

Chapter 22 Problem of Life – Speech Notes

- For Sri Aurobindo, the problem is how to make Life Divine
- For us the problem is how to accomplish and solve our problems.

1. Origin of life

A. Conscious Force of Sachchidananda is the source above

- ▶ It is infinite, absolute, and possessed of unity and bliss

B. Cosmic Process is the divided action of an undivided Force

C. Life differs in appearance from the undivided energy of infinite Existence

- ▶ The action of dividing Mind obscured by ignorance
- ▶ This gives rise to apparition of dualities

D. World takes on appearance of a clash of opposing truths

- ▶ a mass of problems and mysteries

E. Oppositions appear as a denial of Sachchidananda

F. They are only misrepresentations of the manifold Reality concealed behind the veil of mind

G. The hidden Truth and unity press for solution and their own unveiled manifestation in the world.

H. The divine ascent toward Divine Life starts in conditions that are its apparent opposite.

- ▶ Like Jane Austen creating conditions apparently opposite to romance
- ▶ There is hatred and he is the last man.

I. Solution to the problem of life

- ▶ Consciousness as Force created the world movement
- ▶ Consciousness as Force has to solve the problems it has created.

2. Three Stages of Life's emergence

A. First stage -- Material

- ▶ Submerged consciousness concealed in its own action and forms of force
- ▶ Mechanical force of inanimate nature

B. Second stage – Vital

- ▶ Driven by subconscious instinct
- ▶ Consciousness half-delivered out of imprisonment

- ▶ Vibrant with power, vital craving, satisfaction and repulsion
- ▶ Without light of knowledge of itself or world
- ▶ Mutual devouring and dissolution of the individual through struggle against the environment and others
- ▶ Death, desire, incapacity

C. Third stage – Mental

- ▶ Conscious mind delivered out of imprisonment in act and form of its own force
- ▶ Emerged consciousness tries to reflect fact of life
- ▶ New idea tries to become fact of life by modifying the internal and external existence
- ▶ Mind is not master of the act or form.
- ▶ Mind emerges as individual consciousness
- ▶ It is aware only of fragmentary movement of its own total activities.

3. The Human Aspiration

- A. Man is mental being, mental consciousness working as mental force
- B. We seek to know ourselves and the world to be master of them.
- C. We do not have complete knowledge of either ourselves or the world
- D. Therefore, we lack mastery over ourselves and our lives
- E. We are compelled by our nature and the Deity seated within us to strive always to find the conditions to satisfy this seeking.
- F. This is the secret will of Sachchidananda in the individual
- G. The human race cannot rest till it solves the problem
- H. Either man must become a divine humanity or give place to Superman.

4. Existence manifests Sachchidananda

- A. Existence manifests through Consciousness and Force
- B. Evolution cannot stop with mental man
- C. Mental consciousness is still emerging from Matter
- D. Mental idea seeks the whole Truth of existence in full light of consciousness and joyous fulfillment of power
- E. Mental idea trying to become fact of life has to pass through successive stages
 - ▶ Darcy passes through all the stages before he can finally marry Eliza
 - ▶ He has to deliver the whole Truth of existence out of its wrappings

- ▶ His attitude about himself, Eliza, Cheapside, Bennet's, Wickham, social elevation, responsibility for others, selfishness, goodness, truthfulness,

F. Our seeking is fulfilled as satisfied Delight of self-existence

- ▶ By finding the self contained in the seed of its own birth

G. Sachchidananda is realising Himself in form

- ▶ Working out its potentialities in Life -- the movement of Conscious-Force

H. Man will express the Transcendent in the universe

- ▶ It is attained by harmony and unification of the individual life and universal

5. As is the Consciousness, so is the Force

A. Four stages of Life each have their own poise of consciousness

6. 1st Poise of being in Sachchidananda

A. Consciousness is infinite, one, transcendent of acts and forms even while embracing, informing, organizing them

B. Force is infinite, one with its works, transcendent in power and self-knowledge.

C. Consciousness and Force are one

D. Force is consciousness working itself out without ceasing to be consciousness

E. Consciousness is luminous Force of being eternally aware of itself and its Delight

7. 2nd Poise of being in Material Nature

A. Consciousness is submerged, self-oblivious

- ▶ It is driven in the Force without seeming to know it

B. A monstrous movement of the Inert and Inconscient

- ▶ Unaware of what it contains, seeming mechanically

C. It seems to fulfill itself by accident, unhappy chance

D. This is the great denial of Sachchidananda by Himself

E. Utter separation of Force from Consciousness

F. All-governing Inconscient is only the mask

- ▶ Modern science mistakes the mask for the real cosmic Deity

G. In reality it faultlessly obeys divine law of Right and Truth concealed within its movement.

8. 3rd Poise of being in Mind and Life

- A. Consciousness is divided in itself
- B. It limits itself in different centers
- C. It is unaware of their real unity
- D. Each seeks its own fulfilment without knowing its relation to others
- E. Clash and intertwining of individual lives
- F. Things and forces appear in opposition to one another
 - ▶ Life comes to Mrs B as conflict and shock
 - ▶ Mrs. B sees all benefit to the Lucases as her loss.
- G. This is Mind and Life emerging out of the Denial
 - ▶ Bewildered, struggling without clear knowledge or instinct of solution
 - ▶ It creates 1001 problems

This is Life as we know it

- ▶ Collins is ignorant of what Eliza feels when he proposes
- ▶ Darcy is ignorant of what Eliza feels at Hunsford
- ▶ Eliza is attracted to Wickham

9. We only have power over that of which we are conscious

- A. You cannot master that which is not yourself
 - ▶ Mr. Bennet could not even find Wickham and Lydia
 - ▶ Mrs. Bennet thinks only of her own selfish interests
 - She is ready to 'sell' Eliza for the entail
 - She offends Lady Lucas
 - Therefore she is helpless to defend against Charlotte's marriage.
 - ▶ Eliza has no control over her vital feelings for Wickham
 - ▶ Darcy doesn't look from Eliza's point of view – therefore he fails
 - His proposal is divorced from reality and her point of view and her family, therefore it fails.
- B. Taking another person's point of view overcomes the divided consciousness that separates us
 - ▶ Charlotte is able to benefit from the relationship with Bennets, not vice versa.

C. We become master by taking responsibility

- ▶ **Mr. Bennet**
 - He is separate from the family, keeping aloof, therefore he is helpless.
 - In the library he has no control over Lydia because of the complete separation of consciousness and force
 - All his life acts helplessly waiting for life to help him
 - It never does.
 - At this impossible juncture, he decides to take consciousness responsibility
 - The whole force of life comes to his rescue.
- ▶ **Darcy becomes a master of the situation because he takes ownership over it**
 - When Darcy rejects Wickham, W is not under his control.
 - When he accepts Wickham, he gains mastery over him.

10. 4th Poise of being in Supermind

A. Consciousness is in possession of both unity and diversity

- ▶ **Unity governs the diversity**
- ▶ **Aware of the Law, Truth, Right of all and of the individual**
- ▶ **Harmonizes them in mutual unity**
- ▶ **One knowing itself as Many**
- ▶ **Many knowing themselves as the One**

B. Consciousness and Force share the same nature

- ▶ **Life consciously obeys law of Unity**
- ▶ **Life fulfils each thing in diversity**
- ▶ **Individuals live in themselves and in each other as one conscious Being in many souls**
- ▶ **One power of Consciousness in many minds**
- ▶ **One joy of Force in many lives**
- ▶ **One reality of Delight in many hearts and bodies.**

C. Real Life of the Real Man

- ▶ **Complete affirmation fulfilling all that was secretly contained in potentiality behind mask of denial**
- ▶ **The real life of the real Man towards which this partial life and unfulfilled manhood is striving**
- ▶ **The poet, prophet, seer, mystic, thinker, and great souls of humanity grasp glimpses of the true reality**

11. Three Difficulties of Life

The poise of Consciousness & Force gives rise to 3 Difficulties

12. 1st Difficulty: Psychological Ignorance

- A. Man is aware of only small part of his being
- B. We know only our surface mentality, life and physical
- C. We do not even know all that
- D. We are ignorant of subconscious and subliminal mind, life-impulses, corporeality
 - ▶ Darcy's tolerable
 - He does not know he responds to Eliza
 - He is aloof and at odds with the world around him
 - ▶ Darcy is eager not to encourage her at Netherfield when it is he who is attracted
 - ▶ Eliza goes to Netherfield – unaware she seeks Darcy
 - ▶ Eliza constantly thinks of him – in anger
 - ▶ Eliza continues to be infatuated with Wickham
 - Eliza is unconscious of the continued attachment to Wickham and is unable to control his action on her life or the same impulse in Lydia or Mrs. Bennet.

13. Consciousness is Power

- A. We cannot govern what he do not know
 - ▶ Darcy's tolerable
 - He is ignorant of his subconscious attraction
 - He is ignorant she is exactly what he most needs and wants
 - He is ignorant that their marriage is sanctioned by social evolution (Lord's will, Maya)
- B. We are governed by subconscious and subliminal even in our conscious existence
 - ▶ The rest is governed by its own consciousness which is subliminal
 - ▶ The surface and subliminal are one single movement
 - ▶ The larger & more powerful governs
 - ▶ In her anger Eliza is unaware she thinks only of Darcy and wants his love
 - ▶ Eliza aspires to rise like her mother – it is the social aspiration of social evolution
 - ▶ Eliza's attraction to Wickham persists and he becomes her brother-in-law and she pays him
 - ▶ Darcy is attracted to Eliza in spite of himself, because she has Mrs. Bennet's energy and strength!
- C. One can only have power over what we are identified with by self-awareness
 - ▶ Non-reaction is an act of becoming conscious and acquiring mastery over the situation
 - ▶ Consecration is act of becoming conscious

- ▶ Mr. Bennet's decision reflects a higher consciousness (values) which has total mastery in life
- ▶ We can become master of our being only by becoming aware of the Lord
- ▶ Jane Austen is the author (Conscious the lord) seated in the heart of all her characters
- ▶ She has the Lord's consciousness in each of them

14. Doer of Works

A. Even the wise are compelled to follow their Nature

- ▶ Man thinks he has free will
- ▶ Nature determines man's works
 - Darcy is attracted to her in spite of his better judgment
- ▶ Our very self-mastery and self-direction are only instruments of what seems Inconscient within us.
 - Darcy works out social evolution

B. It is always the Lord who determines

- ▶ All existences turns as upon a machine through Maya by Lord seated in the heart of all existences
- ▶ Nature is the creative force of consciousness of Being within us
- ▶ Maya is masked by His inverse movement and apparent denial
- ▶ Lower Maya works out what is known and willed in higher Nature
 - Lydia's elopement
 - Lydia is moved by force of social evolution
 - She serves the family by seeking to destroy it
 - Lady Catherine
 - She serves social evolution by her opposition and attack
 - In order for her family to condescend to inter-marriage, Darcy's pride and LCs must be exposed and humiliated
 - Humiliation of the lower or old consciousness is victory for the higher or new.
 - Darcy gets the necessary humiliation at Hunsford
 - LC gets it by her utter failure at Longbourn.

C. What works in the Denial seeks to become the Affirmation

- ▶ Conscious knowledge is in the higher, Divine Maya, of what works in the subconscious by lower Maya
- ▶ Illusion Power which creates appearance is governed by Truth-Power which knows the truth behind appearances

D. Nothing can be done without the Lord's will and soul's sanction

- ▶ Man is attracted to the woman who is his true inner complement for spiritual progress, not his outer wife

- ▶ **Why Mr. B sends Lydia to Brighton?**
 - Mr. Bennet would rather fail than see Mrs. B succeed
 - What he really wants is Mrs Bennet's defeat which is more important to him than Lydia's respectability or marriage of the children.
 - He gives her enough rope to hang herself and she is relegated to the background for the rest of the story
 - Consciously he thinks he is rational
 - In reality he is lazy and irresponsible
 - He wants to get rid of her – so she elopes
 - He believes in full freedom, so she takes it
 - Mr. Bennet's subconscious urge is contrary to social evolution, so ultimately Lydia is saved in spite of his action. Mrs. Bennet is eliminated by her assertion, but the evolutionary principle of aspiration she embodies is fulfilled.
 - It is not victory for him or her but for social evolution (Lord in the heart)
- ▶ **Why Wickham elopes?**
 - Subconsciously he wants to destroy Darcy – he knows about Pemberley in the subliminal as he knew to single out Eliza in Meryton
 - Subconsciously he wants to relate to Darcy
 - Because Eliza has rejected him, he still wants to relate to her through Lydia – revenge for her rejection?

E. Man must become one in self-awareness with the Lord

- ▶ Partial, apparent Man becomes the perfect, real Man capable of entire self-awareness in full unity with the Self-existent, omniscient lord of cosmic evolution.
- ▶ This unity can be achieved only by going inward to where Lord is seated [psychic] and ascending into Supermind

15. Solving Problems

- A. Every problem we have can be understood in terms of our own subconscious beliefs – what we have faith in – MD, medicine – Dr Sanyal**
- B. Every problem can be solved by taking the Lord's point of view and saying "Thy Will be Done"**
- C. That is why praying for others success and prosperity is so powerful.**
- D. Humiliation, goodwill and gratitude blunt the ego**
- E. Ego is the enemy of our progress, the opposition to the Lord**
 - ▶ that which restricts our identification and our knowledge and therefore our power.

16. Money

A. The more we seek money, the more it evades us

- ▶ Therefore the more we submit, the more we fail
- ▶ Only when we discover our inner mastery, money comes to us.
- ▶ Man is meant to be master, not slave
- ▶ Do not identify with subservience to money
- ▶ as long as we depend on it, seek it, we affirm the very opposite of the truth.
- ▶ Mastery depends on Faith and consecration – not on possessiveness and subservience

B. Subconscious attitudes rules over conscious intention

- ▶ Subconscious fear of loans and expansion prevents growth
- ▶ Faith in money rather than work
- ▶ Unwillingness to give to others, prevents money from coming to us – until we learn others are ourselves.

C. Aspire for others to prosper

17. Second difficulty: universal ignorance

A. Man is separated from the universal in mind, life and body

- ▶ He does not know his fellow-creatures
- ▶ He forms a rough construction from inferences, theories, observations and sympathy
 - Darcy and Collins do not know how Eliza feels
 - Eliza does not know Wickham
 - Eliza does not understand Charlotte's motives for marriage
 - Darcy does not know Georgiana is capable of elopement
 - Darcy does not realize he must accept the whole of her family, does not know the threat of Wickham
 - Mrs and Mr. B do not know Lydia is capable of elopement
 - Darcy did not know Bingley and Jane were really in love
 - Mrs B and Lady Catherine underestimated Eliza
 - Darcy was prejudiced against Mr Gardiner because he was in business living in Cheapside

B. Knowledge can only come by conscious identity

- We know what we are only as far as we are consciously aware of it – rest is hidden
- We can only know that with which we become one in consciousness and only to that extent
- ▶ That's how Eliza knows Jane's heart
- ▶ Jane does not know Eliza is in love with Darcy because she is not identified with Eliza

C. Indirect knowledge is imperfect knowledge

- ▶ It enables us only to work out clumsily certain practical aims and insecure harmony of relations with others

D. Only a conscious unity can arrive at perfect relation

- ▶ Darcy did it with Eliza after elopement
- ▶ We must arrive at conscious unity with our fellow-beings
- ▶ Sympathy and understanding are insufficient
- ▶ They give only superficial knowledge

E. Conscious oneness comes from entering into the universal in which we are one with others

F. Supermind alone knows unity in diversity

- ▶ Fullness of universal exists consciously only in Supermind
- ▶ In our normal being the greater part of universal is subconscious and cannot be possessed
- ▶ Lower nature is bound to ego in all its activities
- ▶ Chained triply to the stake of differentiated individuality
 - Eliza's blind prejudice about Wickham and Darcy

18. Third difficulty: Division of Consciousness & Force

19. Division into Matter, Life & Mind

A. Each has its own law of working

B. Life is at war with body

- ▶ Vital imposes its desires, impulses, satisfactions and demands which could only be met by an immortal divine body
- ▶ Body is enslaved and in dumb revolt
 - Jane forced to ride in rain
 - It responds with inertia, laziness, illness

C. Physical does not learn from experience

- ▶ Mrs. Bennet says they all should have gone to Brighton
- ▶ Mrs. Gardiner could persuade Eliza, not Lydia who refuses to listen

D. Whatever physical knows, it cannot wait

- ▶ Charlotte wants physical security of marriage.
- ▶ Patience and faith are mental

E. Physical judges my superficial appearances

- ▶ Tolerable

F. Vital cares only for intensity and pleasant sensation

- ▶ Eliza wants vital romance
- ▶ Any man that handsome must be good

G. Whatever vital feels it is sure will be forever

- ▶ You are the last man I would ever marry
- ▶ My good opinion once lost is lost forever

H. Vital can never take another's point of view except those to whom it is attached

- ▶ Eliza's affection for Jane – she never considers that Caroline has a right to want Bingley for Georgiana

I. Mind is at war with body and vital

- ▶ Mind helps the Life against the Body
- ▶ Mind restrains the vital urges to protect the body
 - At Hunsford Darcy's outer character dominates over his inner aspiration of love
 - Mr. B is mental
 - Mrs. B is vital-physical
 - They do not have the same ways of working or understanding.
 - He wants to do what is right.
 - Mrs. Bennet wants to fulfil her desires.
- ▶ Mind seeks to turn life's energy to mind's own aims, joy and satisfaction of mind's activity
 - Steve Jobs carrot diet
- ▶ Life too is enslaved by Mind
- ▶ Vital is misused and revolts against ignorant tyrant mind seated above

J. Mind cannot resolve this war of the members

- ▶ Darcy's conflict over his attraction of Eliza
- ▶ The problem is insoluble because it is the aspiration of an immortal being in a mortal life and body
- ▶ Mind can only compromise, abandon the effort, submit by mortality, or renounce ascetically

K. True solution lies in Supermind where Immortality is the law.

20. Division between force of Nature and conscious Being

- A. Third difficulty also expresses as the fundamental division which is the original cause of this incapacity**
- B. Mind, vital and body are also divided, each against itself**

- ▶ Caroline likes Jane, but not for Bingley
- ▶ Mr. Bennet wants Jane's marriage, but not if it is a triumph for Mrs. B

C. Surface personality is divided from inner being

- ▶ As surface ego is divided into three parts, our individual inner being is also divided into three parts
- ▶ Mental, vital, physical being or Purusha
- ▶ Purusha is the inner consciousness which aspires to its own complete self-realization in outer life.
- ▶ It exceeds the surface formation of the moment
- ▶ Capacity of impulsive desire soul or vital is less than the vital conscious being or Purusha
 - Darcy's psychic love for Eliza is far greater than his dull surface heart.
 - Eliza's strength comes out only when challenged by Lady C
- ▶ Capacity of body is less than the physical Purusha
- ▶ Capacity of mind is less than the mental Purusha (intellectual and emotional soul)
- ▶ Wickham
 - His aspiration far exceeds his external capacity
 - His exposure to Pemberley raised his consciousness of possibilities but not his capacities of his nature, character. The conflict led him down a path of failure.

D. Inner being and surface nature are in conflict

- ▶ The Force which has taken its poise in the formation is pushed by its soul to evolve to transcend its limitations
- ▶ Mr Bennet
 - Like Purusha he is a detached witness and prakriti runs amuck until he takes responsibility for the family.
 - He rejects Lizzy's advice – unconscious of danger, physical laziness and vital preference overcome his mental senses
 - Rivalry with Mrs B – competition, wants Bingley to be a disappointment.
 - Mentally he knows he should call on Bingley, but he wants to oppose his wife
- ▶ As consciousness awakens they evolve into the corresponding aspects of the psychic integrating spirit and nature
- ▶ The intense evolutionary pressure drives the soul to set instinct against instinct, impulse against impulse, emotion against emotion, idea against idea
 - Eliza wants to warn Mr. Bennet about Wickham but does not want to expose Wickham
 - Mr. Bennet wants his daughters to marry, not his wife to triumph
- ▶ They struggle to adjust but never arrive at unity or harmony because each part is in conflict with the other

E. Solution lies in principle of unity in Supermind

- ▶ Conscious unity of all diversities
- ▶ Will and knowledge are equal and in perfect harmony
- ▶ Consciousness and Force arrive at their divine equation.

21. Man seeks Harmony and Perfection WITHIN HIMSELF

A. As man develops as a self-conscious thinking being, he seeks harmony in his parts of being

B. All problems of life are problems of harmony

- ▶ Harmony between the parts of our being
- ▶ Harmony between ourselves and others, our greater self
- ▶ Harmony between consciousness and force – inner aspiration and outer capacity
- ▶ Compromise is mental, harmony is supramental -- Charlotte compromised
- ▶ Darcy marrying Lizzy at Hunsford would have been a compromise on both sides

C. Harmony between his mind, life and body

D. Harmony between knowledge, will and emotion

- ▶ Eliza seeks to harmonize her parts towards Wickham
 - She knows he is a rogue
 - She feels like marrying him
 - She is attracted to him

E. Deity within is not satisfied with a working compromise

F. Divine seeks a perfect harmony combining integral development of all our potentialities.

- ▶ Anything less is an evasion of the problem – or at best a temporary solution

G. Perfect harmony demands mental, vital, physical perfection

- ▶ Where shall we find the principle and power of perfection?
- ▶ Not in Mind rooted in division and limitation
- ▶ Not in Life and body which are the energy and frame of dividing and limiting mind
- ▶ It is there is subconscious behind a veil of lower Maya
- ▶ It awaits in the superconscient separated by a veil of our self-ignorance
- ▶ We must seek it above

22. Man seeks Harmony and Perfection WITH THE WORLD

A. Man is aware of discord and ignorance governing his relations with the world

B. He seeks a principle of harmony, joy, peace and unity

- C. His mind strives for knowledge of others**
 - ▶ free from mutual ignorance and misunderstanding
 - ▶ Darcy comes to understand Eliza
- D. His will strives to feels one with the will of others**
 - ▶ Darcy gives up his pride
- E. His heart strives to embrace the emotions of others as its own**
 - ▶ Darcy identifies with her feelings and aspirations
- F. His life-force strives to accept and fulfill the energies of others as its own**
 - ▶ Darcy goes to London to do so
- G. His body strives to feel one from others**
 - ▶ Not a wall of imprisonment and defense against the world
 - ▶ He shares his physical wealth with Wickham
- H. Only then can life of man becomes spiritually and practically one with others and the individual recover his own universal self.**

23. Fourth Status of Life

- A. Supramental unity which transcends and fulfills love, mental illumination and vital urge**
- B. Human life founded on supramental realization of conscious unity with the One and with all in our being and in all humanity**
- C. This is the 4th status of life in its ascent toward the Godhead.**
- D. The three problems are reconciled only by rising to Supermind**
 - ▶ Mind, vital and physical subordinate to psychic
 - ▶ Self and other are reconciled
 - ▶ Consciousness and Force are one