the formula accomplished divisibility
  4. This is the intention and character of the universe

5. Matter is the final lowest rung in the ladder of creation

## 6. Ascending series

### A. Even Matter takes various forms

1. Ice, water and vapor
2. Physical substance has gross and subtle forms
3. Five elements of Sankhya – ether, air, fire, water and earth

### B. Subtler forms of material substance are less gross than earth principle

1. Fire, Air and Ether
2. What lies behind the most subtle material substance or energy is not a void or nihil – there is no such thing
3. It is that which is beyond the grasp of our mind and senses

### C. Matter & material Force are the last result of pure Spiritual Substance and pure Force

1. In Spirit, consciousness is luminously self-aware and self-possessing
2. In Matter, consciousness seems to be absent and there is no power for possession

### D. Subtler higher planes of substance beyond the physical

1. There is an infinite gradation between two poles
2. The ascent is from gross substance to pure spirit substance

E. FROM	F. TOWARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Durability of form</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flexibility of substance and force</li><li>• Eternity of essence</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impenetrability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interfusion</li><li>• Power of interchange</li><li>• Power of assimilation</li><li>• Variation</li><li>• Transmutation and unification</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Persistent separation and resistance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Infinity</li><li>• Unity</li><li>• Indivisibility</li></ul>

## **7. What is substance?**

**A. Conscious Being experiencing itself as object**

**B. Formula of relation between sense and substance**

**C. Physical**

- 1. Our physical being is based on a fixed formula governing the relationship between sense and substance**
- 2. Death, division and mutual resistance and exclusion between masses are the formula of physical existence**
- 3. Narrow limited play of the sense within a small circle of the field, duration and power of the life workings**
  - life is not confined to body, to one life, to physical action**
- 4. Obscure, lame bounded movement of mind**
  - Darcy's tolerable – physical sense**
  - Eliza's Wickham is a good man**
  - You are the last man on earth**

**D. There are superior states, higher worlds**

- 1. This is not the only possible relation between sense and substance**
- 2. Their laws can be imposed on the physical for a divine life in the human body**

**E. Life and Mind represent different formulas**

- 1. Different substance**
- 2. Different and freer action of sense, life and mind**
- 3. Darcy sees her fine eyes – her liveliness, intelligence, goodness, courage, individuality are not physical**
- 4. He comes feels he cannot live without her**
- 5. He sees them with other senses**

**F. Occult experience confirms**

**G. Matter, Life, Mind and Supermind & the higher divine triplicity form an ascending series**

**H. Substance bases itself on each of these principles**

## 8. **The more subtle is the more powerful**

**A. Subtle has a greater permanence in its being, greater potentiality**

**B. The more subtle is more truly concrete**

**C. What is real?**

1. Is fact more real than thought or intention?
2. We see the power of faith, aspiration, decision to alter fact
  - Bill Clinton's decision
  - Mrs. Bennet's aspiration
  - Wickham's aspiration to be Darcy's in-law
  - Darcy decided not to be any longer the last man
3. All idealism is ultimately fulfilled
  - Woman's freedom, abolition of slavery and colonialism
  - Sri Aurobindo's dream of Indian freedom
  - French Revolution – a yogi in Himalayas dreams of freedom
  - Man on the moon in 10 years
  - Steve Jobs – i-Pod, i-Phone, i-Pad, Apple Store

**D. Grades of 'reality'**

1. Physical believes in fact
2. Vital believes and pursues conscious desire
3. Mind believes its capacity to formulate and achieve
4. What is more real to you – the present fact or your aspirations?
5. Looking back, what did you believe you would achieve?
6. Did anything happen that went beyond your expectations?

**E. The more subtle the more powerful**

1. We give greater credence to the existence of what is gross
2. But the things we value most are utterly nebulous and intangible
  - love, joy, freedom, honor, respect, Darcy's prestige, power, Eliza's individuality
3. Power of idea - John Lasseter
  - Organization is intangible
    - But it is more powerful than money
  - Hotmail
  - Pen is mightier than the sword
  - Yogi dreams of Freedom
  - Uttarapara Speech – most dangerous man in India

4. Values
  - Honesty and reliability are more powerful than money – problem of the lender
5. A prayer
6. Mantra

#### F. Grades of substance

1. Mud pie and plum pudding
2. Satisfaction, security, belonging, possession
  - Charlotte
3. Desire, fear, urge, impulse, attraction
  - Eliza's view of Wickham
4. Affection and Goodwill
  - Eliza for Jane, Charlotte
5. Idea, ideal, value
  - Mr. Bennet
6. Love, joy, inspiration
  - Darcy's tolerable ...

### 9. Formula for Material World is not inevitable

#### A. Material world is founded on formula of material substance

1. Sense, Life and Thought are based, limited, obey and subject to conditions of the Earth Power
2. Sense works through physical instruments
3. Life works through physical nerve-system and vital organs
4. Mind builds on corporeal basis through material instruments

#### B. No necessity for this limitation of sense, life and mind

1. Physical sense organs are not the creators of sense
  - They are instruments of cosmic sense
2. Nervous system and vital organs are not the creators of life's action and reaction
  - They are instruments of cosmic Life-force
3. Brain is not the creator of thought, but
  - They are instrument of cosmic Mind
  - Like a TV receiver

#### C. The necessity is teleological, not absolute

1. It is the result of a divine cosmic Will in material universe



2. Its object is to establish a material formula and law of Conscious-Force
3. It creates physical images of Conscious-Being to serve as initial determining fact of the world in which we live
4. A constructive principle necessitated by evolutionary intention of Spirit
5. Not a fundamental law of being

## 10. **Formula for Life Plane**

### A. Formula for material world is substantial force and form

1. A world based on Inconscient or Subconscient material energy and force

### B. Formula for vital world is life and conscious desire

1. A world based on conscious cosmic vital energy, a force of vital seeking and a force of Desire

### C. Here all forms, forces, movements, sense, thought is determined and dominated by the fact of Conscious-Life, not inconscient Matter

### D. Mind and Matter are subjected to, start from and based on Conscious Life and its laws, powers, capacities, limitations

### E. Mind acting there must take into account the original vital formula of desire force

## 11. **Formula for Mind Planes**

### A. The dominating and determining factor is Mind

### B. Substance is subtle and flexible

1. to assume shapes imposed by Mind,
2. to obey its operations,
3. to subordinate itself to its demands for self-expression

### C. Relation of sense and substance is more subtle and flexible

1. Not based on relation of physical organs with physical object
2. Based on Mind working on subtler substance

### D. Life here is a servant of dominant Mind

1. Mind's purpose and demands prevail

### E. Still higher, Supermind, Bliss, Conscious Power and pure Being replace Mind as the dominant principle

1. Ranges of cosmic existence referred in Vedas as worlds of illuminated divine existence and foundation of Immortality
2. Later region images them as Brahmaloaka, Goloka – supreme self-expression of the Being as Spirit in which soul liberated into perfection possesses infinity and beatitude of the eternal Godhead

## 12. Principle of ascending planes

- A. All cosmic existence is a complex harmony and does not end with limited range of consciousness of ordinary human mind and life is imprisoned
- B. Being, consciousness, force, substance descend and ascent on many-runged ladder
- C. Each step is a vaster self-extension, wider larger more joyous consciousness, more intense force, more rapid blissful capacity, more subtle plastic buoyant substance
- D. Matter, Life, Mind and Supermind represent increasingly subtle forms of substance

## 13. Being, Consciousness, Force, Substance

	<b>MATTER</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>MIND</b>	<b>SUPERMIND</b>
<b>Being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apparent Non-being</li> <li>• Infinitely divided</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pure Being</li> <li>• Infinite unity</li> </ul>
<b>Consciousness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconscient</li> <li>• Subconscient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conscious desire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conscious thought</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truth-Consciousness</li> </ul>
<b>Force</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical energy</li> <li>• Inert – incapacity to change</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-powerful creative Will</li> <li>• Intensity grows progressively</li> </ul>
<b>Substance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial form &amp; force</li> <li>• Gross</li> <li>• Rigidity &amp; Solidity</li> <li>• Fixed finite properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Energy</li> <li>• Increasingly Subtle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thought</li> <li>• Idea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infinite Plasticity</li> <li>• Infinite qualities &amp; properties</li> </ul>

## 14. Money

- A. As material substance – things -- land, gold, coins
  1. Cannot be created
  2. Can only be exchanged
  3. Cannot be in two places at once
  4. Rigid, inflexible, unconscious and unresponsive to consciousness
- B. As vital substance – credit, trade

1. Is created by effort and activity
2. Grows through interchange
3. Easily changes hands,
4. Flows like energy in response to conscious desire, multiplied by intensity of the energy "

**C. As mental substance –**

1. Can be created out of thin air by ideas – Tin Toy
2. Grows by giving

**D. As supramental substance**

1. Created by act of Conscious Will, faith, purity, aspiration, goodwill, truth, goodness

**15. Relevance of higher planes to our material possibilities**

**A. Each plane is not cut off and separate from the others**

**B. Each plane contains all the others implicit**

**C. Material world is result of all the others**

1. All higher planes are collapsed and contained within the lower
2. Every particle of Matter contains the others
3. The higher planes act covertly from behind a veil every moment and movement

**D. Matter is last word of the descent, first word of the ascent**

1. All the higher planes are capable of evolving out of it
2. Therefore material world does not begin and end with gases and chemical compounds, physical forces and movements'
3. It evolves life and mind and must eventually evolve Supermind

**E. Evolution comes by**

1. Pressing of supraphysical planes from above to manifest
2. Pressing from below to evolve

**16. Ascent is followed by Descent**

**A. Evolution does not merely end with an ascent to higher powers**

**B. The high principles descend in their characteristic power into the material being**

**C. All that is needed is a fit instrument**

**17. Subtle bodies**

- A. Body, life and consciousness are not limited to the possibilities of the gross body which our physical senses and mentality accept**
- B. This is not the whole even of our physical being**
- C. Vedanta – 5 sheaths of our substance**
  - 1. material, vital, mental, ideal, spiritual or beatific**
- D. They correspond to 3 bodies – gross, subtle, causal**
  - 1. The soul dwells in all of them simultaneously**
  - 2. We are conscious only of the material body**
  - 3. It is possible to become conscious of the others by an opening up of the veil between them and between our physical, psychical and ideal personalities**
  - 4. This is the cause of psychic and occult phenomena**
- E. Old Hathayoga and Tantriks reduced the higher human life and body to a science**
  - 1. Discovered 6 nervous centers of life in the dense body**
  - 2. They correspond to 6 centers of life and mind faculty in the subtle**
  - 3. They developed subtle physical exercises to open these centers**
  - 4. One result was control over physical life forces liberated from ordinary habits, so-called ‘laws’ of physical science**

## **18. Grades of Consciousness & Substance**

- A. Our substance does not end with the physical body**
- B. Vaster ranges of consciousness Subconscient and Superconscient behind our gross physical being**
- C. Subtler grades of substance with finer law and greater power support the denser body**
- D. By our entering the higher ranges of consciousness, these higher grades of substance can be made to substitute for the grossness and limitation of the physical life, impulses, habits**
  - 1. Already living matter is far different than inorganic matter**
- E. Therefore evolution is not limited to the ordinary conditions of animal birth, life and death, disease, disorder, subjection to vital cravings**
- F. A higher divine life is not a dream or chimera**

## 19. **Possibility of Divine Life**

- A. Ascent of consciousness from physical to supramental**
- B. Ascent in the grades of substance to the ideal or causal body proper to supramental being**
- C. Conquest of the lower principles by the Supermind and its liberation of them into a divine life and mentality**
- D. Evolution of untrammelled consciousness**
  - 1. Mind and sense not shut up in walls of physical ego or limited by poor knowledge of the physical sense orders**
  - 2. A life-power liberated from its mortal limitations, fit for a divine inhabitant**
  - 3. Conquest of death, an earthly immortality**
- E. Divine Bliss, Lord of Immortality, pours the win of Bliss, Soma onto the jars of mentalized living matter for the transformation of the being and nature.**

## 20. **Are you a materialist?**

- A. We are all confirmed materialists**
  - 1. We believe in power of fact and tradition**
  - 2. Lady Catherine believes in her wealth and social status**
  - 3. If you believe you are limited by your present conditions**
  - 4. Charlotte believes in her poverty, plain appearance, age and lack of dowry**
- B. Vitalists – believe in the power to fulfill their desires**
  - 1. Mrs. Bennet, Lydia**
- C. Mentality – believe in the power of mind's ideas, will and values**
  - 1. Darcy aspires, decides and strives to achieve**
  - 2. Mr. Bennet's honor**
- D. What is supramentalist?**
  - 1. You can become anything by sheer act of will – Real Idea**