

## The Author

For the past forty years, Karmayogi has been a sadhak of Sri Aurobindo's yoga and an ardent devotee of The Mother and The Master. His many books on Sri Aurobindo, The Mother and their yoga in English and Tamil, his daily column on Spirituality and Prosperity in The New Indian Express, and his monthly journal in Tamil provide practical guidance on how to apply spiritual principles for accomplishment in life. In 1970 Karmayogi founded the Mother's Service Society in Pondicherry, a recognized social science research institute, to promote the theoretical formulation and application of Sri Aurobindo's teachings in different fields of knowledge and life.

## The Book

Indian sages discovered the Infinite Brahman and devised various yogic disciplines to reach him. The main condition is to give up life. In a world where rationality is not yet the ruling force, Sri Aurobindo saw that Man can evolve into the next species, the Supramental Being, if 12 yogis attain the Supramental consciousness. In their absence, HE decided to achieve that goal by working in the subtle plane, left the body in 1950 and achieved it in 1956. The Divine Mother continued His work and reached further spiritual heights.

Sri Aurobindo added a new dimension to yoga: the Infinite Force above can descend into our finite life and flower as Spiritual Prosperity, which includes material abundance. Yoga is not for all, but the yogic force is available to all for progress in life. One who invokes this Force can witness his life endlessly expanding. What the West has achieved in the last 500 years using the power of Mind, Indians can achieve in a very short time if they know how to express the Spiritual Power in daily life.

As an introduction to their Integral Yoga, this book summarises 2000 pages of Sri Aurobindo's writings, offering theoretical explanations as well as the experiences of innumerable devotees. The last chapter suggests a Token Experiment. For Indians who have not given up their spiritual heritage and westernized their minds, this experiment will reveal the above spiritual Truth as an endless expansion in their lives. The essential condition is utter Truthfulness.

# **Spiritual Opulence**

**Karmayogi**

The Mother's Service Society  
5, Pudukai Sivam Street  
Venkatanagar Extn.  
Puducherry - 605 011

*First Edition*  
March 2008

\*\*\*\*

*Copyright © 2004 By*  
Karmayogi  
All Rights Reserved

\*\*\*\*

*Printed By*  
Cee Gee Graphics,  
Chennai - 600 006.

\*\*\*\*

*Price*  
Rs.150.00

## Table of Contents

	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>The Force that Descended in 1956</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Bhagavan Sri Aurobindo</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>The Divine Mother</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>The World Energies at Work</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Life Response</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Yoga in Domestic Life</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Significance of Time</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Theory of Creation – Science</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Sri Aurobindo’s Integral Yoga</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Token Experiment</b>	<b>148</b>
	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>165</b>
	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>173</b>

## Introduction

**Sri Aurobindo** worked for Indian Freedom in the field of politics between 1906 and 1910. His inner voice told Him that Indian Freedom was achieved and HE was meant for other work. **Indian Freedom arrived on His birthday.** When Mountbatten was asked why he chose August 15<sup>th</sup>, he answered that was the day on which Japan surrendered. Sri Aurobindo fought the World War in the subtle plane and that victory too came on His birthday. He prophesied that India would become the Guru of the World. For that to be achieved, I feel, India must become prosperous. That Prosperity can be more fully achieved in a shorter time if India uses her spiritual force.

- ★ Spirit is not rituals.
- ★ Spirit is the higher values of life such as Truth, honesty, organisation, loyalty, and integrity.

Spirit is developed in India more than in any other nation in the world. To express the Spirit in life will be to express these values which are almost absent in public life. If this understanding is true, is it feasible? This book argues it is. Think of agriculture a thousand years ago, even a hundred years ago. Almost everyone lived on land. Today in the West 5% or even 3% — in one country 2% — of the population lives on the land. In India 60% does so. Not only has agriculture been modernized in all countries, transport has undergone a sea change from horseback to supersonic planes. Communication too has undergone drastic changes. Which field of Life has not changed? But what about the field of life? Our mode of worship in India or elsewhere remains the same. **The values of life have undergone deterioration for the past two centuries.** Two hundred years ago foreign travelers testified that India was a truthful nation. No longer is this true. To progress in life we adopt modern technology,

but in life we go backwards, while the West that has immensely progressed, Sri Aurobindo says, discovered Brahman in Matter. We did so two thousand years ago and we did it in Spirit. Our advantage there is immense. But we are unaware of it, and we neglect it. When we turn spiritual, we grow ritualistic. Rituals will banish the Spirit. One can ask whether our forefathers resorted to rituals. Our forefathers had not discovered the Spirit in the rituals, but retained the Spirit they had discovered through rituals. Even in the period of Vedanta the *Rishis* who took to knowledge abandoned the rituals. Of course, rituals are powerful when performed by those who adhere to the basic conditions. The first condition is

**Absolute Truth must be utterly followed.**

There are hundreds of instances where these rituals are powerful. Such power achieves small results which can be attained by ordinary prayers. Even when their full powers express, they are the Powers of a force that is ruled by karma. The Spirit that we talk of is a Spirit that destroys karma. More than that, in the text I explain the Force that descended in 1956. It is that Force which is available to those who want to invoke the Spirit. **That Spirit expressed in life releases the infinite from the finite which will usher us into Spiritual Opulence.** This book is an invitation to avail of that Force in life and enjoy luck in life. We are not aware of its existence on earth or its Presence in the earth's atmosphere. It is like people living away from the cities not knowing the existence of modern products, living like the Amish who by choice refuse modern equipments. At best we can say it is an unfortunate misfortune.

The book opens explaining how and when that Force descended, goes on to give short biographical sketches of The Mother and Sri Aurobindo as they lived on earth. Actuated by a desire to present this Force or its action concretely, I suggest an experiment in one's own life where one can witness this infinite expansion. Before doing so I offer at various places events that

were presided over by this Force where such expansion was witnessed.

- ★ Rural people saw their income expand over a thousand times.
- ★ Silent will expanded Rs. 400 monthly salary to 400 crore assets.
- ★ Projects where 24 fold increase, 365 times expansion are given in some detail.

A distant version of this Force applied to education produced in a 15 year child the academic maturity of a professor of ten years standing. Her parents have a broad mental outlook on affairs. They decided to teach the daughter at home. Below are patches from a letter of hers,

“Dear Bob Uncle,

I was recently doing Aristotle's *Poetics* with my mother in relation to my literature studies and as I could not remember his examples, I had to draw parallels in books I had read... One of my first observations on fantasy:

Most authors base their books on ancient cultures. For example, Tsuranuanni, the planet on the other side of the rift of Raymond Feist's Midkemia, is quite clearly ancient Japan. The Empire Trilogy explores the interaction of West and East. Arrakis of Frank Herbert's books is almost the same, mixing in the West as the Empire... Paul is a mixture of Fremmen and Atreides; Duncan Idaho is the compound of Tleilaxu and Atreides, the essential 'civilized man.' Paul forces the Atreides culture into the Fremmen, creating a dangerous mixture of fanaticism and sophistication. Which is probably why his successor is Leto II, nearly immortal, to balance the factors. This is also a common rule in history — if one king rapidly expands his empire, as a warrior, the next will essentially be a gifted administrator. In cases where this has not happened, the kingdom has collapsed. Then there are two probabilities — the grandson of the warrior

will reinstate it, or it will decline into oblivion.” \*

The best chapter in this book is the chapter on Yoga where I have tried to present the basic yogic philosophy in terms of life events. The reader cannot escape its yogic flourishes. I will feel gratified if the reader enjoys that chapter, though I suggest in the text, it is a chapter to be skipped. The chapter on Token Experiment stands on its own. It is self-explanatory. **But a fuller understanding of the chapter on yoga will make the experiment more meaningful.** A patient plodding through the chapter on yoga will bring its own latent reward. In doing the experiment,

- ★ To prepare one’s mind is more important than actually doing the work.
- ★ In the actual doing of the experiment, the inner attitude with which it is done is more important than the physical doing of it.
- ★ When the results come, I suggest that more than the results, the Process is important. One should learn the Process.
- ★ More than learning the Process, there is its mystery. The chapter explains how to unravel the mystery and how to handle the subtle secret of the Mystery.
- ★ To patiently learn all of them entitles one to LUCK.

The chapter on India talks about the rare privilege of being an Indian. It was no privilege to be an Indian in 1900 or in 1940. **It certainly is a personal spiritual privilege to be born in India, carrying the ancient light of the Rishis in one’s body and expressing it in daily life as Prosperity, personal and national.**

Sri Aurobindo speaks of the Indian aristocracy. It is not an aristocracy of birth or wealth or intellect or enterprise. It is an aristocracy of character, honour and of action. It is one of self-sacrifice, courage and high aspiration. Sri Aurobindo describes the Indian not by caste or birth. It is to have a body made in the womb of an Indian mother, a heart that can feel for

India, a brain that can plan for Indian greatness. To him the *Sannyasi* is sacred. The venerable Brahmin prostrated before the *Sannyasi* on the dust of the street. Honour was the watchword. To live for one’s honour was the ideal of the *Kshatriya*. Leonine courage was his. Self-sacrifice for kith and kin was the breath of the *Vaisya*. The *Sudra* offered himself in selfless service of dedication.

The Indian aristocracy is an aristocracy of character, honour, leonine courage, and high water mark of self-sacrifice.

Today a good part of the population is steeped in poverty. As long as poverty is there, ignorance will go with it and disease. There can be no self-respect or courage for one buried in poverty. The Tata Consultancy Services have fashioned a software that can teach an illiterate adult reading in 40 hours. They say it gives him a useful vocabulary with which he can read newspapers. Commissioned into service, it can raise the literacy rate of India considerably. Now that computer has come into our lives, **appropriate software to expedite the rate of learning at all levels – primary, secondary and higher educational levels – can be fashioned.** Any Indian who raises his educational qualifications on his own is doing a patriotic duty to Mother India. India needs entrepreneurs to emerge out of poverty. One needs economic courage to train oneself as an entrepreneur. Such a training given across the nation will release a revolution that will wipe off poverty.

The world has taken notice of India’s brainpower. The chairman of Unilever has recently spoken of it. He says even the curse of population can be converted into an asset if the Indian knows how to use this brainpower. **The truth is the value of India is her Spiritual Power.** This book tries to show how we the Indians can use our spiritual Power to emerge quickly out of poverty. To emerge out of poverty is the Patriotism of this period in India. This BOOK endeavours to show how it is possible.

People who have lived in U.K. or USA know what they went

\* The complete letter is given in the Appendix.

through to make their lives what they are today. It is not as if there is a *sloka* or FORMULA that can raise India or an individual Indian to that status. One who worked in World Bank on hearing our dream that India should equal USA said in 1985, “Do you really mean it?” He never granted our idea any seriousness. After 18 years he is now drawing up similar reports, encouraged by changes in the country. Still our aims and his are still poles apart. Today there is one publication that says India can raise her per capita income in 2025 to that of USA now. While congratulating him warmly for his ideal, I cannot fully share his approach.

- ★ The West has worked for a few hundred years to achieve this prosperity.
- ★ They did so by hard work, which Indians of 2004 cannot even dream of. Our ideal is light work or no work.
- ★ More than the physical work, their values of Truth, privately or publicly, far outstrips ours.
- ★ The nation as a whole thinks scientifically.
- ★ Their social, psychological disciplines are so high that we cannot fully comprehend their values.

If this is so, a comparable position of ours will be dismal even in a survey of it.

- ★ One third of India has not enough food. There is no question of thinking.
- ★ One third of India is illiterate.
- ★ Salaried employment is our goal, not entrepreneurship.
- ★ 1 dollar = Rs.45 graphically explains the distance to be traveled.
- ★ Corruption is rampant here.
- ★ Those nations are in the top of the list while we are at the bottom.

This being the case, how can we hope to be Prosperous and lead the world? Sri Aurobindo has said it. Are we in a position to make His dream come true? If so, on what basis does such a claim arise? The tortoise on the move wins over the sleeping

hare is the story. But this hare is running at top speed and our tortoise is still sleeping. My ideal or goal is based on some TRUTHS the world is not fully aware of. It is not a truth the world does not know, but that Truth is not the ruling idea today anywhere in the world. If it ever comes to life, India will be the last to wake up.

- ★ India is sleeping not because she is sleepy, but because of a wider scheme of Nature that she should wait till all others wake up.
- ★ The instrument we had a few thousand years ago, the Spirit, is thousand times more powerful than the latest instrument of the richest nation.
- ★ **We are poor, dull, and blind because that is the fashion in which our treasure should be preserved, as gold is buried in the forest and is covered by an anthill or thorny bushes.**
- ★ We may sleep, but that Spirit, “that which is awake in things that sleep” \* is awake all over the world. In India too, it is stirring in the subtle plane.
- ★ When the energies of that Spirit are linked to the life of today through an ORGANISATION, the transition in progress will resemble the speed of the rocket.
- ★ The crucial thing is that the cream of the nation should awaken to this possibility and fashion that critical organisation. Prior to that, the values by which that organisation should emerge should be espoused by the population. In the corrupt atmosphere of today, this possibility is a vanishing dream.
- ★ Otherwise, the population should awaken to this possibility and fashion that organisation themselves.
- ★ The cream can do so in a short time. The masses will take a long time, **but in either case it is a certainty.**
  - ◆ In the event of the elite failing, an infinitesimal

---

\* Upanishads

minority of a few hundred idealists doing it in their lives to a great perfection can usher it in almost as a miracle.

- ◆ *In any case, such a change can come about ONLY by utter truthfulness that is absolute.*
  - ◆ My own hope is India still has that aristocracy of Satyam.
  - ◆ I do see the distant signs of that splendour.
  - ◆ The majority may fail, the minority too may fail, but the underlying SPIRIT cannot fail. It accomplishes by Self-Conception, not depending upon externals.
  - ◆ The only question is through whom and how soon?
  - ◆ Are you willing to be the vehicle of Indian Spiritual Prosperity? If so, India will achieve in the short run.
- 

## I. The Force that Descended in 1956

---

### *Human helplessness*

There are occasions in life when Man is utterly helpless, has no one to rely on, and has nothing to resort to. **At such moments Man turns to God in despair. The response from God is immediate and total.** It appears to us as instantaneous miraculousness. A tourist while in a foreign country lost his purse and passport. Having exhausted all his efforts, he thought of the various centres of God he had visited in his travels. He tried the methods he had learnt or heard of at such places, but nothing worked. At last he recollected the Divine Mother's saying, "When you are helpless, call ME, I shall readily respond, because it is the best human moment". He called HER and his purse was restored. **Mother responds readily, as at that moment, Man is utterly naked and unfettered by any belief.** The human soul is in direct touch with the Divine Soul when it sheds the psychological beliefs it has acquired and withdraws from the mighty social support on which it has been nurtured. The greatest of forces is released when man is in direct touch with God. It is far more so since February 29, 1956.

God is constantly at work in our human world as well as in the upper hemisphere of creation, usually called the cosmos. Tradition has it that God tried several times to create a perfect universe but was not satisfied. Each time a pralaya – dissolution – rose and wiped out the creation. Our own world is the seventh attempt of God. God created the world for his lila. We do not know why. Sri Aurobindo explains why God created the world:

- ★ God, Sri Aurobindo says, created the world for Delight.
- ★ This world of delight has no pain in it at all.

- ★ God seeks that delight by Self-discovery.
- ★ God hid in Himself and has forgotten that he has hidden so.
- ★ To discover the hidden Self yields Supreme Delight.
- ★ God is in pursuit of that delight. It is His work.
- ★ To fulfil that work, HE created Ignorance.
- ★ That work is done in Time.
- ★ Such a work has its rhythm. It is a rhythm of cosmic work.
- ★ Aeons of God's work create an Hour of fruition.
- ★ At that Hour, what can be achieved in a thousand years can be accomplished at once. Sri Aurobindo says this is such an Hour of God.
- ★ In this Hour, He says, Man can evolve into Supramental Being and usher himself into the World of Delight, a world of Spiritual Opulence.

Sri Aurobindo came into our world to bring that Hour into human life. He brought the consciousness of that Hour into His own consciousness but could not do so in the consciousness of the earth. He withdrew in 1950, and worked in the subtle plane for that end. On February 29, 1956 that Force – the Supramental Force – descended into the earth's atmosphere. It is an evolutionary force of immense power. Mother called February 29<sup>th</sup> “the Day of the Lord”.

- ★ Because that Force came into the earth and is growing in power, Man's call to the Divine is readily heard and the prayers so far not answered are readily answered now.

If you have a prayer unanswered until today, you can now pray to this Force. Your experiment will convince you of its existence and efficacy. This power has come into the world for man to evolve into the Supramental being, the next species. Those who take to the yoga of Sri Aurobindo, variously called Integral Yoga, Purna Yoga, or Yoga of Self-perfection, will launch themselves into an evolutionary movement. All are not meant

for yoga. But all belong to the wider yogic movement, which can be called yogic life. The scientist discovers the rocket, TV, computer, plane, etc. We too can become scientists. Whether we can or not, we can use scientific discoveries and belong to the scientific age. All men can become yogis. Before that, all men can use the yogic Force in their lives and can belong to yogic life.

- ★ Such a yogic life belongs to a world of Delight.
- ★ It is a world of Spiritual abundance.

Even to use scientific products, we need training. It is called scientific culture. This book pleads that Man can enter such a life — a life of higher yogic consciousness – and endeavours to place before the reader the tenets of Mother's life, reporting innumerable experiences of devotees.

There was a retired last grade servant in the late sixties. His ambition was to build a house with brick walls and thatched roof. His half starved life gave him a faint. At the hospital they revived him but without nutritious food, they said, he could not live for long. He again fainted after a year or two. This time also he was restored to life. A year later he was hospitalized and was on oxygen. By then his son had become a devotee of the Mother. He desired his father to live longer. He invoked this Supramental Force, and spoke to his father encouragingly about building the house. The father returned home fully recovered. Very soon he built a terraced house and lived for another 25 years. Such instances are daily occurrences in the lives of devotees. They all receive the results, but do not see the Force at work.

As human beings, we should have worked for this descent. We have not, as we were not aware of it. Sri Aurobindo worked for it. Now that the Force is on earth, what should be our response to it?

To receive it with gratitude is our obeisance to it.

Each village must endeavour to provide itself with water, roads, schools and hospitals even as they start shops, tea stalls,

etc. The villagers are incapable of it. Now the government has started schools in the villages. They should send their children to school and draw the intended benefit. Similarly, when the Force has descended on earth without man doing anything for the descent, Man should gratefully participate in its work and grow evolutionarily. Such a growth has two ends. At the higher end, one receives the maximum and evolves into the next species, the Supramental Being. At the lowest end, there is the householder. He can receive it as luck.

*Thus luck that is now elusive can become  
a permanent feature of our lives.*

Luck is the unexpected good that descends on us without our effort. The three levels of that Force are Super grace, grace and luck. Simply stated, luck means whatever we attempt will be a success or even a great success. If that ever happens in India, poverty will be a forgotten ghost. The West banished poverty resorting to scientific technology. The result is affluence in the external life and emptiness in emotional life. Also it has a by-product of violence and terrorism. To cap it all, pollution looms large, destroying our very existence on earth. Naturally we are eager for technical advance. It now means acid rain, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, poisoning of ground water, depletion of ozone, etc. The question is, do we seek affluence along with these things or avoid technology? The Indian answer is real affluence is a spiritual opulence which issues out of making the negative side effects impossible. Is it practical? If so, what is its theoretical justification?

Science is a mental accomplishment. Mind accomplishes in an area it chooses. It implies another area is left out. The growth of science in one area compels the growth of something else in another area. Cell phone that is spreading fast helps criminals communicate better. It is inevitable. When some children go to school, rivalry between the educated and the uneducated in the next generation arises. When the entire population of children

goes to school, no rivalry is ever possible. This force being a force of a whole – it is a force of the being that is always a whole – wholeness or totality is one of its characteristics. **The results brought out by this Force are wholly beneficial. It is incapable of creating rivalries, conflicts, contradictions, or negative side effects.** Even when this force settles a dispute between two contending parties, it does not do so at the expense of one. Its results are beneficial to both. Such are its characteristics of totality or integrality.

An MLA and another party man came to blows. Both belonged to the same political party. The party which was a whole wanted to set right the conflict between the parts. It settled the quarrel between them by offering the victim much of its higher favours. Creation is out of Sachchidananda, called Sat for short. Sat is a Being commonly known as Sat Purusha. A force issues out of Sat or its other version Chit, which has created this universe. That force is in Time while the Being, its origin, is in Timelessness. This force is limited, but the Being is a whole. The Divine Mother was born at the point the force issues out of the Being. Therefore Mother's power is always of the whole. All this philosophy may be frustrating, but towards the end of this book, I will be suggesting an experiment whose results will speak for themselves. There will be no philosophy there, but practical results brought about in your own experiment.

Sri Aurobindo calls this force Supramental Force. It was Swami Vivekananda who led Him to that. Sri Aurobindo divides the region between Supermind and the human mind into four levels successively belonging to the Muni, Rishi, Yogi and the Gods. The Supramental plane is superior to the plane of the gods. The gods themselves were born of the supramental plane. Therefore the Force of the Supermind brings about wholesome benefit and never creates negative side-effects. The following are the characteristics of this Force.

1. It grants all sincere prayers. It gives more than asked for.

- It gives us what we do not know exists. A person who tried to buy one acre ended up with three hundred acres.
2. When you see the results exceed your prayer, you can be sure it is this Force that is at work. Excess is its stamp.
  3. One man getting a boon from this Force enables all such men to receive the same. One man receiving electric connection thus leads to all getting it. Such a sphere of influence goes on widening endlessly.
  4. If the present laws stand in the way of our getting justice, the Force changes the law.
  5. An unemployed devotee was unjustly arrested under an act related to the Press. He intensely prayed for release. The act itself was rescinded and all those arrested under it were released.
  6. The Force mostly acts through a method so far not known. A company analysing space utilisation came to Mother. It got an enormous boon in another field of technology.
  7. The Force acts best when it acts through new channels. It acts through the existing channels because it honours our beliefs.
  8. Devotees often see that when they seek help, they find the Force already in readiness to help. It plants a friend as the sanctioning officer, a favourable law in existence but not in vogue, etc. Prayers are often granted before they are voiced in the sense Mother makes Life ready to grant it.
  9. Pray for a benefit, the Force grants the very source of it. One who needed a good rented house got his own house. One who was furiously working to get a dealership became a director in that company.
  10. An attack on the devotee changes into an opportunity. A senior officer in the public sector was falsely charged with corruption. Without the knowledge of the concerned officer, an inquiry was set up. It proved him to be the

only incorruptible officer. The Ministry made him the chairman of the company overlooking a dozen persons.

11. Cheerfulness is the sensation of this Force.
12. A devotee has everything to receive from this Force. Conscientious officers will inevitably rise to the top post of the organisation.
13. Ask for a part, get the whole on easy terms is one more characteristic of this Force.
14. The Force dissolves your karma.

Humanity has its sacred souls. The Avatar is at the peak. The vibhuti is next. Napoleon, Shivaji, and Shankara are of that level. Genius comes next. Below that lies the level of remarkable personalities like Kennedy, Nehru, Churchill, etc. Men of accomplishment are the next level. Sir S.Radhakrishnan, Rajaji, Bill Gates, and Narayanamoorthy belong to that type.

Man can rise to Supermind. Or he can by widening his inner receptivity aspire for any of the above levels. Such an aspiration has no methods like japa, meditation, asana, or pranayama. All methods belong to various parts of our being. Sincerity, opening, receptivity, and consecration are the methods Sri Aurobindo advocates. When we pray, we ask for a specific thing. Having applied for a job, I naturally seek selection. Consecration differs from prayer in that we come forward to accept whatever the Divine grants. The Divine may grant something else or more or less. The capacity to accept what the Divine offers leads to spiritual progress.

Sri Aurobindo wanted to avoid the Second World War. He saw in the occult worlds the dark forces organized. Had India attained Freedom before the First World War, even that war could have been avoided. In 1910 God told Sri Aurobindo that Indian Freedom was accomplished in the subtle plane and He was meant for another work. Had the country resorted to armed resistance in the years following 1910, Mother India would have attained political freedom retaining the geographical unity given by the

British rule. Her Spiritual Stature would have prevented the world from suffering the two world wars. Sri Rama went to the battlefield, carried arms and destroyed the Asura. Sri Krishna went to the battlefield, but carried no arms. It was not necessary for the Avatar to wield weapons. Sri Aurobindo did not go to the battlefield. He sent his Force and won World War II and prevented the Third World War.

Sri Aurobindo says a yogi can send his force anywhere from where he is. He can do so without moving from his place. Though the yogi can send his force to anyone, not all people receive it fully. Sri Aurobindo says the Westerner has an organized personality. When a force is sent to him, the force goes into his organisation and does the work in a sustained way for long. The same force sent to an Indian has a very different result. The Indian is like one in a coma. On receiving the force, he jumps up, dances for a while and falls back into the coma. In the Indian there is no ORGANISATION of personality or character. He is an unformed mass of low consciousness. Still the light of the Rishis is in his body, whereas the body of the Westerner is dark.

This Force will not effectively work in an authoritarian field. It needs a field of total freedom. The organisation the Force needs is an organisation established in freedom. Sophisticated technology will not work in a primitive workshop. It needs a sophisticated organisation.

**Essentially this Force is for accomplishing work that remains so far undone or unattempted.** This is not meant for routine work. The bridge near Reserve Bank, Madras was built after Kamaraj became the Chief Minister. Prior to that traffic was congested there. Because Railways was somehow involved, the acquisition of land was facing administrative hurdles. On any showing, it was ending in a dead lock. Kamaraj was determined to build it and called the Railway Minister and all the concerned officials. The discussion was going along the same route. The Railway Minister was frustrated and got up to go. Kamaraj raised

his voice and told him, “Don’t get up. Sit down. We are here to do what remains undone. It is not necessary for us to meet to declare it can’t be done.” A way was hewn, the bridge was built.

This Supramental Force is not a force of the body or dynamic force of the vital. Nor is it the idea-force of the mind. Strictly speaking, it is not the force of the Timeless Spirit, the witness Purusha of the Jivatma. This is the force or power of our evolving soul, the Psychic Being, which remains constantly with us, knows no failure and has the capacity of being cheerful forever. It is the higher force that created the world acting through our minds. Its essential character is joy. It is best received by human gratitude. It stays on with us forever by our learning the process of its working. It does not move at the speed of sound or even light. It exceeds the speed of Mind and even that of Light. Mother is the channel for this force. Sri Aurobindo is the Origin. Let us try to know all about this force or at least all that concerns us in this force. Before that, it is helpful to know some biographical details of the Mother and the Master.

---

## II. Bhagavan Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo says that from 1857 a phase of Indian life began when its native aristocracy began to die and a new bourgeois class that was enamoured of English culture was born. **It was a move of the nation to get Anglicised.** As a part of it Sri Aurobindo, then a child of less than seven years, was sent to an English school at Darjeeling. On entering that school, Sri Aurobindo says, a cloud of darkness entered him that remained with him till he returned to India. Fourteen years later when he returned to India on ship and entered Apollo Bunder, the Indian soil, a mighty spiritual Peace entered Him and removed the earlier darkness. That Peace remained with Him to the end. **India is a land of Rishis and her peace touches everyone who enters her soil.** An American youth who was coming to the Ashram felt the invasion of Peace into his being while he heard the pilot announcing that they had entered Indian air space.

At that time yoga was not in the thoughts of Sri Aurobindo. He was a born poet. Patriotism was uppermost in His mind. Having disqualified himself for ICS intentionally, Sri Aurobindo entered Baroda Service. During the thirteen years He was there, His mind was on the freedom of India. An incident with a Naga Sannyasi made Him think of Yoga as an instrument for securing Freedom. He sought help. Vishnu Lele initiated Him into Silence in the hope faith or devotion would be born. In three days He attained Silence, which is said to be the boon of several births. The experience landed Him in Brahman. In six years Sri Aurobindo completed all the Indian yogas. There is a reference in his poem “Mahatmas” of doing Raja yoga in three days. In 1906 He entered politics and was there till 1908 in which year He was to spend one year in jail. It was there Swami Vivekananda appeared before Him and showed Him the Supermind. Initially

His efforts gave Him the Supramental vision of everything and everyone as Narayana. **Krishna’s Viswarupa revealed both sides of Existence. Sri Aurobindo’s vision did not have the negative side.**

He was soon released from jail. On the guidance of His inner Voice He reached Pondicherry where He stayed till 1950 when he attained samadhi. It took ten years for Him to discover the spiritual route to Supermind, as He was the very first to explore it. Indian Spirituality was aiming at the other world. He was seeking to transform this world. He broke new ground in Spirituality. It dawned on him that the descending Supermind would transform human life on earth into Divine Life. He saw why God created the world and how. The process of Spiritual evolution revealed to Him the key to the redemption of the world. To reach Supermind, the surface mind we live in or the inner mind through which moksha is reached is insufficient. One needs to reach the subliminal below the inner mind. It is there the evolving soul, the Psychic Being resides. These were new revelations in the field of the Spirit. He could see moksha provided an escape and what was needed was transformation of the individual soul as a prelude to the transformation of the world. He discovered the path to Supermind was through the spiritual mind range – Higher Mind, Illumined Mind, Intuitive Mind, Overmind – and worked to create that new path.

It was during this period that Mother visited Him with Her husband. In Her He saw the practice of surrender had gone down to the physical. It was She who urged Him to write His ideas. The journal *Arya* was thus started. While in Paris, She used to see in Her meditations a dark Asiatic figure whom She then called Krishna. All Her life She had been looking for Her Krishna. At the first sight of Sri Aurobindo, She saw it was HE. Her decision to stay with Him for the rest of Her life was interrupted by the war which took Her to France and Japan. During this period She saw India was FREE in the subtle plane.

She was born in Paris. Her mother was a disciplinarian. She had a brother who later became the Governor of Madagascar. Until She was ten years old, She never went to school. She was a painter and She spent Her time with artists. Meeting an occult teacher named Theon, She learned occultism. She had a thought that Theon was the Krishna of Her meditations. In one of Her voyages in the occult world She saw the Mantra of Life written in Sanskrit. She never knew the language; still She could take it in and keep it. Theon had vast powers. He once deflected a bolt of lightning heading towards him. Later in Her life, She knew that Theon was really the Lord of Death, even as Her husband Richard was the Lord of Nations who created the world wars. Theon asked Her for the Mantra of life. She refused to give it. He snapped the occult chord that held Her subtle body in contact with the physical body. Still, She refused the Mantra. Theon restored the link and She came back. She gave that Mantra to Sri Aurobindo. By this time She had seen the Supramental Being without knowing what it was. She fully practised the yoga of the Gita which is ahead of Raja yoga. Sri Aurobindo says She entered the World of Supermind through the main door while He entered it by the postern.

Mother had inexhaustible energy. She did not sleep until She was 80. After that, She rested for less than two hours in Her chair. Surrender is the only method in this yoga. This has two parts, surrender of the soul and surrender of human nature. Surrender of the soul advocated by the Gita is for the mature individual soul. It can hasten moksha. Sri Aurobindo says in this modern world of ours, all ideals are for the collective. The Gita offers nothing for collective humanity. Evil is a reality in life. Sri Aurobindo points out to us that the solution lies in Transformation.

When The Mother returned to Pondicherry in 1920, HE and She were working in the Overmental Plane, a plane from which Krishnavatar originated. There were many miraculous events in the life of the Ashram. He insistently showed Her that the Power

of Transformation lies in the Supermind and not in the Overmind. Then they moved their work. In 1926 the Overmental force descended into his body, when He retired leaving all the work in the hands of The Mother. It was not His intention to found an Ashram. She wanted it. He accepted Her idea and thus the Ashram was founded. The Mother said in the Ashram She gathered around Her all the souls that were with Her in the previous births. She was entirely in charge of the whole Ashram till 1973 when she attained samadhi. It was His idea that such an Ashram must be closed after their lives. In 1972 She declared that people coming to the Ashram would find their difficulties increasing. She advised such people to remain where they were. **Mother answers the calls from wherever they come. The distant calls are more effective, unhindered by the compulsions of the organisation.**

Sri Aurobindo called the World War ‘Mother’s war’. The armaments caused Her great concern. Their very bulk, said She, created a compelling power to use them. She was actively present at all points of crisis such as Cuba, Israel, India’s border with China. World Peace, She said, needed a physical material symbol. Therefore she founded Auroville. “As long as Auroville is there, a World War will be prevented, ” said She. Auroville is an international city with Matrimandir as the centre. Matrimandir is a temple to Mother constructed as a globe with part of the building reaching below the ground level. Her Presence can be felt there with greater power than anywhere else.

Sri Aurobindo was an Avatar. She too was one. This is the first time two Avatars were born simultaneously. Avatars come to show Man the way. These two have come to do the yoga of earth in themselves. They did not stand like a coach outside and encourage the players. They were in the field playing the game along with the men they came to lead.

### III. The Divine Mother

Scientists dedicate their careers to scientific study and research. They have no career outside science. There was an English biologist called J.B.S. Haldane. He was an admirer of India. On India attaining independence, he came to India for permanent residence. He went one step ahead. He used to make some important experiments on his own body. He who takes to tapas often follows a guru. When he goes beyond the realisation of his guru, he entirely risks his life and body in the experiments he undertakes. Tapas or yoga is an adventure in the realm of the Spirit. The Integral yoga of Sri Aurobindo is much more so. Mother talks of the sunlit path. As The Mother and Sri Aurobindo discovered a new world of Supermind and laid down the path, those who follow them can walk on the sunlit path. Mother suffered enormously in Her body only when She went beyond the realisation of the Master.

There is an essential difference between Ishwara and Shakti. A distant analogy will be the difference between a scientific discovery and its commercialisation. Whether it is an airplane, radio or computer, it is a scientist who discovers the principle and demonstrates its viability. This is a great step forward. But the industrialist who makes a plane or a radio or a computer is the one who brings that discovery to the public. Mother played that role to the Power of Sri Aurobindo. He said that His powers would have remained with Him if Mother had not arrived.

The Mother was born with a live relationship with the Divine. People who relate to Her with faith reach the Divine or their calls reach the Divine through Her. **Faith in Mother arises when we lose faith in ourselves.** It is the voluntary giving up of one's faith in one's capacities that generates Faith in the Mother. She lived amongst us. Therefore the tendency to treat Her as the head

of our institution is strong. To those people, She puts up a human behaviour. A devotee who came to see Sri Aurobindo after some years heard that there was a Mother who was a French lady. He could not concede any spirituality to a lady and that too to a foreign one. While he was in the queue at a distance from Her, Her Feet caught his eyes. They were golden. He was overwhelmed with spiritual emotions. The surging emotions made him forget the Darsan of the Master for which he came. Mother was not an individual, but an institution, a subtle institution at that. Let us consider how prayers act, especially a prayer from across the world.

No individual, however powerful he is, is a match for an institution when it comes to combing a nation or a market. The police force is an institution physically present in all towns with communication to the centre and between its branches. **What one policeman knows about a missing person, the entire police department knows.** It can act from any point. A prayer voiced from anywhere goes directly to the centre and instantaneously fills the network. Any point in the network can act. That is how prayers act. What we call the Divine Mother is an institution of consciousness in the subtle plane enveloping the entire earth's surface.

One may think, "Well, prayers have always been answered." Yes, it is true. Those were the prayers of saints. What was available only to the Rishis Mother has made accessible to all. There is one more dimension. Messengers were always there, even a hundred years ago. It was a messenger on horseback. Now, it is email or cell phone. One is tempted to call Mother's consciousness Spiritual technology. Tradition tells us that the Spirit is immutable, changeless and has no beginning or end. Sri Aurobindo conceives of one more dimension of Time and Timelessness. We all live in Time. We are householders. We are bound by karma as we are by society. The Rishi lives in the Timeless plane. He is not bound by the society or karma, as karma

exists only in Time. Sri Aurobindo says Time is a part of creation. Equally the Timeless too is another part, though higher. To Him Brahman is a whole, an integral whole. It cannot be fully represented by Time or Timelessness, as both are parts. Sri Aurobindo speaks of a higher dimension that includes both Time and Timelessness. The householder lives in Time, subject to dualities. The Rishi lives in Timelessness, above the dualities. If the Rishi chooses not to give up his family, he will conduct his family life by the high spiritual standards of tapas. **That will elevate the householder to the Spiritual dimension of complete existence.** His life will be free of Ignorance, pain, dualities, and death. The immutable Spirit belongs to the Timeless plane. The evolving soul, the Psychic Being, lives in the dimension that includes Time as well as Timelessness. One may complain this is all philosophy or metaphysics. It can be illustrated by a life example, as all devotees experience this phenomenon in their lives, though momentarily.

When our prayers are answered we are lifted by Her Force from our plane of Time to a plane beyond the Timelessness. When one who had intense pain in the back for several years moved to that plane, he lost the pain. That is a metaphysical explanation of a cure.

These facts make us want to know more about The Mother, or all about Her, not only about Her physical life, but about Her Spiritual significance. Apart from the events I have already narrated, there are many more that make us understand Her spiritual eminence.

- 1) She was the physical embodiment of The Mother's Consciousness. In 1946, She said the Universal Mother whom She represented came to the Ashram to complete Her work. As there was no receptivity, the Universal Mother went back.
- 2) Shiva, Kali, and other gods attended Her meditations at the meditation hall.

- 3) Durga surrendered to the Supreme on Her advice.
- 4) Once when She returned from Sri Aurobindo's Room, Shiva with his head touching the ceiling was waiting for Her.
- 5) Krishna accepting Her request, entered into Sri Aurobindo's Being.
- 6) Lord Krishna walked beside Her with his head on Her shoulder.
- 7) She came out of Her body twelve times in succession when She saw a Sun on Her head and a Moon above the Sun.
- 8) She 'saw' the Chinese in the streets of Calcutta and persuaded them to go back.
- 9) She wanted Nixon to go; and he went unceremoniously.
- 10) In previous births She was an Egyptian Queen, Queen Elizabeth I, Joan of Arc and Catherine the Great of Russia.
- 11) She says the world was ruled by the Lord of Death, the Lord of Falsehood, the Lord of Suffering and the Lord of Darkness. The first two were destroyed by Her yoga.
- 12) She heard the carpet speak, even the coconut husk's voice.
- 13) When someone came to see Her, She said an emanation of Hers entered him.
- 14) Even if She met someone for one second, She accepted the responsibility of those whom she met.
- 15) She attempted almost everything in the Ashram, as it would spread in the world.
- 16) Giving material shape to Her subtle work, Her devotees tried to continue Her work on disarmament. A week before their work officially began, the Berlin Wall fell.
- 17) It is the experience of devotees that the bad predictions of their horoscope never came true. Good things not predicted in the horoscope have happened to them time and again.

Later in this book, I will be suggesting a token experiment by

you — the reader – which will reveal any of the above characteristics of the Force or many of them. **The reader can rely on his own personal experience.** Experiments usually reveal one aspect of the Force. One can prepare oneself for a small but significant TOKEN experimentation that can reveal all the facets of the Force. To see all facets lies more in the observation than in the revelation. But, I repeat, the Force is there in the atmosphere. **Those who want to see it are welcome to see it.**

Her writings, rather what She spoke on many occasions, are published in 17 or 18 volumes. Starting in 1950 She began to dictate to a confidant what She could not publish then. She continued to do so till 1973. She called it *Her heart's gift to those who love Her*. These conversations are published in 13 volumes as *Agenda of Mother*. There She goes into all the details of Her Yoga done in the Body, making Her own body the yogic laboratory. Towards the end of Her physical life, She became in Her body the Supreme for fifteen minutes and later for a full day. It gave Her an unflinching rapture at the cost of intolerable pain that made Her feel like howling all the time. He felt She could not bring Herself to recommend this yoga to any one. **It is the pain of the Universe emerging from the original Ignorance into evolutionary Delight.** As long as She was doing the yoga He had done, it was the sunlit path. He said He could not go beyond the physical consciousness to physical substance where the Yoga becomes Perfect. She alone could do it. Her body alone could do it, said He. She invites us to become God instead of worshipping Him. I invite you to discover the Spiritual opulence of life inside and outside your being. You are free to go beyond by your own choice. Let us try to know all about Him, Her, Their yoga that can be reached within a book of this size.

Once Sri Aurobindo was speaking to Her about the Health, Wealth and Power needed on earth for the Force to rule. The rules of health are easy to know for one who wishes to follow them. About the Power of God, He declared unless WE are the

government, the Force could not descend and act. **About Wealth, He said He did not know the required condition.** She took up the thought and meditated on it. She could go to the world where the treasure of earth is kept. It was guarded by a black Python of an enormous size. She asked it to move away. He would not. This surprised Her as beings of all the worlds usually obey Her. The Python said She could enter if She had overcome the sex vibration of the earth. She returned. To overcome the sex vibration in oneself is one thing, but to attempt it on such a wider universal scale is another thing.

She founded Sri Aurobindo Ashram in the hope that if man's physical needs were taken care of, he would devote his energies to God-seeking. Those who came to Her were the spiritual elite of India, in the sense they had all the possibilities to bring down the Supermind. Their decisions to throw themselves at the feet of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother involved the greatest of human sacrifices. They were the forerunners of such heroes. Human nature has dimensions beyond the comprehension of the Mother's human incarnation. He knew it. She held all of them, their movements, inner and outer, in Her clasp as long as the strength did not exceed 150 members. **The transformation was to be done inside, failing which Nature would have it done in their lives outside.** Whatever good should come to the world, should first come to the Ashram was the principle at the time of its founding. In 1972 She spoke of the other side, saying no one need come there, as their difficulties would increase by coming to the Ashram. That was why He was of the opinion that it should be closed after Her departure. Ashram was a miniature of the earth, of the universe. It could be the earth as it was, or it could transform itself into the Marvel that was to come. It was for those who were there to decide. **Neither He, nor She demanded of the members any discipline personally.** They spelt out the discipline. It was for us to accept it. They never interfered in that FREEDOM.

Our people – Indians — have extraordinary insight into life, which the Westerner does not have. Though the *Mahabharata* is popular in the extreme, elders at home will discourage anyone getting deeply interested in that epic. The *Ramayana*, on the other hand, is encouraged. The *Mahabharata* is a story of battles. If one becomes deeply interested in it, there is a subtle infection. The family will be quarrelsome. Indians do have this subtle sense. Devotees coming afresh to Mother will gladly accept Her, but shun yoga. Ordinarily in our families there will be no encouragement for deep religious life. They counsel us, “Too much of these things is not good. There must be a limit.” In our tradition there is a true belief that if a sannyasi stays at home overnight, that family will be ruined. Among the devotees of the Mother there is a clear perception of all that She is, that long-standing prayers are now answered by Her. Alongside there is also an unseen fear that all that we cherish in this life has to be given up. This feeling is undefined and imperceptible. **It is true that we have to part with all the shams of social life, the appearances, hypocrisies, “keeping up with the Jones”, the mercenary motives.** It will be good if this is clearly recognized and people walk away happily from the false pretensions and walk into a TRUE way of life.

Mother says falsehood must be given up in toto. “Men, Countries, Continents, Truth or the abyss”, said She. She also holds out a promise that She will never give us one chance for lying, if we do not choose to lie. She started the Ashram as a miniature of the world. She wanted the Ashram to be the miniature of the earth’s treasure. **Man taking to a life of utter truthfulness will be rewarded by The Mother with a family life that is a miniature of Earthly Paradise.** I propose a token experiment later for man to see the real magnificence of that prospect. In telling a sadhak that She had everything there in Her Room, Mother said even lions were there around Her in the subtle plane. She said those lions had a child-like smile. To Her, Man grows

by giving, not by taking.

After their death Sadhaks come to Her and most of them reside in Her. There is a big crowd there, says She. Two days before her death a sadhika came to The Mother and was literally following The Mother wherever She went. Some time later a dark figure entered there and silently waited. He was a messenger of Death but he chose to wait for Mother’s directions. After a long patient wait, Mother looked at the dark figure. Taking it to be Her sanction, he took away the figure of the sadhika. Her protection to all those who die relying on Her is told by another story where the significance of Sri Aurobindo’s symbol is explained. She came on earth to create a New World of Delight. She could not. She did create it in the subtle, causal world. All those who have accepted Her are privileged to enter that world after they leave this world. **We can invite that world into our own homes, if only TRUTH is our life breath.** She demands utter, unmixed Truth in all planes of our existence.

Thomas Hardy said joy is a rare episode in the long drama of pain that is life. It was true and even today it is true as long as we mix falsehood in our Truth. Our life as we know is not a spiritual whole that admits of no pain. Our life is partial in the sense we know ourselves, not others. A partial life is a dual life — a life of good and evil. Mother’s life is not partial; it is a whole. Even the gods are subject to gunas. Indra is known for his passion for women. Shiva often runs into trouble because he is unaware of the consequences of his acts. They are Overmental gods. The Overmind still has Ignorance. The Supermind has no such Ignorance. Sri Aurobindo and The Mother are the Avatars of the Supramental plane. We see selfish people are efficient. In a selfish sense they are a whole. They are unaware of other peoples’ existence. For them it is easy to reach the WHOLE life of The Mother, as their lives are already a whole. All that they need to do is to substitute Self for the self, thus changing the human life of selfishness into a divine life of Selflessness. Self-giving is the

basis of higher life, known as Mother's Life, Divine Life, etc.

### ***The Twelve Crores***

The Mother says the bodies of Indians contain light. We know India is poor, ranking 134<sup>th</sup> out of 197 nations. Where does that Spirit dwell? Can we not have some glimpse of it? The Americans cannot sit quiet for an hour, not even for fifteen minutes. We know they are dynamic. Indians will sit motionless for hours. We know it is inertia, laziness. Yogically the human physical, the physical being, is restless. Ages of tapas have brought down Spiritual Peace into the very atmosphere of the nation. It has permeated the being of man down to his physical. America can produce scientists. After four hundred years the nation has not produced one Saint. It is not in their soil. India has not produced an original scientist of renown for the past several centuries. Let us narrow our enquiry. There are many people of really dynamic nature in India, both men and women. Perhaps women outnumber men in this respect. Often they are organised. They are not merely active, but their energy issues out of a dynamic nature. When they commission themselves in a work, there will be a great speed untouched by hurry. When the work is over, they will sit quietly, which the American cannot do. In many people the Spiritual Peace has degenerated into laziness. In those who are dynamic, that Peace silently energises their work. **Spiritual Peace in them has reconciled dynamism and rest.** To be active when necessary and to be QUIET when not working is a spiritual ability. The American would go mad if he had to be QUIET. His is the physical energy which needs physical expression.

In a book entirely on India's spiritual values for modern life, every facet of life can thus be explained. There is an inherent capacity for organisation in the Indians that cannot be bettered. Organisation is the higher human endowment, especially when it is a mental organisation. **Sri Aurobindo says that life progresses by consciousness and consciousness progresses by organisation.** Hence organisation is of ultimate value. That

capacity for organisation is there in abundance in us. Look at any function our people organize. It will be flawless. The forethought, resourcefulness, thoughtfulness and presence of mind will be in full play. We become the second best or average or even failures only when we work in a foreign system — a system of the Britisher or the Americans. We know no failure in our own fields. When, for some reason, we properly blend Western technology and our indigenous organisation, the results are extraordinary, as in the Green Revolution or White Revolution. Let me cite one example.

Some forty years ago an Indian businessman was enamoured of a technology because it was available cheap. It was cheap because the technology had become out of date. Having started a factory and reached a Rs.40 crore turnover, they realised this mistake. It was too late. They made an annual profit of Rs.2 crores. The factory ran for 25 years. All their clients switched over to a fresh technology. The constant refrain of the management was to close the factory. This was sung for ten years. Consultants relying on Spirit approached them. They could not respond. The Rs.2 crore profit could be raised to 4 crores, the consultants said. There was no answering chord in the management. Still, the consultants were hired to write a report to improve things.

The consultants found pockets from which cash could be unearthed. This came to Rs.1.2 crores of fresh resources. The leader of the team felt that 20% improvement is a lot. Rs.1.2 crores is 60% improvement. It is wise to stop there and not go beyond it. He was to write the report. Anyway, the team discussed the Spiritual approach to such a situation.

- ★ The first step is to discover pockets of cash by avoiding waste, etc. This would double Rs.2 crores.
- ★ The next step is to know the unavoidable waste can be avoided by a higher organisation. That should take the extra profits to Rs.6 crores.

- ★ Beyond this lies the attitude of the management and the staff. Lastly, it is the attitude of the workers. That would double the 6 crores to 12 crores.

The moment the team was discussing four crores, the leader became put out and said someone else could write the report. Rs.12 crores made him leave the place. This was all talk, not practical, was his opinion. Later, the leader reconciled and wrote the report of 4, 6, 12 crores in succession. He presented it to the Management but without conviction. The Managing Director was impressed and intrigued. He said, “As outsiders you have seen this much profits here. As insiders we must be able to discover it.” They did not engage those consultants to find those extraordinary profits.

About ten years later, the company was seen on the Web. It had grown to Rs.500 crores from 40 crores of turnover. Surely their profits would have crossed 12 crores. **Indians are talented and organised. What they believe, they can achieve.** The most difficult thing is Indians have no way of knowing their hidden talents that are spiritual. *Business Week*, an American magazine has recently written that India, which was not a factor in American life fifteen years ago, can be a major partner of American business if only the USA knows how to utilize the Indian brainpower.

Incidentally, the Magazine says India’s bulging population **can become an asset if Indians know how to benefit from their brainpower.** What the Magazine speaks of as brainpower is really the distant echo of Spiritual power.

I have included a chapter on yoga in this book. You can skip that chapter because yoga is not meant for all. It is generally considered that descriptions of yoga are theoretical and metaphysical. Of course they are. That is why I say you can skip that chapter though I know it is the best chapter here. I have avoided being philosophical and endeavoured my best to confine my explanations to life examples felt and lived. Still, **YOGA** is lofty and a laudable career for anyone. Sri Aurobindo’s *The Life*

*Divine* has earned the reputation of being incomprehensible. I have summarised those thousand pages in one hundredth of their length or a little more. Difficult things must be explained. To write a description of *The Life Divine* in 2000 pages will help. I had to do it in ten or twenty pages. By definition, it qualifies for its old reputation. Still, I have tried to explain its basic tenets through events of life, emphasizing that out of our finite life, the Infinite Brahman can emerge making our life a marvel, or a wonder. As this is the experience of a vast number of people, I hope those who are really after it may not find that chapter unintelligible.

An Ashram is noted for austerity. Sri Aurobindo Ashram espoused simplicity, not austerity. I have for long pleaded for Prosperity. I have tried to say Spirituality is Prosperity. These ideas are anathema to traditional minds. Poverty is no ideal. We cannot make disease or ignorance an ideal. How can anyone make poverty a goal just because the Rishis had shunned money? Money is different from prosperity. The Vedic Rishis lived a prosperous life. All our scriptures, stotras and slokas end by saying, “He who chants this will be prosperous”. Prosperity needs no advocate, but the idea that one should not earn more should be put in its proper context. First of all, it was the goal of a non-money economy. Today money is indispensable. Money, Sri Aurobindo says, is a force of the Divine. It should be redeemed from the Asura and be put at the feet of the Divine. My theme here is wealth is sacred. We must work for it, not as an Asura, but through honesty and capacity.

## IV. The World Energies at Work

The world travelers explored life in other nations. Adventurous sailors discovered new sea routes. Others discovered the New World. The Rishis discovered the Spiritual continent inside. Sri Aurobindo's yoga is also known as the yoga of Spiritual evolution. To Him earth is Mother Earth. **He discovered the Spirit of the earth as the involved status of the Brahman. His spiritual evolution commences from Matter and ends in Brahman via Life, Mind and Supermind.** Earth has evolved Life and Man is the acme of that evolution. The world we speak of is essentially the world of Man. We know the history of humanity. It can be examined from His point of view. To the scientist the process is important. Scientists say they know every step the universe has taken from the Big Bang. It is no small discovery. Still, it is confined to the Process. Process is not all. It does not include the essence.

The essence of the Process is the Spirit. The process is the Process of the evolving Spirit on earth. Earth that is Matter evolved Life from which Man evolved. Man is now evolving into the Supramental Being. It is said civilization began in Mesopotamia. Man took to agriculture and urban living. It was a physical life of the civilized man. Mind was developed in Greece in later centuries. The evolution of Man continued but elsewhere. It was Rome that developed law, art and empires. Again it moved. Europe developed science. Now the centre of that movement is in USA which is focusing not so much on Science as Scientific Technology. **Before this movement began, the Spirit was discovered in India.** The movement of civilisation is Man's evolution from physicality to mentality. Nature has developed

different aspects — physical, vital, mental, Spiritual — of human existence to the next stage at different periods and in different places. Now that Nature has completed one round, all the different aspects must be brought together as a whole on earth. Sri Aurobindo says it will come about as World Union. Trade is now globalised. It is a movement of bringing all nations together in the field of trade. It is the natural prelude to a united humanity on earth.

By world energy one is likely to think of the wind energy, light energy, magnetic energy, etc. **They are the different forms of the one energy of the world we call Nature.** It is called Prakriti in Sanskrit. Nature does not move by itself. Nature moves, says the tradition, by the sanction of the Silent Purusha behind. We hear from Sri Aurobindo a different strain. Sri Aurobindo reminds us of the Upanishadic formula "*Sarvam Brahman*". Nature too is Brahman, says He. Also nothing in this universe can exist without the Spirit, the Purusha or the Being. Therefore, Nature exists by the Spirit inherent in it. **When Nature moves, the Spirit in it evolves.** Sri Aurobindo calls it the evolving spirit, the Psychic Being. Sri Aurobindo posits the theory of the evolving Spirit as against the traditional theory of unchanging Spirit or the Immutable Spirit.

- ★ His position is this evolving Spirit evolves out of Ignorance into knowledge, seeking the Delight of emergence.
- ★ It is for this Delight the Absolute Brahman created the universe.
- ★ Such an evolving Spirit returns to its original position of the Absolute Brahman.
- ★ As man has evolved out of the animal, He says, the Supramental Being is evolving out of Man.
- ★ Before the advent of the Supramental Being, the rational Man has to evolve.
- ★ Rationality does not permit division. It calls for unity,

unity of human existence. Sri Aurobindo called it World Union.

- ★ World Union is the advancement of the collective on the basis of the Spirit.
- ★ It is not the partial spirit of Man as one of the four parts of his being — Body, Vital, Mind, Spirit. Sri Aurobindo means the underlying Spirit, underlying the Body, Vital and Mind.
- ★ Sri Aurobindo's progress envisages that Man moved from his body to the Vital and from there to the Mental and the Spiritual. This is the Ascent. In the Descent the Spirit emerges in the Mind and later in the vital and the body. At the end there will be ONLY Spirit, not the vital, physical, mental appearances.

The world energies are moving along this line of progression. This is a simple statement of His philosophic description of Ascent and Descent which will appear to be different. The occurrences in the past must, to an extent, explain this. Nature does not work for progress in all fronts at all places simultaneously. Nature herself is a partial force. Soul and Nature together make for the whole. Nature is a part. A partial force cannot work for total progress. Hence Nature has decided to develop emotion in Asia and mind in Europe. Spirit is generally associated with high mountains and wide seas. India was chosen by Nature to develop the Spirit here. Sri Aurobindo says the French Revolution happened because someone sat in the Himalayas and dreamt of Freedom. Mother says both of them were there on earth at all critical times of evolution. She says She had a part in the Revolution of China in the early decades of this century. People related to that revolution came to see Her. She made the sign of the Chinese Revolution — a closed fist on top of another closed fist. At once they recognised it and asked, “ Were you part of the Revolution?” Sri Aurobindo says He had some little part in the Russian Revolution. In the *Evening Talks* there are passages where He speaks of doing

what He wanted in Turkey and Ireland.

My theme is Nature set about her work on earth working at various places on various fronts. In India Nature developed the Spirit. By Spirit, I mean the Spirit in Man as one part of his being. It is the best part. India recognized that Man's best part is the Spirit and devised various ways to attain it and release it for moksha. Such a release could be obtained from the body — Hatha yoga, the vital — Karma yoga, or the Mind – Jnana yoga. She went further to perfect Jnana yoga in Raja yoga. *The Gita* stole a march over all of these to reach Purushothama through surrender. Krishnavatar from the Overmind achieved that great consummation. Having discovered the Spirit, Nature moved away and worked at various places for the development of various other parts. During this period, there was the necessity to preserve the treasure of Spirit discovered during the periods of the Vedas, the Upanishads and the *Gita*. It is Nature's irony that the best has to be preserved by the worst, even as a treasure of gold is saved in a forest under thorny bushes and protected by vital spirits. **Indian Spirit had to be preserved in an atmosphere of poverty by a top dressing of Falsehood.**

In the period of the Vedas the Rishis discovered the Spirit. Also they lived in unison with Nature. It was a life of the whole or whole life. The physical Man discovering the Spirit, living in unity with the environment of Nature, though it is of a spiritual fullness, was the victory of the first step – the physical life, the life in the Body. **The wholeness of primitive times could not last.** The joint family of the last century of thirty or forty members was a life of unity. But it was the unity of an agricultural family, mostly of uneducated simple people of primary emotions living on their land. As agriculture moves to manufacture, rural life gives place to urban living, illiterate goodness exchanges itself with educated individuality, and joint family is no longer a reality. As civilisation marches ahead, joint family disappears and gives place to the nuclear family. Even its life is no longer certain. The

Vedas have two parts, one seeking knowledge and the other preserving the sacredness of the rituals. A split arose there. Those who followed knowledge were the Rishis of the Vedanta. Those who preserved the rituals became the purohiths.

Sri Aurobindo pleads for the restoration of unity lost at that time. He says the unity is to be restored above in the Supramental plane. The original cleavage between the Rishis and the purohiths was followed by the dichotomy of the sannyasin and the householder. Then it became the contradiction between the sannyasin who denied Matter any reality and the Materialist who discovered the secrets of the universe and denied any reality to the Spirit. This is so because the instrument of the Rishi or sannyasin was Mind that could perceive only a part of the Reality. The scientist did one better by insisting on his physical mind, a part of the Mind that is already a part. Supermind is the right complete instrument that can see the whole Reality of Brahman in the cosmos as well as in our human life. Sri Aurobindo, who discovered the Supermind guided by Vivekananda, asks us to receive the descending Force of the Supermind so that we may be raised to its own native plane. There the unity lost after the Vedic period can be restored in its fullness. It will be a unity that transcends life and Mind. The world energies are in the process of building up that unity, not according to any mental formula intelligible to us, but in terms of a Life that transcends rationality. It is a life that is intelligible to Intuition, accessible to insight. It eludes intellectual enquiries.

### *Waste*

Sri Aurobindo says there is no waste in the working of Nature. Man is unconscious. His work can involve waste. Nature is conscious. She has no waste. She attempts simultaneously many things and completes all of them at the same time. Therefore the efficiency of Nature is maximal. It means we have nothing to regret. Let us see what happened in that process.

★ India who reached the peak of the Spirit had her land in

a thousand fragments. For her Spirit to become the Guru of the world, the very first condition is physical, geographical unity. Sri Aurobindo says, Nature resorted to foreign invasion to unite India having failed in all her other attempts. Britain gave us that unity but partition came to mar it. **The Spirit in India still awaits the geographical unity of her various parts.**

- ★ The French who were receptive to Freedom revolted against the Monarchy and gave the benefit of Freedom – rule of law – to the whole of Europe. France took the path of dissipation resorting to wine and women. Character in the leadership could not be built up.
- ★ England, the mother of democracy, ruled over the seas with an empire where the sun never set. Having undergone subjection under the Romans, Normans, and French for centuries, Britain cherished democracy and the values of democracy. That built up a leadership of courage and character. They could save democracy for the world or the world for democracy because they were men of character. Had their character sprung from spiritual roots, it would not have become rigid as it has now done. So, she cannot be in the evolutionary race any more. It is a character from physical hard work. By definition it will ossify and lead to rigidity. We see them worshipping the rigidity for permanence, not realising that it has no life. Their Royalty is the symbol of their decay. Russia that took up Marx's socialism resorted to violence. Maybe their past demanded it or their peasant composition needed it. But, having resorted to violence, they had a violent end. **Russia has made the entire capitalist world more socialistic than socialist countries.** Today the worker is far better off in all the capitalist countries than in socialist countries. Whatever their justification, that was the path they chose.

- ★ USA is in the evolutionary vanguard, not by culture but by practical organisation. The hippies echo the evolutionary call from heaven.
- ★ The hippie movement was an aberration of the civilisation. **Really it was a revolt of youth against the establishment. They are now reabsorbed into the society and they are in their fifties, the real leaders of thought in whatever field they are.** Fritjof Capra is a physicist who so revolted thirty years ago against the traditional philosophy of physics. He has not been accepted by the physicists of the world as yet. But his books have sold in the millions. He tries to integrate Science and Spirit. Tom Peters was another from that generation. His plea for Freedom had the widest appeal in the eighties. The spirit of his appeal has prevailed in the field of Management. The appeal Harry Potter has among children is phenomenal. What substance it has God knows. **The emerging world is now led by children. It is their response to Spirituality in the shape of Magic.** All over the world education is trying to shed rote memory. Freedom for the children in all respects has come to stay in the Western world and in all elite schools in India. Most of the progressive schools in India do not have exams up to five standards. Rock music is not good, but it is a negative breaking through of a positive movement. Mahesh Yogi has taken Hatha yoga to the West in a big way. There is no real spiritual substance in it. It clings to the form. It is a true response of the world to spirituality.
- ★ Agriculture was the first ORGANISATION which emancipated man from physical drudgery. The organisation it invented was of real value to man and civilisation. Till today the ORGANISATION by which the world lives at all sophisticated institutions is that original organisation. Its value is enduring. On the surface

the forms change. Anthropologists have acknowledged the truth of this. **The form changes and disappears; the substance, the content endures.** It is of the Spirit. That organisation agriculture invented is the same organisation by which Mind created Life and Life created Matter. It is a spiritual organisation. It has the subconscious efficiency which means complete efficiency, an efficiency of unflinching success. It has come into industry in a major way, not yet completely. The organisation of social life has not yet seen the significance of it fully. **Failure will be entirely eliminated from human life in its daily expressions when that organisation has the force of ordinance.** The precision Space programmes have acquired is possible because of that organisation. We can say life has discovered the Spiritual value in terms of organisation. For a total success, Life has to acquire not only spiritual organisation, but spiritual skills, spiritual capacities, spiritual talents, spiritual abilities and spiritual consciousness.

### *Better than Nature*

If Nature's efficiency is greater, all that we have to do is to watch. Yes, it is true; Nature's efficiency is conscious and is the very best. Mother says Nature has infinity before her and She enjoys her movements deliberately. She is on her easy course. **What we call civilisation now is entirely because of human effort to overcome Nature's movements.** The universe splits into Soul and Nature. Nature is called Prakriti, Maya or Shakti. The scientist may call her Matter and expressions of Matter. For our present purposes, it is all Nature. Soul has other names. Spirit is the most common name. Being is another. Purusha, Brahman, Ishwara are other names for Soul at other stages. It is also called Self. Human life belongs to Nature. Higher life belongs to higher Divine Nature.

Earlier we said the force issues out of Being or its

consciousness. The entire universe is made of force. This force is limited to Time, Mind, the surface being of Man, his ego and is finite. It is bound by karma. The Rishi moves away from the surface mind into the inner mind. Inner mind belongs to Timelessness. It is not gross, but subtle. It has an opening into the higher ranges of Mind and can lead one to Moksha or Nirvana. **It can also lead man to his subliminal being and the Psychic that dwells there.** This subliminal mind does not belong to Time or Timelessness. It belongs to the dimension of Time that includes Timelessness. Sri Aurobindo calls it Simultaneous Integrality of Time. Let us for simplicity's sake call it the third dimension of Time. Mind in this plane changes into subliminal mind. Ego does not exist here, but changes into Psychic Being. The finite becoming universal tends to reveal the infinite.

After 1956 Man has a grand choice. In India Man had the option of becoming a Rishi and attaining Moksha. A further opportunity has opened to Man to move into the subliminal mind. It is not Nature's slow movement we witness here. It is not a world made of force. This is a world of consciousness. We can say it is a world of Being. Karma is not a factor here. Speed of life is not speed in Time. Its speed is greater than light. Now that the force has descended on earth Man need not move by his own effort. World travelers were there a few centuries ago. They moved on foot. Today they can travel by train, car, ship or plane. The Force acting through Self-giving beckons man to avail of it. Its greatest effect is to help man evolve when it acts continuously. Acting intermittently at our call, the Force raises our life of problems into one free of problems where luck is commonplace.

### ***The Individual in the World Movement***

Mankind is a collective mass. Its first step of progress is the emergence of the Individual. In the West such an emergence occurred when Martin Luther defied the Roman Catholic Church. It was an evolutionary movement. It is said the printing press came to propagate the message of Luther. It is not a coincidence.

Parallel movements occurring at different places are missed by our perception. No movement is isolated. When one new movement starts at one place all the other parallel movements simultaneously start. It is possible to consider them as fortunate coincidences but that will not lead to a theoretical understanding. We know the same thought develops in several unconnected places in the world simultaneously indicating human oneness, the unity of human consciousness. **It is equally true of complementary movements such as the demand to read the Bible and the facility to print in large numbers.** In one hundred and fifty years half the territory of Europe was Protestant. Martin Luther was a symbol of the individual soul awakening. Democracy is the institution that symbolized that awakening in politics.

- ★ Its further expressions are the rational Individual in public affairs.
- ★ Its height is the Spiritual Individual coming into his own and becoming the leading light in the world. The twenty first century has that mission.

Today, in any field, including science, the voice of the Individual is not heard. Only when the seniors in the field espouse his ideas will he be recognized. The reputed members, the presiding organisations, are the deciding factors today, i.e., **society is still a collective entity, not yet an individual phenomenon. The IDEA has not gained importance on its own.** Technology has that privilege. On its own strength a new product created by a new technology can survive. Even here the big corporations are conservative. Such a product like Xerox machine was rejected by thirty companies. Our goal is Man should overcome the superstition of rituals or religious worship and *look inside* to discover his own Spirit and be led by that. That is Spirituality.

Tradition believes that Jivatma is not eternal. It has to go and merge with Paramatma. Sri Aurobindo says that Jivatma is

Paramatma. When one abolishes the ego and goes inside, one sees that the World-Being is there and its spiritual centre is Paramatma. It is His Spiritual experience that Paramatma has come down as Jivatma in Ignorance. Spiritual evolution is the rediscovery of Jivatma as Paramatma. **That was how HE could see the whole world inside Himself.** We know that the whole world was seen in the open mouth of Lord Krishna. The Spiritual Individual, having discovered himself, goes on to discover the universe in himself. Such an Individual has three stages to cross before reaching the full spiritual stature. In his language it is called reversal of consciousness. The world as it is in Knowledge or Spirit, is a world of Delight. There is no pain created in this universe. It is one of Delight. To enjoy that Delight more intensely, God has created Ignorance and hid Himself in it. The act of discovering the lost knowledge enhances that Delight. Those three stages are,

1. In our ignorance the opportunities of life appear as obstacles. After a long time, the obstacle is seen as opportunity. **To see it as such is the first inversion – a coming out of the ego and seeing the reality.** In the case of the dying last grade servant, had he not gone to the verge of death, the opportunity of living long and fulfilling his ambition of building the house would not have arisen. Those vast opportunities were around him and he was unable to see them.
2. This is an inversion of coming out of the limited Mind. A man's one and a half acre plot was acquired by government in 1960 for a compensation of Rs.2350. Someone suggested to appeal on the grounds that it was an ex-serviceman's plot. He could thus save it. His original idea of selling it for Rs.17,000 was completed by selling it for Rs.47,000. The owner of the plot thinks in terms of the power of the collector to acquire. It is a narrow view of the Mind. To think in terms of all the aspects of the

plot is to widen the mind, an emergence out of the Mind. That widening increases the earlier opportunity.

3. The third is emerging out of the dimension of Time. Thought keeps us in Time. Silence takes us beyond Time. Relying on friendship is in Time. Relying on Mother is to go beyond Time. When a project failed, someone realised the unreliability of friendship. He shifted to Mother. Before long he got a much bigger project unsolicited. To be able to see these inverted situations without undergoing the ordeals requires an insight and intuition. The inversion of ego, Mind and Time can also be explained as the inversion of the material physical plane into the subtle and again the inversion of the subtle plane in the Supramental causal plane is possible. They can be said differently too. Whatever it is, these inversions are necessary to reach the spirit fully.
  - ◆ God asked Siruthondar, a saint, to cook his son and feed him. The saint had the knowledge not to mistake it. His knowledge was rewarded with moksha for all the three. **The offer of God's moksha comes as the murder of the son, as the saint is in the human plane. That is an inversion.** These inversions are in three grades. We reach the Spirit when we cross all of them. To have the knowledge beforehand avoids the necessity of the experience which is an ordeal.
  - ◆ In observing the workings of world energy in the past centuries, we can see these inversions. Will it open our eyes? The Allies, particularly Britain, need not have suffered this much had the British Cabinet listened to the dire warnings of the cabinet officials — officials working for the Ministers. The warnings were given over five years. At last they brought in Churchill on public pressure. If that too had not been done, the Allies would have lost the war.

- ◆ In 1942 the Cripps Mission offered Dominion Status to India. Sri Aurobindo persuaded the Congress to accept it. That would have avoided Partition.
- ◆ Churchill said Britain was wedded to democracy, but did not know why. The Theory of Social evolution says democracy in any country is preceded by autocracy. Britain was a slave nation for over 400 or 500 years. Hence they cherish freedom.
- ◆ Penderel Moon, an ICS officer in 1947, explains in great detail that Partition could have been avoided up to January 1947. He also says the uprooting of the population and the communal carnage could have been largely avoided. **In Bhawalpur, a state where there was a Muslim ruler, he was a Revenue Minister. While the neighbouring state had 100,000 casualties, his own state had only 5000 dead because of administrative precaution.**
- ◆ Now we understand the Bengal famine of 1943 could have been avoided, as the shortage was only marginal. In 1965 against the prediction of FAO of famine in India, concerted action avoided it.
- ◆ “How does all this information describe the inversion? What is the inversion we are talking of? “Explain its practical relevance,” is a legitimate query.

At The Mother’s Service Society, we have been applying Sri Aurobindo’s philosophy to life and enunciated a Theory of Social Evolution in 32 principles. We have also applied it to Business Management and come up with a distinctive approach to management.

The essence of these two findings is,

- v The Theory must be able to explain any historical event in its own light.
- v **It must be able to solve any problem of humanity.**
- v Any company that follows this line must be able to double its profits.

### **ICPF**

If we truly believe in our findings we must be able to act in some measure. We know The Mother and Sri Aurobindo worked for world disarmament. They were successful in defusing crises but the armaments were piling up. Around 1988 we saw the possibility of disarmament becoming real. A Mission headed by an eminent individual to the heads of US & USSR would bear fruit was the assessment based on our theory. We approached an eminent Indian to lead the team. He was gracious enough to support us. Later he told us he had wished to have Sri Aurobindo’s Darsan on August 15, 1947 but could not make it. He proposed a commission of eminent international personalities. On his invitation a commission was constituted and was to hold its first meeting in Trieste in 1989. **A week earlier the Berlin wall fell and disarmament appeared to become a full reality soon.** The purpose for which the commission was constituted was fully served before its first meeting.

- ★ The Token ACT of exercising ourselves in favour of disarmament was more than fulfilled.

So the Commission – International Commission for Peace and Food – ICPF – addressed itself to the other burning issues of that period. The other issues were 1) Food Scarcity, 2) Unemployment, 3) Reorganisation of Russia and other East European nations, 4) the many mini-military conflicts all over the world, 5) the need to evolve a Theory of Social Evolution, and 6) the Importance of the emerging Spiritual Individual.

In the year 1994, the Commission released its Report. It was released by the World Academy of Arts and Science, UNESCO, and UNDP. It was presented to the Secretary-General of the U.N.O. Among the various findings of the Commission, the one that stands out is the suggestion for a World Army. To create a standing World Army would enable the international community to slash the expenditure on military equipment.

Before the creation of ICPF, we tried to approach the head of

USSR, Gorbachev, for his country to be represented in it. He did appoint an agricultural scientist as a member of the Commission. When he was out of power, we approached him to explain our ideas of reorganisation of the USSR. Our ideas can be summarized as,

“Russia is a rural feudal country. She tried to usher the nation into Socialism through centralized command economy but has now dismantled that structure. We see chaos everywhere. The mafia rules. **Of course, she will find her feet and join the march of nations sooner or later, maybe in ten or fifty years, depending on various factors that arise then and there.** The Theory of Social Evolution, based on the Theory of creation, substantiated by historical events, can plan out the future of USSR and achieve it sooner rather than later.”

He gave a good listening and proposed a joint Seminar on inflation, as that had caught his imagination. We organised it later. Gorbachev presided over it. One member of our Commission was later appointed the Governor of the Central Bank of an East European country to control inflation that had reached astronomical levels. His measures based on the views discussed in ICPF reduced the rate of inflation to zero in a week. In the ten years that followed the publication of the Report, we were anxiously watching further developments in the world. Some of them were.

- ★ Food threat and food scarcity were no longer the major concern of the world community.
- ★ The trend of employment, particularly in USA and Holland, was according to our ideas. There was a year when unemployment in these two nations was at an all-time low.
- ★ The idea of a European Army is being seriously considered.
- ★ The Gulf War was fought.

★ September 11th announced the terror of terrorism.

★ Kashmir issue became hot.

We tried our best to present our views on Kashmir to the political leadership in India and Pakistan. We did so a little even in America. Having acted thus, we arrived at the conclusion that any work hereafter has to be inner work. Mentally, we believe, we have the answers to all problems of the world. If these are true solutions, it must reach the people at the helm of affairs. At this point there is nothing for us to do, except watch the movement of world affairs with interest. **Our work outside will bear fruit only to the extent the inner has prepared it.** The Mother said if one is capable of serving the Divine, he need not waste his energy in the service to the nation. She adds that serving the Divine is very difficult.

### *Divine Service*

The Divine is trying to rediscover himself on earth which is immersed in Ignorance. To rid oneself of the Ignorance will be service to the Divine. Sri Aurobindo divides that Ignorance into seven divisions. The last is practical ignorance, not knowing what to do next. That will go, says He, only when the Original Ignorance goes. If you want to go to an office and get things done, you go there and do as they say and get it done as others do. It may take a few trips, may involve waiting or bribing or even protesting. Suppose you *know* when to go, to whom you should go, and also know what to speak and do, the work will be done straightaway without delay or bribes. **To know this is knowledge.** Occasionally, it happens to anybody. To the devotees, it happens often. But the devotee does not know how it is done. One can know the right process of doing anything to successful conclusion. That will be ever-present **LUCK**. One can learn it or even teach it to others who are willing to learn it on its own conditions. That is the maximum a householder can accomplish. Anything more needs yoga. The four basic things Mother asked the sadhaks to avoid are 1) politics 2) smoking 3) liquor 4) sex.

The sex energy must be converted into the higher energy of *tejas* for higher accomplishment. Smoke and liquor dissipate energy. Yoga is a process of conserving one's energy. Politics is too full of falsehood which cannot be faced at its own level.

### ***The Significance of an Act***

The Act is a unit of life and therefore a basic unit of the universe. To master the ACT and make it behave is to master the essence of life. Even in the life of a householder, that much can be learnt. In practice, it is to be a MASTER of your life. No living man can aspire for it or has it. There are too many unseen or invisible forces. A devotee who learns it can have a mastery over the movements of all the external forces with respect to his ACT, from the side of his act, not from the side of these forces. **He who learns it will be effective in his world, the world of his own life around his personality, not the world outside.** Should he desire mastery over a wider area, he must widen his personality.

Longevity is increasing all over the world, even in poor countries. Abolition of infectious diseases, airborne and waterborne, is one reason for it. They were prevented by vaccinations too. It is a great achievement and an essential one. It has prolonged human life, but its effectivity has limits. New drugs, antibiotics, are coming out daily to fight minor or major diseases. They contribute a lot to prolong human life. But that too has its limits. Poor countries and backward nations are becoming prosperous and developed. There is more food around. Nutrition is daily increasing in its quality. That too has a limited effectivity. All this cannot offer man an unlimited power because some of them are limited in scope, and have no power over other factors. The smallpox vaccination can prevent infection, but cannot make a dirty environment clean or offer better food. When poor people have vaster quantities of food, food has no power to prevent them from overeating. Nor can it give knowledge of nutrition. Education raises the level of mind. It contributes to

better health and longer life. Physical exercise has demonstrated that even at the age of 78 one can start exercising the body and invigorate it. Asana does it scientifically to the point of perfection. Everything can contribute, not cancel death. Only asanas can do it when the spiritual element is awakened. **Life is too wide even for asanas to have complete mastery over it.** Sri Aurobindo says the longest life known to have been lived was that of a sannyasi on the banks of Narmada. He lived for 200 years. When life wants to terminate someone's life, it always has a source. This sannyasi stepped on a rusted nail and died from it.

The psychic being is the evolving soul. It evolves at all points of the being – body, vital, mind and the spirit – and therefore life or Time cannot get the better of it. **The Psychic Being offers man a deathless life. Only it can do it.** To the ordinary man it can give a prolonged life. **When the psychic gives a longer life, it will be free from all the vitiating influences of old age.** To the end a man will be cheerful and healthy. All those who have taken to Mother have had their lives greatly extended.

Americans migrated from European countries because the social structure in England and Europe permitted anyone to rise only up to the social status of their father. They were forbidden to go beyond. In the fresh land of wilderness that America was in 1800 or 1900, there was no society to monitor individual progress. There were no classes or castes. Anyone could rise to any level not based on his class, but on his own education and capacity. That is social freedom, freedom from social restrictions. This is one main reason for America being a prosperous nation, flush with achievements. This is also one way the world energies act. If human progress is stultified by classes and castes, Nature creates a New World free of them. Next to social barriers are psychological limits. Yoga is of the Infinite. The poor and the lowly suffer from social inhibitions. But everyone suffers from psychological limitations. These are created by opinions, beliefs, and superstitions. We Indians believe in karma. That creates a

limit to our social accomplishments. The European knows no karma. If a work fails, he feels his skill is insufficient. So, he tries again and again till he succeeds. The absence of such a barrier as karma acts as an incentive to them. Our lives are full of such mental convictions. “There is a limit to everything”, “I cannot be ambitious,” “I should not exceed the social achievements or I should not aim to overcome the social achievements,” “This is new, I cannot accept it,” are some psychological barriers. Mind is a limited instrument. It will always impose on itself some limit or other. The Spirit in its birth is limitless. When we go to the spiritual depths in us, we enter into an infinite vastness. If only we honour our spiritual impulses, there will be no limitations, barriers, or inhibitions in sight.

- ★ To reach the Spiritual depths is not easy.
  - ★ To honour the urge of those Spiritual impulses is difficult.
- We must go to that depth, honour those impulses and ORGANISE them permanently in our lives.**
- 

## V. Life Response

I thought of a friend with whom I had lost contact for a long time. I felt a craving to go and seek him at his place as a surprise. As I mustered courage and was about to leave for his place, I was told that someone, a stranger, was asking for me. I went out to see who it was. **To my surprise it was the friend to whose house I was preparing to go.** It was a pleasant surprise, a strange coincidence.

- ★ Really his coming to me was in response to my longing.
- ★ This is not chance or coincidence, but a rule of life, which I call Life Response.

Everyone can recollect dozens of such incidents. History is full of them. Fiction too is full of such strange happy occurrences. They are positive or negative. Sometimes they can be neither, neutral.

A poor girl fell in love with a soldier, a handsome looking scoundrel. A rich man whom this scoundrel had harmed fell in love with the girl. Charmed by the scoundrel’s winning ways, her mind was fully poisoned about this rich man, who was really good, honest and idealistic but with offensive and blunt manners. Neither knew the other’s mind. At a chance meeting place, the rich man proposed to the girl, who virulently abused him and turned him away. His explanations the next day through a letter mostly disabused her mind. Both of them left the place. After some time the girl’s aunt took her on a tour and reached a town where the rich man lived. The aunt innocently suggested a visit to his mansion. The girl quickly rejected the offer. Soon she came to know the master of the mansion was away and expected the next day. The girl, changing her mind, agreed to visit the place. At the mansion the excellent reports of the housekeeper further changed the girl’s attitude. It then occurred to her that she could

have been the mistress of this mansion. Her one anxiety was to leave the mansion without the master ever knowing of her visit. She emerged out of the mansion and ran into the very person whom she dreaded to meet. This is the turning point in the story *Pride and Prejudice* that leads to their marriage. **The moment Elizabeth changed her attitude to Darcy, Darcy appeared before her.** His visit advanced by a day is a response life gave to her dislike changing into liking or love. In my words, it is a Life Response. Though we have seen a good many of them, we do not pay attention to them. To those who know all about life, they are no chance occurrences. All happens according to the laws of life. We can enumerate many of these laws, if not all.

- 1) Life is a field of energy organized according to a system.
- 2) It is life energy, not physical energy or mental energy.
- 3) Life energy holds itself in an equilibrium.
- 4) When the equilibrium is changed or disturbed, as in a fully automated factory, it restores itself.
- 5) The restoration of the equilibrium necessitates a fresh act.
- 6) **The fresh act is the response of Life – a Life Response.**
- 7) Life Responses are positive, negative or neutral.
- 8) Life has a character.
- 9) Life Response has its own special characteristics.
- 10) A positive move gives rise to a positive Life Response.
- 11) A negative move gives place to a negative Life Response.
- 12) In exceptional cases, the opposite responses too can issue.
- 13) Each human trait such as love, anger, jealousy, and good will has its own chapter of Life Responses.
- 14) Each value such as Truth, Honesty, Integrity, etc. has its own history of Life Responses.
- 15) The rules of Life Response are the rules of life modified to the occasion.
- 16) Both are governed by the Theory of Creation.
- 17) The aspects of the Spirit are twelve. The planes of creation are eight. So there are 96 versions of them in each plane such as Life.

18) Our epics, history, fiction, and world literature are full of life responses.

19) Even fables, parables, and simple stories too honour the rules of Life Response.

#### 20) **We can make Life Respond.**

The above is not an exhaustive list of rules or laws of Life Response but covers the essentials. A full appreciation of Life Response will help us understand the three inversions I spoke of. In the above example from *Pride and Prejudice* the intensity of the emotions of both Elizabeth and Darcy is best portrayed by Jane Austen. Going back to the beginning of the story, Darcy in the first ball of the story comments to his friend that Elizabeth is not a beauty, but she is tolerable. That alienated her from him. Then she meets Wickham, a very charming man of exceedingly pleasant manners who tells her lies about Darcy. Also Darcy persuades his friend Bingley not to marry Elizabeth's elder sister Jane, who is a beauty, because of her low connections. While Elizabeth was smarting under these injustices, Darcy, ignorant of her prejudice, proposes to her in a language which is offensive. She abuses him and refuses. The two serious characters in the story are Elizabeth and Darcy. They were meant for each other. His unsophisticated manners cause a strong prejudice in her.

The fire in her eyes attracts him. The pride of Darcy and the prejudice of Elizabeth stand in the way. As if by chance, they meet at Darcy's aunt's place. He proposes. Again they meet at Pemberley, his own house. His growing love for her, her subconscious response to his love, her attraction to his strong character throw each in the other's way. The reconciliation goes through several events. The significant turning point is when she meets him unexpectedly the moment she changes her dislike into love. All the principles of Life Response can be explained from any one story, here *Pride and Prejudice*.

In this story Mr. Bennet lives in Longbourn with his wife and five daughters known for their beauty. Life is in an apparent

equilibrium. The eldest is 23, Elizabeth is 21. They each have £ 50 annual income as dowry though the father has £ 2000 a year. The daughters will not inherit it as the estate is entailed away on their cousin Mr. Collins. To this village, Bingley, a rich man from the North arrives with £ 4000 a year. He is single. The whole village of Meryton feels excited. Life that was in equilibrium was disturbed by the arrival of Bingley with Darcy. Every mother with a grown up daughter has her eye on Bingley for her daughter. Darcy with £ 10,000 a year is also single. At the first ball, his pride visible in the society alienates him from the Meryton community. The visit of Bingley and Darcy that has stirred up the peaceful life of Meryton finds two echoes. The Militia arrives and with it arrives the handsome Wickham. He is of cultivated manners. He carries himself with ease and grace. This is the man who wrongfully extracted £ 3000 from Darcy and attempted an elopement with his sister. Also Mr. Collins, on whom the estate is entailed, arrives to propose to Elizabeth. The whole story is how Elizabeth struggles to overcome her prejudice against Darcy and Darcy overcomes his pride.

- ★ Life, we said, has its rules.
- ★ It holds itself in equilibrium.

The daughters of the Bennet family growing older with no hope of getting married creates an unexpressed pressure on the fabric of Meryton village. **Bingley and Darcy arrive in response to that urge. Wickham and Collins are brought there as an echo of the arrival of the other two.** What moves the whole village and the four young men is primarily not any idea or an act but the youthful energies that crave for marriage. At least, in this case we see it is essentially life energy. Next we say that Life Responses are positive or negative or neutral.

- ★ The arrival of Bingley and Darcy are ultimately positive responses.
- ★ They are positive in the sense they come there in response to the healthy aspiration of the grown-up girls to get married.

Mr. Collins, educated at Oxford, is of the first generation of education. His poor background and high education have landed him in the patronage of Lady Catherine of whom he is proud. He never misses an opportunity to mention her name. Thus he constantly makes a fool of himself, almost a clown. He is stupid and forward. He is boorish. Elizabeth is ashamed of him. He has come there to marry one of his cousins – Mr. Bennet's daughters. Just then Wickham arrives, charms every female breast and delivers to Elizabeth a false scandal about Darcy. She is fully bewitched by his looks and more so by his aristocratic manners. She is lost in her dream of Wickham. It leads to the tragedy of his running away with her sister Lydia. Another tragedy occurs in Elizabeth's life. The man whom it is a shame to talk to, Mr. Collins, proposes to her. It is mortifying to her pride. Now our question will be why has life thrown up these two negative responses?

- ★ Negative consciousness attracts negative life response is one more rule of Life Response.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. Bennet, a gentleman in every sense. In his youth, he was attracted by the beauty of Mrs. Bennet who is not educated or cultivated. She is a coarse woman and is proud of her vulgar ostentation. Jane, the eldest daughter, inherited her beauty. Elizabeth, the second, inherited her father's culture and common sense. The other three daughters are vulgar, boisterous and are exhibitionists. Elizabeth, in spite of her culture, does not SEE that the low behaviour of her mother and younger sisters is offensive. She naturally acquiesces in it. **If Darcy comes to her attracted by her fine eyes, Collins proposes to her because she is the daughter of Mrs. Bennet.** Wickham's monumental falsehood descends on her as her own inner position is false. Her high hopes for a good marriage, in spite of her low family and poverty, are false.

*Her 'false hopes' attract Wickham's falsehood.*

Towards the end, the major events of the story arise. Lydia runs away with Wickham. Darcy, who was on the point of

proposing to Elizabeth a second time, goes in search of Lydia and gets her married to Wickham, brings Jane and Bingley together, giving rise to a rumour that Darcy and Elizabeth are to marry. Lady Catherine, the aunt of Darcy, who was fondly hoping that Darcy would marry her daughter is outraged by this rumour and rushes to Elizabeth. She showers threatening abuses on her. Elizabeth is unmoved. In the hope that the stubbornness of Elizabeth would disabuse Darcy, Lady Catherine appraises him of the ingratitude of Elizabeth. On the contrary, this report revives his hope of marrying Elizabeth and he eventually marries her.

*Lady Catherine's abuse of Elizabeth and complaints to Darcy have the opposite effect of her expectation.*

One rule of Life Response is in an atmosphere surcharged with emotions, any move will serve that atmosphere. Here is an atmosphere of intense love of Darcy for Elizabeth and her equally intense longing for him to come back to her. Lady Catherine's expectation calculates in one way. Life acts in the other way. It is not whimsical of life. There is a law behind it. Charlotte, who is unmarried, is full of goodwill to Elizabeth. She is the one who saw his interest in Elizabeth. She advises Elizabeth not to be infatuated with Wickham and respond to Darcy. Her wishes come true. It is in her house that Darcy proposed to Elizabeth. **The story reveals that this girl of 27, who has passed beyond the age of marriage, ends up marrying Mr. Collins.**

★ Charlotte's good will for Elizabeth brought her the great boon of inheriting Longbourn, an estate of £ 2000 a year. Good will is luck.

Darcy is truthful to the end, in spite of being proud and aloof. His truth which is a truth of inner emotions, saves him twice from the machinations of Wickham – once in his sister's planned elopement and again in his marriage with Elizabeth – and life offers Darcy what his Truth deserves. If the study of several examples here makes the reader see the significance of Life Response, I shall feel rewarded. It is a wide topic deserving the

full length of a book, which an American devotee is presently writing. His web site<sup>1</sup> will give more information. I shall add a few more examples to illustrate further a few more principles or the same principles further.

In an old Tamil story, a boy returns from London. Sabapathi is the name of the servant who evinces extraordinary interest in the things his young master had brought back from London. Before going out, the young man saw Sabapathi's intense curiosity and warned him not to touch his things. "They will tell me if you touch them". Sabapathi could not contain his curiosity. He examined every object his master had brought. He came to a clock which was a novelty and curiosity too. It was an alarm clock. It began to ring. Sabapathi now believed his master's warning to be true. He thought the clock was magical. Putting it on the floor, Sabapathi covered it with a basket and prostrated before it praying, "Please do not tell the master". Just then his master entered.

The clock betraying Sabapathi is a result of his intense curiosity and fear. The relationship between the master and servant is one of deep loyalty which cannot be broken. The articles from London are very powerful and have created an intense curiosity in Sabapathi. That curiosity has disturbed the equilibrium of trust between the master and the servant. It is not a trust that can be broken. In that case, Sabapathi would be dismissed. It is too great a secret for Sabapathi to live with. The bubble of the aberration has to be burst. The master needed to know the breach and pardon him. That is the choice of life. In the existing circumstances, the alarm set at random came to the rescue. It rings while the master arrives. It ends in Sabapathi being caught. Looked at carefully, this incident absolves Sabapathi of his crime and ensures his proper behaviour. Life acts as if it is a person and it has a personality. **The truth is life does have a personality and we are one live point of the fabric of life.**

<sup>1</sup> [www.growthonline.org](http://www.growthonline.org)

'The Hound of Heaven' is a fine poem by Francis Thomson. A pious Christian wants God to take him into his fold. He was very attached to his life, his family and many other things of life. Still his prayer was sincere. God came down in a chariot to take his devotee to Heaven. The reality of going to heaven frightened him and he sought refuge in his family, friends and everything he was devoted to. Everywhere he heard the voice, "We cannot offer you refuge when you are denying God". God finally overtook him. Man runs away from his luck and seeks refuge in his mundane affairs. He evokes a response from God and can't escape from it. As God responds to a deep yearning, Life responds to a vital craving. All emotions, thoughts and acts can evoke responses.

★ Life responds when expectation is not there.

A government employee had a six-month arrear to collect. Years passed and his appeals were in vain. One day a friend came to him with an MLA and asked him to meet the Minister, a friend of the MLA. The employee took the MLA to the Minister. The Minister asked the MLA, "Is this man your friend? What benefit will accrue to you by helping him?" On hearing the MLA's reply, the Minister dismissed him. This employee was eager to know whether he could receive any help from some force of the Mother. "Mother can act if he refuses to rely on anyone or anything. As long as the reliance is elsewhere, Mother can't act. Life can respond when expectation is withdrawn" was the explanation he received. It was no easy task for him. One day as he was approaching his own desk, the peon told the employee that he was wanted in the office. It raised a scare in the employee, as his visits to the office earlier were inauspicious. The peon relieved him, saying it was some payment to him. The government had passed an order that in all matters of money disputes, 50% should be paid immediately. He got 3 months' salary.

Life is not moral or compassionate. Man, in his naiveté, assumes that life is compassionate or moral. One of the questions

we often meet with is, "I am right, but punishment has descended on me. Why?" The assumption here is that right must win. **In life we often see, or always see, that might wins, not right.** Even gods choose to support the strong, not the weak man who is right. Jesus carried Love but he was crucified. Sri Aurobindo has said, "Power must descend before Love". Of course, in the very long run, love will win, right will prevail, but on the spot he who wins is the strong, organised, efficient person, whether he is right or not, true or not. **At no time does Life Respond in favour of the weak, unorganised, inefficient, or irresponsible.** But that too happens invariably if the weak invokes the Mother. Here also the Mother supports the weak in the event prayed for, but not permanently. She comes in, saves you on the occasion in spite of any shortcoming of yours, but as soon as possible you must permanently get rid of your weakness. Otherwise, the same problem will reappear in a bigger measure.

An urban devotee acquired a rural property and appointed an influential local person as a lessee. One day when the owner devotee was returning from his property, about 30 or 40 women and children stopped his jutka on a small imaginary grievance. Behind those women was a drunken man shouting. The owner was travelling along with his lessee. The lessee was tricky. Now was a great moment for him to have his owner at his disposal. He became a silent witness to the scene, waiting for the owner to plead for his support. It was a moment of crisis. Life does not offer half an hour for you to think and decide. You have to act on the spur of the moment. The owner devotee saw through the cunning of the lessee. **He decided to act on his own, not seek the support of this treacherous lessee.** He ordered his jutka driver to stop and confronted the drunken man directly. The lessee saw that the owner was independent, courageous and bold. He jumped from the jutka, ran to the man, pushed him to the ground and all was over in a trice. Had the lessee not acted, the courage of the owner would have still prevailed, but a scene of oral confrontation

would have been unavoidable. The courage of the devotee evoked the Life Response of the lessee pouncing on the drunkard. After this event, the drunkard died very soon. It was not the strong arm of the lessee that pushed him down. He was confronted with the Force the devotee represented. It invariably happens. **No one in life, however mighty he is, can cross swords with a devotee through whom the Force acts.**

An American businessman running a Space Utilisation Analysis company had a turnover of a million dollars a year in 1972. He came to India to see his son in the Ashram. His son suggested to his father to solicit business from a newly founded fertilizer company. When the father and son went to that company, they said, "We need no consultancy, but dollars will be helpful". They needed \$ 70 million. The father promised to procure it. The son was surprised, as it was an astronomical sum in those days for his father. After returning to USA, the father called on Bank of America with his proposal. They asked where his client was. "Only on February 17<sup>th</sup> we opened our South Asian Division in Indonesia for financing fertilizer industries", was their reply. **It was on February 17<sup>th</sup> the father had met the Indian fertilizer company.** It is known among the devotees of The Mother that She always acts like that through the existing agencies. Where there is no such agency, She creates one and waits for the devotee to come and avail of it. Very rarely does the devotee avail of it. In most cases the devotee does not see the opportunity that knocks on his door. The Mother acts here through the law of Life Response. Life is full of Life Responses. The only difference with the Mother is She acts according to Her dimensions. This businessman received a project 70 times bigger than his annual sales. To offer devotees 70 times bigger gifts or 700 times bigger is the privilege of the Mother.

A heroic missionary wanted to start a school. His dynamism, activity, energy, and success were not approved of or appreciated by his principals. He was undaunted. He only needed permission

to go ahead. **To accomplish the work of such a mission without the financial support of the headquarters is unthinkable.** Well, he did accomplish it single-handed. He was a soldier of accomplishment. It was not a town from where any donation could ever be collected. His only resource was his salary of Rs.400. In the late forties this was a big amount. The cost of a class room was Rs.10,000 as he had stuck to the type his mission was used to. Starting from scratch, he acquired 24 acres of land and by 1956 had completed half the needed classrooms. The rest were in sheds. He made a little money from the kilns he started for his own construction. His accomplishment was awe-inspiring. Some years later his sacerdotal silver jubilee came, which was a grand landmark in his priestly life. The amount of donations he could collect in 25 years there was a little more than Rs.2000. It was his own achievement unaided by the teachers there or the public.

Among the teachers was an enterprising devotee against whom a gossiping, tale-bearing clique had formed. It took the sensitive occasion of the Jubilee and his delicate relationship with his parent organisation to wrest a concession from the founder. In a way the founder was gullible. The caucus asked the young devotee to be removed for their cooperation on the sacred occasion. It was a heinous crime for him to commit. Unheard of in the history of the institution for 125 years, he served a notice on the devotee to oblige the clique. The notice was cancelled when the devotee forcefully represented his case. His reinstatement led to the offenders resigning for a short period.

He was not the Principal or the head of the institution, but he was the founder. In his credulity, the founder acted as a cad in obliging a vicious faction. **Little did the founder realise that the position of the devotee in his school was exactly his own unenvious position in his own organisation.** Well, this nasty episode was forgotten by all except the victim. At the end of 12 months, the mother institution removed the founder from his child

and posted him in a hamlet as parish priest. The man was crushed out of existence. To me it was a Life Response to the behaviour of a cad.

- ★ Life restores its equilibrium when disturbed.
- ★ Life, when its foundations are shaken, crushes the forces that shake it.
- ★ It can happen positively in revolutions.
- ★ It happens negatively in acts of machinations.
- ★ The wife of one of the conspirators went mad on the day the notice was served.
- ★ Another conspirator received a big lift in his job ONLY to be humiliated by the entire body of the new institution he joined.
- ★ **The initial reward for the culprit was because he gave the devotee a valuable Life knowledge – one must guard against his enemies.**

Life Response is a theme touched upon here, not detailed as it deserves. But one more proposition issues out of it.

- ★ **We can make Life Respond as we choose.**
- ★ **It can be done consciously.**
- ★ One who can do it has a total mastery over the life around.

These attempts will never fail. If they are accused of not being confined to the law, it is because the result is overflowing. Its unpredictable, excessive success will apparently be not according to the precise definition of the law.

A pseudo guru never retained his disciples. He was a liar and he was vain. A fresh devotee had the necessity of going through him because of the guru's official position. The devotee took upon himself the discipline of serving this guru because the rules of yoga say the outer reflects the inner. The guru tried to collect a purse for himself and could not. All his life he was trying to collect some money but failed. This devotee offered to collect five times the amount the guru had tried to collect in vain. The guru ridiculed him but gave his approval to the campaign. The

target for the devotee was 10,000. The devotee never made his effort public, nor did he solicit subscriptions outside his small personal circle. He had promises for 9500 when the collections started. At the end of one month it was 50,000. The next month it touched 100,000. By the time the birthday came when the purse was to be presented it was 1,63,000. On that day another 10,000 came. In the next 12 months it silently continued up to a grand total of Rs.2,45,000.

When a purse is to be collected, what responds to what? The money responds to the aspiration of service. It does not matter whose aspiration it is. Purse is an offering. An offering responds to bhakti or aspiration. When the effort is silent, the response becomes more intense. My aim in this book is only to mention that there is a theme known as Life Response and one who wants to learn it can make Life Respond.

A simple basic rule is any result we expect comes for a corresponding work. When the work is done, the result will come. Our elders say, "Don't seek; accept what comes". In essence, Life Response is a wider explanation of it. Whatever work or result we look for, it is enough if we concentrate on the prior work we need to do. When Man does his duty, Life does its duty of responding.

- ★ A keen study reveals the variations of life forces.
- ★ It also reveals the various ways in which results precipitate.
- ★ Negative, positive; weak and strong; right and wrong are some of the dualities life works through.
- ★ Knowledge of all these territories helps us act in such a fashion so as to evoke a Response from Life.

## VI. Education

Earlier I said the reader can skip the chapter on yoga in view of its being theoretical, though it is the most important chapter of the book. This is a book on the Spirit, not confined to any religion. The Spirit is universal. Its action on life is yoga. Why then skip the chapter on it? I also said the reader can dwell on that chapter if he is inspired by the earlier ones. As far as possible, in that chapter, I have presented yoga in the language of daily life. Still yoga is abstruse and obscure for the lay mind. Sri Aurobindo calls upon us to look on life as yoga. To Him 'All life is yoga'. My theme is Spiritual Opulence. My endeavour here is to shift Man from the life of Ignorance and Falsehood to a life of knowledge and Truth. There can be no compromise there. Once there in the field of higher consciousness, there are grades. At the top is the evolution of the Supramental Being. At the bottom is the householder. This book addresses itself to the householder. Therefore I have a chapter on applying Sri Aurobindo's Theory of Creation to life, especially business management.

Opulence is Man's achievement in productive life. USA is the richest nation in the world. She achieved this abundance by very hard, hazardous, physical work. Physical work is the indispensable basis of Prosperity but it is not all. In the measure that physical work is informed by vital energy and mental knowledge, it rises in quality. **I argue that in India such a work can be raised to Spiritual inspiration.** Europe and USA have done it by organising mental education. I would not concede they have *organised* it. They have followed an empirical path that is partial and sporadic. Suppose any nation sees the need or possibility of organising mental education, that nation will rise far higher than others, as the USA which has organised the practical work has gone ahead of Europe. This chapter is on

such an organisation. Europe set about doing so in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the guidance available to them was religious inspiration. Oxford and Cambridge were started to train priests. In India, we can base it on Spirituality, the individual's inspiration from his own soul. **The Theory of Social Evolution calls Education the yoga of the society.** Here, I wish to explain what can be done in our schools, colleges, homes and individually. Education is a mental endowment. Life based on education means Mind presiding over the process of production and distribution.

In another chapter on India, I dwell on the possibilities of the Spirit in the national life. Here it is confined to the field of education. India is an ancient nation whose mental accomplishments ended in a vast literature unexcelled by the world till today. The climax was reached in poetry, as in the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharatha*. Apart from them, there is a vast body of literature under 64 sastras, ethical treatises, and devotional outpourings. All of them are based on the Indian religion. Sri Aurobindo calls it *Sanatana Dharma*. Now the essence of them is there in the bodies of the Indians, by virtue of being Indians. It ridicules the segregations of caste, age, sex, etc. It is like the treasure of the ocean which honours no limits imposed by human self-importance. Ocean is ocean common to all territory, not confined or distinguished by the various names given to it by Man. It is not a Hindu religion, it is the religion of India, **best described by the name Spirituality.** Mother did not approve of the word religion at all, as it signifies a narrow delimitation. Religion is people following one man's spiritual illumination. **Spirituality is everyone following his own spiritual enlightenment, as if he is going by Vivekananda's insight that each man should find his own religion.**

Society has developed trade so that each individual producer as well as consumer can relate to it beneficially. Without trade there can be no prosperity. We would be primitive. Similarly, society has created transport, press, banking and many other

organisations. Education is one of them. Education permits each child to avail of it. This education is organised on the basis that the society has something to teach its children. Srinivasa Ramanujam, Bernard Shaw, Tagore, and Einstein were rejected by this system of education. They were all geniuses who could not benefit by this system where a teacher teaches what is there in a text book. **They were on their own. They discovered their education from their own inner spirit.** Our system stifles the genius. Of course, a system cannot produce geniuses. We need a system which will not frown on original thinking or creative mental effort. Whether it will produce geniuses or not, it will not stifle the prodigy, the precocious, the genius. Such a system will lead all Individuals to explore the genius within them. Today the world produces a few geniuses in a century. Such a system will let the world produce as many every year. Imagine Newtons and Srinivasa Ramanujams by the dozen every year. In the year 1880, a Ph.D. was considered the accomplishment of a genius. That year USA produced one Ph.D. In 1980 USA awarded Ph.Ds to 36,000 students. **Should we rearrange our education on spiritual lines, Srinivasa Ramanujams will be the rule, not the exception.** Today it is inconceivable. Tomorrow it will become a reality. As the Indians carry light in their bodies, this is possible.

### *The Indian Mind*

Sri Aurobindo says if the Indians consider a subject they will not stop till they reach the logical end or the origin of thought. It is known as analysis from the first principles. To exercise our mind – the human mind – we exercise our thought. Our mind is fed by our senses. They are the facts. Mind takes two or more facts and puts them together and tries to understand. In the measure those facts are detached from the sense impressions, the thought becomes reasonable. We see someone walking well dressed. Seeing it is 9.30 a.m. and knowing he is an employee of the Municipality, we put together the facts of our observation, what we know of him and the time, and we understand he is

going to his office that opens at 10 a.m. This is the normal activity of mind. We call it reasoning. Science, as it is developed today, is called empirical. It is called experimental science. Our mind sees the fact. The fact is partial. By collecting the facts of our observation, classifying them, systematizing them, we have organised the subject called Science.

Beyond the human mind lies the mind of Silence – Higher Mind – of the Muni. The Rishi is one who sees visions. Visions are figures of light. That mind is called the Illumined Mind. Intuition needs no thought for understanding. Nor does it need Silence or Light. It gets the knowledge direct without any medium. It is the mind of the yogi. It is known as Intuitive Mind. The next level is that of the gods. They have knowledge itself, but this knowledge co-exists with Ignorance.

Srinivasa Ramanujam did not think. He meditated. Theorems of Geometry sailed into his mind. Once two English Professors of Mathematics came to see Ramanujam while he was in England. After asking them to wait, he went in to cook rice. They waited for a long time. Suspecting what had happened, they went into his kitchen to see. The pot of rice and water were overflowing. He was sitting before the oven with eyes shut. It is in such meditations new ideas appeared before his mind. Once Sri Aurobindo wanted tea. He never used to ask for anything. It was 3.40 p.m. On the wall He saw 3.42. Akasa lipi told Him that tea would come at 3.42. Our 64 Sastras were written by subtle vision, from the Higher Mind of the Muni who has taken to *mounam*, from the higher ranges of Mind. Einstein got his formula of the universe  $E=MC^2$  from Intuition. Einstein said that he who had not had the emotion of Intuition could not be an original scientist. The function of the Overmind is to divide and subdivide things till they become the infinitesimal beyond which they cannot be divided. At that point, analysis becomes complete. Overmind is the plane from where Krishnavatar came. Rama came from the Higher mind.

***From the First Principles***

We know England is prosperous. What is the source of her prosperity? It is overseas trade. The trade had something to import, because people had greater purchasing power. The greater purchasing power was given to them by their wool trade. England was an exporter of wool. She could do so as she had a large surplus of wool. That surplus came from the excessive rainfall – 140" maximum – England alone enjoyed, while a country like Holland had 24" rainfall. Rainfall, democratic setup, and being an island gave her overseas trade which resulted in the British Empire. Winston Churchill said that to analyse from the first principles is anathema to the English mind. They come to know such facts when circumstances compel them to know. Analysing from first principles is the forte of our people.

Sri Aurobindo describes in *The Life Divine* how the old Indian physicists discovered the five elements. By their analysis they resolved the five elements into force. The origin of that force was identified as Existence, Sat. The ultimate origin was known as the Absolute Brahman from whom Existence emerged. Our Vedantic philosophy thus arrived at Sachchidananda as the origin of the world. Sri Aurobindo carried it further to the expression of that Sachchidananda in daily life, which I call Brahma Jananam. We see how much the knowledge of the human mind – Sri Aurobindo calls it Mind of Ignorance – has achieved in Western civilisation. Only about a hundred years ago science discovered that ultimately the world reduces into energy. This was already known to the Rishis of old. Even then they went further. The origin of that energy is Being – Sat Purusha – which evolved out of the Absolute Brahman. When we evolve a system of education, its basic inspiration will not be the Mind of Ignorance as in the West, but **the Absolute Brahman**. It is possible to develop such a system. The educationists of India must turn their faces away from the West and look inside themselves for the needed guidance.

It does not mean our students should memorise Vedas and the Upanishads as part of their curriculum. **It does mean that the system of education must enable the students to open the higher ranges of their minds.** What do we do presently? Except in the very best schools and colleges, we have borrowed the Western system in toto and allowed our pupils to memorise the answers to secure higher scores in the exam. We have taken upon ourselves an inferior system and subjected it to a superstitious method. I wish to enter into no argument. Our system is outmoded. It must be scrapped completely. One can say that if he has no governmental responsibilities, but it will not be practical. It will be an armchair argument.

- ★ The least one can do is to prevent memorisation and compel pupils to think. That can be done at once.
- ★ A practical scheme cannot be given here in all its details, but its principles can be spelt out here. If need be, a complete practical scheme can be drawn up.

Many good schools have given up exams at the primary level. Children enjoy greater freedom in all progressive schools in every way. But the schools of this description are a drop in the ocean. All the schools are under the government. To create a new scheme of education and popularize it with good schools is easier than moving the government machinery. What progressive schools do today, the government schools may do tomorrow. That tomorrow depends upon the nation's capacity to be awake.

Historian Arnold J. Toynbee speaks of the creation of the intelligentsia and how in a period of 136 years it has consistently brought about revolutionary changes. By intelligentsia he means the creation of a cadre of youth to man the nation — replacing experience by education. The I.A.S. cadre is one such. A post attainable at the end of 25 or 30 years of service is given to the I.A.S. cadre after eighteen months training. The fact is those who come through the ranks and those who get recruited to the I.A.S. are of the same qualification with varying degrees of attainments.

Schools can train students by the time they reach twenty or even earlier to acquire the essence of experience attained at forty or even sixty years of age, if the students are encouraged to think on their own. It is happening at a microscopic level. It can be organised to become a national system.

An auditor and his wife, a college teacher, decided to teach their only child, Nirupama, by the method of Glenn Doman from the age of six months. The child at the age of four could read the *Readers' Digest* fully. At the age of 15, she has the academic maturity of one who has taught at the university level for ten years. She speaks several languages, sings, writes poems and stories. Now she has brought out an excellent translation in English of Kalki's *Parthiban Kanavu*. She is not a prodigy or precocious. It is the training that made her what she is. She can teach courses in B.A. or even M.A. at the college. More than the training, the parents gave her freedom and waited for her to acquire self-discipline. What she has acquired can be given to all children if her parents reduce their personal method into a syllabus to be followed in a classroom. Children can be withdrawn from schools if they are bright so that they may learn on their own. In 1985 there were half a million children in the USA who had denied themselves the convenience of school education.

**Freedom is a spiritual principle.**

Mass copying has rendered a college degree a farce. Employers go more by the latent talents than by the certificate. The country has taken to the professional courses in a big way. In spite of all the defects and corruption, it is a welcome development. But all these degree holders seek salaried employment. The urge to be an entrepreneur is only a silver lining. The prosperity of any nation is brought about by the adventure of the millions of entrepreneurs. In our country that self-reliance is lost. The recent boom witnessed mainly in the urban areas is attributed to the new-found self-confidence. The Chairman of Unilever who visited India took note of it.

**Self-confidence issues from the Self.** The Mother says the light is there in the very bodies of the Indians which is absent in the Westerner. To create a SYSTEM so that the Spiritual light will emerge on the surface is desirable as well as possible. Before considering how far it is practicable in Indian conditions, let us consider what that system looks like and what the components are that would go to make it into a system. The many features of such a system are,

- 1) The child must be led to think, not memorize.
- 2) Examinations must either be abolished or used minimally.
- 3) The child should not be beaten or threatened or coerced in any way.
- 4) **That a child at the age of seven learns on its own when it is encouraged in a free atmosphere better than a child at the age of twelve under the present system should be seen as a fact, not an argument.**
- 5) Parents must come forward to concede the fact that the children are their psychological extension.
- 6) A teacher is more a hindrance than a help, even in the best of circumstances.
- 7) The development of mind, in several aspects, directly depends upon the corresponding muscles in the body.
- 8) Freedom widens the horizons of the child's mind from conditioning to a wideness not conceivable in the present society.
- 9) Spirit shies away from the exercise of authority of any description.
- 10) Only utter Truthfulness in the child will induce the Spirit to descend into the child's mind.
- 11) Schools prepare children for physical survival. On the contrary, **education must prepare pupils for a psychological adventure.**

For India to be prosperous, she cannot be producing graduates who aspire for a salaried job and end up as clerks. McCauley

created that system to provide him with administrative manpower. **Prosperity demands entrepreneurship, educated, informed self-confident entrepreneurship.** Sri Aurobindo said, “All Life is Yoga”, which means the spirit of life is doing yoga to raise itself to Divine Life. I said education is the yoga of the society. It means education is the instrument through which society will achieve its goal. The goal of the society is ultimately to attain to Divine Life. Prior to that, society needs to be free from strife, war, poverty, disease and finally ignorance. Present education will not lead to that goal, and has *not* led to that goal. Certain nations actively prepare for war through the school. The initiative is not with the government but the social elite. Our system of education must prepare the student at two levels,

- 1) He must, on his own, be very highly productive — entrepreneurship.
- 2) He must be able to rise above social inhibitions and become a psychological Individual expressing Truth, Courage, Honesty, etc.

The social initiative can come from Individuals as well as schools. **However small they are in number at the beginning, ultimately they will lead the nation.**

### *Science of Life*

Man has attempted mastery over Nature. To a great extent he has acquired it. By studying Nature and materials, Man has come by a vast amount of data which constantly increases his mastery over Nature. Yoga is the Science of the Spirit. It evolves the next species. In between lies life. Man simply faces life when it confronts him. He cannot handle it. When a cyclone is announced he takes the maximum precaution, nothing more. On a person’s wedding day if there is a hartal, he is helpless. But we have never studied life. What causes a cyclone or hartal in life is not a question we ever ask. **Hartal is a protest of a body of men. Cyclone is a tumultuous rush of air to a point of low pressure. At the moment of hartal in the town, you may see something in you is**

**virulently protesting against some detail of the wedding arrangement. If you can locate it, see how irrational your protest is and withdraw it, the hartal in the town will be cancelled. There is no problem of life that cannot be so solved.** Life can be taught in the school as science. The child of that school will have mastery over all life circumstances. He may not have to face any problem of life that we face today. The Indian society was once on that footing. We must now restore it **and enlarge it to suit modern conditions. The Theory of Social Evolution has attempted it and found it feasible.** Man, having crossed the path of Nature, ended with pollution. We must cooperate with Nature. The system of education we need cannot consider Nature as material Nature. Nature has life. It is presided over by Prakriti. Prakriti has a being. It is the evolving Spirit called Psychic Being. At this point, Indian education must make a drastic departure from Western material education.

- ★ Western education has produced entrepreneurs based on physical material knowledge gathered by the Mind of Ignorance.
- ★ Beyond that Mind of Ignorance lies the Mind of Silence to which all great philosophers of the world belong, the Mind of vision to which Rishis belong, the Mind of Intuition to which Einstein and Srinivasa Ramanujam belong. **Such a system will produce Einsteins and Ramanujams by the hundreds and thousands as the present system produces PhDs and research scholars.**
- ★ This is our heritage, waiting for us to draw upon it.
- ★ The educational aim is not to go to USA for study, but to attract students from all over the world to study in India.

Every scientific discovery was vehemently opposed at the time of introduction in all countries. Glenn Doman, who has discovered a wonderful method of education which produces children at the age of ten with the endowment of students at the age of twenty-five, is decried in the USA. He remains obscure even in his local town. The only departure he has made is he

shifted the learning from the teacher to the student. By student he means the Mind of Ignorance of the student. Our system will shift the learning three or four levels above that Mind of Ignorance to the Mind of Intuition and above. Our system will differ from the present system as the present system differs from the old Indian system that taught only language and arithmetic.

- ★ The present system creates intellectuality.
- ★ In our system, intellectuality is a bar.
- ★ We create insight and intuition.
- ★ Our system discourages Memory.
- ★ The Western system relies on written records for Memory.
- ★ Our system will replace memory by Intuition.
- ★ **Our normal products will be Einsteins and Ramanujams.**
- ★ The present system is empirical.
- ★ We know knowledge resides above for us to draw upon. We raise our minds and the knowledge descends into them.
- ★ Our schools are meant for all. Bright children are not to go to schools. They learn on their own to reach higher levels.
- ★ Our schools and homes warn children against Truth. They are armed with enough falsehood to survive in the society.
- ★ The system I envision **requires utter Truthfulness in the child. No parent who relies on social falsehood can send his child to our schools.**
- ★ The Western child is taught not to lie. We teach our children to lie implicitly and directly.
- ★ The vast records that Western life demands prevents lying. Now computer almost makes lying impossible. Our system does require in addition to these a culture of Truth at home, at school, etc.
- ★ The present system has produced outstanding individuals such as Milton, Newton, Marx, and Churchill. We know Sri Aurobindo Himself passed through this system. They

were great in spite of the system. Tagore, Wells, and Shaw could not tolerate this system. By and large all great minds so far were created outside this system.

- ★ The future prosperity needs entrepreneurs. **But the Future needs the entrepreneurs of the Spirit, the spiritually awakened Individual.**
- ★ Creation of the system is easy because it is our motive that creates it. The past is not to be neglected. Past does not mean rituals or scriptural texts. The past means the essence of the Spiritual Light we have inherited. The present is the demands of the society we live in. To link them with the necessary ORGANISATION is not a stupendous task.
- ★ We must, for the present, ignore the government which cannot move. The social elite through Individual efforts and the schools they found should sponsor this system. **One important basis is NOT to seek government recognition, but to base it on the inner and outer capacity the student gets from the school to enter the society.**
- ★ To say the least, it is a revolutionary proposal. It will be a revolutionary effort in practice.

### *Knowledge is inside, not outside*

From ancient times the yogi went inside to discover the ultimate knowledge. Jesus, Buddha and the Rishis did so. Poets all over the world and philosophers have found the knowledge inside. Copernicus discovered the heliocentric system by an inspiring idea from inside. That is why Einstein, who discovered the formula of the universe, said that one who does not have the intuitive emotion cannot be an original scientist. He himself discovered the formula inside.

Man who makes a great progress by resigning a salaried job in favour of self-employment arrives at that decision inwardly. Just because hundreds and thousands of entrepreneurs are rolling

in wealth, there is no exodus from the salaried class away from it and into business ventures. **That decision is made inside. Any decision is made only inside. Decisions imposed from outside are powerless and not long lasting.** If decisions are part of Mind, knowledge is a prior part of the Mind. Charles Darwin collected facts, systematized them and classified them, but the formulas of the survival of the fittest, natural selection and struggle for existence were not in the data. They were inside his mind.

- ★ All knowledge is inside; it is discovered outside.
- ★ The scientist seeks knowledge outside.
- ★ What is outside is the data.
- ★ It is observation that converts information into data.
- ★ Had Darwin concentrated in his mind for a tenth of the time he researched, he would have landed on those formulas.
- ★ **Discovery is inside; confirmation is outside.**
- ★ The method of the scientist is physical and therefore primitive. He has to learn to use his thinking Mind, not the physical Mind.
- ★ Indian system of education must decide on this point and break with the Western system.
- ★ Once the dependence on the Western system is radically broken, drawing up a curriculum or syllabus is no great task.
- ★ Not only in education must India break with the West, but such a radical change is called for in all walks of life – in employment, raising of children, politics, etc. – without which spiritualisation of life is a mere platitude, a pious wish, a ritualistic nonsense which will make him the butt end of derisive laughter. Gandhiji asked the Working Committee to accept ahimsa as a state policy towards aggressive military neighbours. **The Congress unanimously refused the proposal.**

## VII. Yoga in Domestic Life

Sri Aurobindo's yoga differs essentially from the traditional yoga. One important aspect of it is His yoga includes life and does not shun it. In practice those who take to Him approach Him and His writings in the traditional sense. *The Life Divine* is the philosophy of His yoga. The general response to it is that it is incomprehensible. Of course, read as a philosophical treatise, it is so to the man in domestic life. Approached as a treatise, it is not unintelligible as He develops His thesis methodically. Only when we forget the earlier arguments, further reading will be puzzling. **The real difficulty with His writing is not the cogency or coherence, but the amount of mental energy it consumes.** Our energies are exhausted within two or three pages. Hence the difficulty. It is a natural one.

There are those who know life well. They read *The Life Divine* in terms of life. They try to understand the themes in the context of life. For them the Book offers no resistance. With not highly educated people, I have tried to explain various chapters of the book giving life analogies. There is no argument in the Book that cannot be explained well through an analogy from life. We live our life based on our religious faith which consists of the following:

- ★ We are governed by karma.
- ★ God will punish the sinner.
- ★ Punya takes us to Moksha.
- ★ Sin takes us to hell.
- ★ The Good are rewarded.
- ★ The evil are punished.
- ★ One cannot survive by utter truthfulness.
- ★ Rituals are life-giving exercises.
- ★ Yoga is not for the householder.

- ★ Money should not be sought, must be shunned.
- ★ Work is for the ignorant.
- ★ Whatever we are, God will protect us.
- ★ Life is to be given up.
- ★ Life is full of sins.

All of these are for those who live in Nature, not for those who live by the Spirit. Several of them are wrong. Some are illusory; a few are superstitious. Without trying to explain their validity, let us proceed to look at a life that can be lived according to the Spirit. Let me state the salient aspects and explain in outline what we have arrived at. In particular, we tried it in business, wrote books on it and practiced it in a small way. Those are principles **FULLY** applicable to domestic life, to the progressive Individual.

- ★ Karma is avoidable entirely if one lives in the Spirit.
- ★ A life uninhibited by karma must be able to expand endlessly.
- ★ Problems have their solutions in-built into them.
- ★ The outer is a reflection of the inner.
- ★ **Life, business, work, family, fortune are expanding infinitely.**
- ★ Life is full of opportunities.
- ★ We are unconscious.
- ★ We have to move from unconsciousness to consciousness.
- ★ Life is not limited by death.
- ★ We grow by giving.
- ★ Self-giving is the basis of this life, not selfishness.
- ★ Life grows by consciousness.
- ★ Consciousness grows by organisation.
- ★ The inner moves the outer.
- ★ Man can function from the Spiritual centre more effectively than his vital or mental centre.
- ★ One has to outgrow social, moral limitations.
- ★ Harmony is the secret of accomplishment.

- ★ **A business can endlessly expand if it is willing to constantly upgrade its organisation.**
- ★ Life at home can be full of joy and cheer, completely free of problems.
- ★ You can attain any level of wealth you choose.
- ★ Body can cure itself.
- ★ Natural forces and the social environment are under man's control.
- ★ There is no evil, falsehood, or sin in life for those who have come out of the ego.
- ★ Difficulties are opportunities.
- ★ Contradictions are complements.

If all of the above are true, what does it mean for one in domestic life or business life? It means,

- ★ In the measure one emerges out of ego, he can have a life of joy and abundance at home.
- ★ A business can survive and grow without the interference of the government, strikes and market conditions.
- ★ Life is one of expansive **JOY**, not a punishment of karma.

I would like to explain each one of the above principles in the measure space is available. Before that let me cite some experiences where these principles are involved.

When the principles were framed and published as a book in the USA, we wished to test the validity of these ideas in the field. So we approached someone who had received the "Businessman of the Year" award in India. His operations were in the neighbourhood of Rs.600 crores and a profit of Rs.26 crores. His first question was, "The government has licensed forty more companies in this field. I am not sure whether I will survive this onslaught." According to our view such a challenge met in the right spirit must lead to an expansion. He could understand our point of view, but was not encouraged by it. He permitted us to study and report. Next year his profit rose to fifty crores and sales also nearly doubled. In about ten days we studied his various departments, examined some records, interviewed several people

and wrote a report of 122 recommendations.

- ★ A company's survival does not depend on the market. It is our belief that it solely depends **on its internal structure, energy and motive**. Our report spoke about all that. Ten years later when his sales and profit rose ten-fold, he became the No.1 in his field in the world. With forty new entrants, some of them world leaders, it is reasonable to expect dissolution. **The competition generates a serious threat. One can succumb to it or face the challenge with cheerfulness.** He did so with courage. How far he followed our report we do not know. He not only survived, but grew. That fact is a confirmation of our principle.

We tried this with another small cement agent. He did follow us seriously. In the first six months his profit level rose ten-fold. The principles of cleanliness, soft speech, correct accounts, correspondence, avoiding waste are all very powerful principles. A salaried employee with Rs.7000 salary was enamoured of our idea when we told him he could raise it to Rs.70,000. Obviously it could not happen in his job. We were not free to tell him to resign his job. He was also an insurance agent. His practicing these rules showed as a spurt in his insurance work. He saw the power of our ideas, the limitation of his official and family circumstances. We could not decide on his behalf. After two or three years of observing the results in his insurance work, he resigned the job. Last month his income exceeded Rs.2 lakhs. Of course, it was for one month. Now that he believes in the ideas and saw the phenomenal results, he says he will work to make a ten-fold income permanent.

Human life is the social life organised around the main activity of production. Initially it was agriculture. All life in the society reflected agriculture. The most important festival of Tamil Nadu is Pongal. It is an agricultural festival, a harvest festival. Nowadays life is moving towards the lifestyle of America. Our schools, colleges, companies, universities, games, hotels, tastes,

newspapers and festivals have taken after the American way in some measure. Birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and all the rest are imported from USA. That is life. We are talking of a higher life, a life of Truth, a life of plenty, a life free from pain and suffering. Should this come true, our society should gradually take on itself the **values of this new life**. It means,

- ★ Our entire life should shift from Form to Content.
- ★ Birthdays, instead of being social occasions, must be spiritual occasions, an occasion when the inner Spirit is born at a higher level.
- ★ Human relationships must be based on Self-giving instead of selfishness.
- ★ We grow by giving, not taking.
- ★ Our career must be Self-employment, not salaried employment.
- ★ Games should be played for the **GLORY** of sports, not to win.
- ★ Social life must be freed from rigid rules and customs.
- ★ Mother says private property must be abolished and marriage too must be abolished.
- ★ Religion must give way to Spirit.

These are ideals to reach the goal and therefore not easy for all to take to them directly. Out of these values issue so many parts. I can report about any number of cases and the results and explain through which value or which part of what value those results issues. Those values are,

- ★ Prayer, which all can easily resort to
- ★ Deep prayer, that comes out in grave situations
- ★ Capable hard work
- ★ Skilled employment
- ★ Devoted service
- ★ Pleasant behaviour
- ★ Loyal obedience
- ★ Disciplined obedience to obnoxious characters

- ★ Silent will out of necessity
- ★ Silent will out of choice
- ★ Silent will of one who has power
- ★ Indifference to gossip
- ★ Dedicated service
- ★ Patience
- ★ Accepting unacceptable characters out of duty
- ★ Expansive opening
- ★ Receptivity
- ★ Subtlety
- ★ Insight
- ★ Intuition
- ★ Selfless service
- ★ Help
- ★ Organisation
- ★ Tolerance of injustice
- ★ Understanding the other man's point of view
- ★ Willingness to change the wrong attitude
- ★ Readiness to believe what one disapproves of
- ★ Subtle Darsan
- ★ Calling
- ★ Mantra
- ★ Reading the sacred texts
- ★ Meditation
- ★ Ability to see the inner-outer correspondence
- ★ Willingness to overcome habits
- ★ Courage
- ★ Use of flowers
- ★ Capacity to give up organisation in favour of the ideal
- ★ Discharge of duties
- ★ Tolerance of betrayal
- ★ Equality
- ★ Self-respect
- ★ Truthfulness
- ★ Love

- ★ Cheerfulness
- ★ Comprehension

The list is as long as life. We can give many examples of devotees' experiences for each of the methods listed. I have been writing them wherever the context permits. They are events illustrative of the principles and, thus, educative. Any number of them can be quoted without any context. **They are their own context.** What ordinary people can readily see are striking events. For ages they know that astrology, especially *Nadi Josyam*, is precisely correct. If they see this Force overcoming the prediction of the palmleaf horoscope, it will open many eyes.

A very honest officer, who crossed swords with a high level politician over a pretty prostitute, was falsely charged with high corruption along with thirteen others and arrest warrants were issued. During these proceedings the officer went to such an astrologer and consulted. "You were a Brahmin in the last birth and swindled your employer. **You can never escape this punishment**", said the astrologer. He not only escaped arrest, but was acquitted on all charges on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after he received a blessing packet.

There was a very poor village where almost everyone was a day labourer, though each owned a fraction of an acre. As that piece of land was not irrigated, cultivation there could not support his family. There was a Co-operative Society that financed the dry cultivation. As the arrears accumulated year after year, the society was closed. This was prior to the nationalization of banks. All the workers there had to walk to the nearby towns five or seven miles away in search of work. A devotee came to the village and started extensive cultivation. The population was relieved that work was locally available. **The devotee's land carried the atmosphere of the Mother.** Work there began to influence the lives of the workers. They began to look brighter, to give up drinking and illicit distillation. After some time, the whole village resolved to give up drinking. When the devotee working in the land was in meditation at the Samadhi of Sri Aurobindo, he saw

the smell of liquor moving away from him. What happened in the village had been seen by him in the subtle plane at the Samadhi.

The devotee took efforts to bring a bank to the village to support their cultivation. The bank reluctantly agreed. That year the monsoon was copious, the crop was abundant, the whole village that had defaulted with the Cooperative Society paid back the bank loan on their own and in time. That was a prosperous year for the village, as the price of the crop rose to twice the previous maximum. Most farmers wiped out their long-standing debts. The devotee wanted them to dig borewells. There was no response. A year later the village responded and dug wells availing of bank loans. By shifting from dry cultivation to irrigated cultivation, the village entered prosperity, as their incomes rose five to ten times. About ten years later, the whole village tried a cash crop emulating the devotee. Income rose sky high, a minimum of fifty to a hundred times. The villagers were known for their extraordinary skill and industry. Modern cultivation of a cash crop yielded inconceivable dividends. Now the income was a thousand times more than their original dry cultivation ten years earlier. **The poorest village in the district thus became the richest village. The new lifestyle spread to forty villages around.** Their road to prosperity was achieved by several causes.

- ★ They worked on the land of a devotee.
- ★ It brought them indirectly in touch with the higher consciousness.
- ★ Higher consciousness opened up higher opportunities.
- ★ The village, en masse, decided to be honest with regard to the bank loan in spite of their past negative behaviour towards the Co-operative Society. **Conscious inner effort to change towards HONESTY brings still higher opportunities.**
- ★ Dry cultivation came to be wet cultivation.
- ★ For about a year, the farmers were unable to accept the opportunity of well irrigation.

- ★ Poverty consciousness had to struggle to accept Prosperity consciousness. It needed an inner effort out of self-choice.
- ★ This involved a risk of losing their land in case of failure.
- ★ Desire to avail of the higher opportunity taking risk at this level was an inner adventure for the farmers.
- ★ In spite of having irrigation, they could not risk the ten-fold higher investment in a cash crop, though it was seen on the land of the devotee for ten years.
- ★ Willingness to raise the level of the risk so high, and willingness to give up a poor habit are not common. Cash crop needs ten-fold more intense work. Being diligent workers, they willingly gave that work. Results were a thousand-fold higher.
- ★ This is not because they invoked the Spirit. They only happily accepted the help offered by the devotee who invoked the Spirit. As soon as the very first cultivation programme was a success in that village, the bank introduced it all over India and the same year all banks followed. Agricultural credit came to stay. It started with 2000 villages and Rs. 150 crores. Now every village in India enjoys bank loans and the agriculture credit stands at Rs. 20,000 crores.
- ★ **Here we see work done in Mother's consciousness spreads all over.** The World Bank insisted on credit to farmers from then onwards.

### *Character of Prosperity*

Politics is a field where a driver can become a Central Minister or a peon can rise to become a Cabinet Minister. Often we see a car driver of an industrialist becoming wealthy or a VIP in his town. Some characteristics of Prosperity:

- ★ **Prosperity is not ethical or moral at all.**
- ★ Traditionally, Robber Barons are known. They have often been rulers.

- ★ Prosperity moves to a mighty person who is ruthless.
- ★ Wherever there is **ORGANISATION** or Power, there we find people prosperous.
- ★ It does not mean we need to accept Prosperity through whatever route it comes to us. We can choose only positive Prosperity.
- ★ **Prosperity is NOT the measure of one's success, especially in a spiritual country like India.**
- ★ There are no two opinions about the necessity of Prosperity.
- ★ India's voice will not be heard in the comity of nations if she is a poor country. She will certainly be heard with respect if she is rich.
- ★ Prosperity is not something to be shunned at all.
- ★ Austerity is not simplicity. Austerity shuns Prosperity because they are antitheses. **Domestic life does not aspire for austerity.**
- ★ It is right on any showing that Prosperity is a valid and rational goal for the householder.
- ★ Prosperity reduces ignorance and illness.
- ★ Prosperity, *suo motto*, provides security.
- ★ Prosperity and Freedom are in direct proportion.
- ★ Prosperity comes to those who honour the disciplines demanded by it.
- ★ The basis of Prosperity is industry, responsibility, honesty, organisation, common sense and alertness in life.
- ★ Desire for Prosperity without its basic requirements is wishful thinking.
- ★ Prosperity is a better foundation of Spirituality than poverty.
- ★ **Prosperity is energy organised – not determined by its ethical character.**
- ★ Prosperity is indispensable for health, education and happiness.
- ★ Prosperity rises as we rise in the scale of human values –

from the physical to the vital, from the vital to the mental, and finally from the mental to the Spiritual.

- ★ **The greatest Prosperity issues out of Spirituality.**
- ★ Spirituality is Prosperity.
- ★ Prosperity of any description is Spirituality.
- ★ Prosperity requires no apologies.
- ★ Spiritual Prosperity is everlasting, knows no diminishing.
- ★ Wealth by itself may destroy peace of mind; Spiritual Prosperity increases mental peace.
- ★ Spiritual Prosperity is harmonious.
- ★ Prosperity promotes domestic peace.
- ★ Prosperity enhances overall discipline.
- ★ **At a certain point, Prosperity begins to Self-multiply.**
- ★ No poor nation has ever led the world.
- ★ No poor man has ever been heard or obeyed with respect.
- ★ If any poor man leads, there will be a rich man behind him.
- ★ India cannot become Jagat Guru without her also becoming exceedingly wealthy.
- ★ **Wealth is the Truth of Life.**
- ★ Mother Earth enjoys producing more and more; she does not like to be a barren Mother.
- ★ The world will not unite around a poor nation with a primitive lifestyle.
- ★ World Union demands abundance in our country.
- ★ Supramental life can be simple or luxurious but not poor, says Sri Aurobindo.

The Divine Mother says quite often that the atmosphere is charged with higher consciousness. In revolutionary periods anything can happen. A king may lose his head. A man on the street can rise to be a general. **In an evolutionary epoch the same character will be more pronounced.** For a small positive effort, a great benefit accrues. For a small error, one loses everything. This is a period like that. Companies err, sometimes wantonly. They, thus lose their reputation, and earn reduced

profits. See what has happened to Enron and Arthur Anderson. They were giants. For a single error, both of them have disappeared from the horizon. This is a new phenomenon.

- ★ The devotee has all the advantages of the atmosphere of the Mother.
- ★ **On his part, he must ensure that he will never feel an attraction to evil, error, falsehood, mistake, etc.**

Whether it is personal, domestic life or corporate life, a boon in the shape of a boom awaits him. It is not for the man who vacillates or oscillates. The Force is an invitation to all bold, courageous men to take a leap in honest persuasion. On them, it will descend in a flood. It is descending in floods. It is the human *tamas* that swallows the best part of it. The few extraordinary results I have quoted are the exceptions where the man was guided to do the right thing and was helped to steer clear of the pitfalls.

**Mother needs Men who have self-guidance.** Religions went about forcing people to conform. This Force does not compel. It offers itself to be of use. It is for Man to turn to it for evolution or at least luck.

- ★ Luck is the medium for Social Evolution.
- ★ A time will come when the Force may be compelling.
- ★ Another time may come when the Force may transform Man without his cooperation, maybe without his knowledge too.
- ★ In that case, not all men may thus be transformed. An evolutionary residue, as the monkey, may remain.
- ★ **The choice is ours.**

## VIII. Significance of Time

To the metaphysician Time is a concept, no more. **Time is as much a reality to the yogi as water or air, only that its significance belongs more to the subtle plane.** To the physicist, Time acquired a greater significance since the Theory of Relativity. Whether he has known Time fully is a question. Schools of thought that consider Time is the creator of the world have erred, according to Sri Aurobindo, on the human side.

The concept of Time having the divisions of past, present and future is universal. Timelessness is a world of the Rishi. It is a world of no movement. It is the domain of the Silent Purusha, the unchanging witness. Time goes with Space. As Time has the counterpart of Timelessness, Space has its own counterpart of Spacelessness.

- ★ The Timeless is Eternal.
- ★ The Spaceless is Infinite.

Time and Space are realities of the human world, the lower hemisphere. Timelessness and Spacelessness belong to the higher hemisphere of the Spirit, the cosmos. In a world that is aware of these two worlds, Sri Aurobindo brings in the realities of a third world, the world of Supramental creation. There Time and Timelessness co-exist. He calls it 'simultaneous integrality of Time eternity and Timeless eternity'. We shall call it for simplicity's sake, the third dimension of Time.<sup>2</sup>

There was a time when the employer was all in a company. His word was the law. The worker was a commodity which could be dispensed with if necessary. In the post war world in India labour became intransigent. Labour ruled or misruled. Now industrial harmony is restored to the extent that the employer

<sup>2</sup> This may not be mistaken for what is generally known as the third dimension of space.

and the labour give serious consideration to each other. They co-exist. This can serve as an analogy to Time, Timelessness and the third dimension of Time. As the Spirit evolves, Time moves to the third dimension. Already I spoke of this phenomenon, giving an analogy of domestic life. Now, let us consider this phenomenon as a global or universal phenomenon.

- ★ The plane of Time is our human world. It allows success and failure; darkness and light; right and wrong; the dualities. **It is bound by karma.** It is a world of the physical, the vital, and the mental. It does not admit of the Spirit. In us, this plane dwells in our surface mind. This is a world of Ignorance. Mind, Time, and Ego rule this world of finite objects.
- ★ Timelessness is the higher world, the world of the Spirit. It is the cosmos. It belongs to the inner mind. This is the world of the Rishis. This world leads to moksha or Nirvana. This is not on the surface. This is entirely a subtle world. The subtle plane is not necessarily the spiritual plane.
- ★ The third dimension of Time is one where Time and Timelessness meet. It is spread all over the universe. It is neither on the surface nor in the inner mind. It is further behind the inner mind. This mind is known as the subliminal mind. There ego cannot exist as spreading all over the world, ego loses its structure. Ego can exist only in a limited way. Limitless expansion dissolves ego.
  - ◆ Mind there acquires a different characteristic. It cannot retain its characteristic of Ignorant Mind. Moving to the inner Mind, Mind loses its Ignorance and is full of light. Moving further below, Mind becomes universal. Here it is capable of sensing the Superconscient as well as the subconscious as both meet in the subliminal.
  - ◆ Even in the subliminal, there are special intensities

which are known as the cave of the subliminal. The experiences of the surface Mind and the inner Mind collect their essences in this cave. **The collected essences are known as the Psychic.**

- ◆ Sri Aurobindo's yoga demands of Men to move to this Mind – subliminal Mind.
- ◆ Man moves to the inner Mind by concentration. Subliminal Mind cannot be reached by concentration. Concentration is the Mind dwelling on itself. It leads to the purification of the Mind. **The purified Mind is the Spirit.** The Spirit, as soon as it is reached, looks for release, Moksha. Even concentration is a method. No method can lead to the Psychic. Mind needs methods. The Soul or Spirit needs no methods. Especially the evolving soul refuses any method. Giving up all the known methods is giving up the effort of Ego. It is called surrender or consecration. Mind cannot do it. The Spirit can. **The choice before the Spirit is Moksha or Transformation.** The Spirit is free to choose the inner Mind through concentration or the subliminal Mind by consecration.
- ◆ Reaching the subliminal Mind, Man is in the third dimension of Time where there is no failure, no suffering, no pain and no death.

These two pages of philosophy can be easily explained to anyone who has invoked the Spirit or is willing to invoke the Spirit. The Spirit – Psychic Being – when invoked takes us momentarily to this subliminal mind and lets us be touched by the Psychic. In life, we see, a dispute settled is in favour of one person at the expense of another. A prayer magnificently granted is at once accompanied by a loss in another place, as prayer is of the surface limited mind. One work completed in the surface Mind is at the expense of another work. A father getting elected as Municipal Councillor is simultaneously accompanied by the

son failing in the exam. **This is a plane that knows no failure.** When the father is elected, the son who has not written the exam well will pass it, merely on the strength of the greater intensity in the atmosphere.

- ★ One characteristic of prayer to Mother is, it will be accompanied by other successes not prayed for, at least one. If not, what is prayed for will be given in excess.
- ★ He who prayed for a mud house, built a cement house.
- ★ One who was not in a position to borrow could not believe his ears when someone approached him and offered to lend money. **Contrary to custom, the lender met the registration expenses.** Failure is not on the agenda when the granted prayer carried an excess.
- ★ One who lost his job, in appealing to the government approached a sympathetic officer. The victim knew these are time-consuming procedures. Even his application would take months to reach the head office. If only the final order were favourable, he would consider himself lucky. **The officer offered to pass favourable orders on the advanced copy.** He was reinstated before he could appeal.
- ★ Another characteristic of this dimension is the extraordinary speed, as the Timeless dwells in Time.
- ★ Bank loans are notoriously delayed. Sixty-five clients of a programme all paid back the loan before the last date, something unheard of in the annuals of bank lending. It is striking, as more than one person was involved.
- ★ An International Commission's Report expected to be written in six months, was submitted in a form ready to be printed in eighteen days.
- ★ Another characteristic of this dimension is when one thing comes through, several other things also come through. It is the experience of devotees that when they try to marry one girl, the wedding of two daughters is finalized.

Along with that, a brother's *upanayanam* also takes place, all not on the family agenda.

- ★ Someone was invited to talk on the radio but the speech was never delivered. A leading newspaper offered to write on his project. The Director gave his intended radio speech as the write up. The newspaper, examining the article, desired to publish photos too. Just then the A.I.R. called him and asked him to deliver the speech, converting it into an interview with its Director.

Sri Aurobindo says that this 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension of Time is one characteristic of the Supramental plane. When his prayer is granted, a drop of consciousness from that plane touches the devotee. The other characteristics of that plane have been touched upon so far. It is worthwhile repeating them in this context.

- ★ This dimension of Time carries the active play of Grace. Prayers granted by this plane are 100% perfect, whereas cures by faith in life only give 99% relief.
- ★ When the receptivity of the individual is total, this plane converts grace into Super grace. It means the end results come in the beginning. I have cited the constitution of the International Commission (ICPF) to achieve disarmament. Disarmament in the shape of the fall of the Berlin Wall occurred a week before the first session of ICPF.
- ★ It cancels karma, as karma cannot survive in this dimension of Time. Karma can operate in Time. It cannot operate even in Timelessness. Karma brings the consequences of the past to bear upon the present. In this dimension, there is no past. It merges with the present, as it is ever-present. In the case of the officer charged with corruption (p.16), his past karma could not stand in the way of his being acquitted.
- ★ All the characteristics of this plane can be and must be explained in one given case. Only then the value of the

plane will emerge. As we get patches of information from the devotees, it is not always feasible to do so.

I tried to take up *Pride and Prejudice* and wrote a lengthy commentary of over sixty pages to bring out all the characteristics of this dimension in one context. I have touched upon the crux of that earlier. To write about thirty or fifty anecdotes of this description briefly is not out of place here. As my writing proceeds, its course will reveal whether such a possibility arises or not. In the meantime, I wish to mention most of those characteristics.

- 1) This plane fully saves the man who has fully and willingly played into the hands of his arch enemy.
- 2) The body's rules are fixed. Only the Hatha yogi can overcome them. Ordinary devotees having that power by their prayer is seen here.
- 3) The wanton evildoer getting the full benefit of what he meant for his enemy.
- 4) Surmounting insurmountable obstacles.
- 5) Long-standing disputes are settled in ten minutes when the conscious offender reverses himself.
- 6) Grace acts when effort is given up.
- 7) Unsolicited Grace.
- 8) Manifold success against the protest of the beneficiary.
- 9) A six year vicious scheme dismantled in three hours.
- 10) A superior power's action is reversed by a small fry.
- 11) Vibration of Luck is infectious in the subtle plane.
- 12) Invisible unknown subconscious potentials are brought to the surface and they bear fruit.
- 13) This plane gives one the endowment of the vibration of material Grace – the capacity to bring down rain.
- 14) Capable of giving yogic reward for dedicated physical work.
- 15) Total relief from pain by an apparently painful measure.
- 16) Giving further long lease of life.

- 17) Changes the social situation into its opposite character.
- 18) Raises one who cannot enter the list to the top rank.
- 19) Prayer granted delayed even without offering.
- 20) The unfailing Force lands on the neighbour of a refractory devotee who is resistant.
- 21) Over-fulfil an impossible dream.
- 22) Expand one's work 700 times.
- 23) Lifetime benefit in one year.
- 24) Infinite prosperity lands on one (from Rs.28 lakhs to Rs.3000 crores in 20 years) because unawareness does not resist.
- 25) Perfect skill rewarded 1500-fold.
- 26) Fear of death removed.
- 27) Himalayan loans converted into mounting profits.
- 28) Life-long ambition granted four-fold.
- 29) A child's prayer can give her capacities to defeat a wizard in chess of the same age.**

The Upanishads that declared the four famous formulas of the Indian religion also declared, "We know God; we know the Universe; we also know God made it, but we do not know how. **It is not for us, mortal men, to ask the One how the Many issued out of it.**" Sri Aurobindo calls this the retort of the Upanishads. He confirms their view that we do not have that right. This is so because until Sri Aurobindo discovered the 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension of Time, there was God in the Timeless plane and Man in the plane of Time. They excluded each other.

After He reached the Supramental plane, He saw there was one more plane of Time – the third dimension. Here He saw how God had made the world and why He made it. The eternal One chose to objectify Himself and the Object presented itself to the Subject. The Object is our world, the subject is the higher world. That world which includes the object and the subject is the world of the third dimension. **This is a world of wholeness, containing the Many in which the One is.** This world descending to our

world transforms our world of Ignorance into a world of knowledge. To reach this world, Man has to emerge out of his ego and enter into the Psychic Being. This is a world of Delight, which can be variously described as,

- 1) The Supramentalised world of ours.
- 2) The world of Divine Life.
- 3) An egoless world where the ego is replaced by the Psychic.
- 4) This is the world where Timeless eternity and Time eternity co-exist in simultaneous integrality of Time.
- 5) This world is the world of the Subliminal.
- 6) We can say the Subliminal emerges in the Surface Mind.
- 7) Here the Infinite emerges out of the Finite.
- 8) **The Mother calls this the ‘World of Delight at our doorsteps waiting for our call’.**
- 9) Contradictions here reveal as complements.
- 10) In this world we see Matter and Spirit are one.
- 11) Man reaching this world will know Matter as thoroughly as the Sannyasin knows the Spirit.

In *The Life Divine* He has 56 chapters where about fifty themes are explained. This world can be described in those fifty ways. What is important for us is that once we come to HER, she gives us a Touch of this world either during our prayer or in our meditation. It can become permanent if one can consecrate his acts.

- ★ The dozen statements of our tradition about God which are expressive of the Mystery of God, all reconcile in this world into one wholeness of Life that is Spirit.
- ★ The dichotomy of Silence and acts, Form and Formlessness, Infinite and finite, the Identical and the Multiple, the One and the Many, Time and Timelessness, the Manifest and the Unmanifest vanish here, revealing the eternal oneness of existence.
- ★ The layman’s perception of this world, though momentary,

is one of harmony where problems resolve into solutions and inner discords melt into eternal Peace and Joy.

The tradition spoke of Paramatma and Jivatma. **Sri Aurobindo says when the egoistic man sheds his ego, he discovers in its place the Purusha which is the World-Purusha. World-Purusha seen inside reveals at its centre the Transcendental Purusha.** His spiritual experience is Paramatma is Jivatma. Jivatma becomes Paramatma widening itself in the universe and raising itself to the Transcendent. That can be seen inside also.

The various steps of this transition are:

- ★ Shedding the ego.
- ★ Seeing the Purusha.
- ★ Knowing the Purusha as World-Purusha.
- ★ The World-Purusha individualizing the World-experience in us.
- ★ Seeing the world inside us.
- ★ Seeing the centre of that world.
- ★ Knowing that centre to be Paramatma.

As Jivatma is Paramatma, no act gets done if both do not accord their sanction to that act.

To offer another analogy from transport will help. Till 1920 all transport was on the ground. Man walked and carried a head load. He rode a horse for centuries, and built carriages of all descriptions. Railways came and revolutionized transport. Bicycle and car came later. **When plane was invented, it flew in the air, and the very character changed.** Sri Aurobindo’s third dimension was announced to the world through *Arya* between 1914 and 1920.

- ★ The new dimension of Time is to Spirituality what aeroplane was to transport.

Leonardo da Vinci was the Italian genius. His notebooks were prolific. It was Sri Aurobindo’s previous incarnation. All that was in da Vinci’s notebooks took life when Sri Aurobindo was born. The progress of the world in every respect took wings after His

birth in 1872. Mother said Sri Aurobindo had many ideas on economics, but their exposition never interested Him. She said,

- ★ The greatest of victories are not announced by the beat of drum.

Sri Aurobindo is a Force. It is in action. His action will not be visible to the social or moral eye. It may not disclose itself to the Spiritual eye of the tapasvi. **It is seen only in the third dimension.** A naked Sannyasi sitting in an ice-covered cave on the Himalayas said to someone from the Ashram, “You come from an Ashram on the seashore. They are doing very difficult work, never done before.” There was a sannyasi who was a terror because he pelted stones at visitors and set his dogs on them. An Ashramite went to his abode. At a considerable distance from his own ashram, the sannyasi met the Ashramite, made pranams and said, “Are you not coming from Sri Aurobindo Ashram?” “How do you know?” asked the sadhak. “I don’t need you to tell me anything in order to know that,” was the reply. In the subtle spiritual plane Sri Aurobindo was felt and continues to be felt. How far this work is known or appreciated remains a question.

We try to educate our children, give them a good character, train them in values of life, and leave them any property we have. Those who do so congratulate themselves. Property apart, a good education and wedding is the responsibility of the parent. Beyond that lies employment. Every parent is at pains to fulfil this duty. They are dutiful parents. When we have a work, conduct an exam, build a house, manage a seminar, or conduct a negotiation, we prepare ourselves, plan and meticulously execute. We are satisfied with excellent results. When you have one such work, instead of preparing yourself and planning, observe the course of events. First speak to Mother, consecrating the work, and do not plan as usual. If you have the luck of such an observation and you are able to leave every step in Her hands, the results will be amazing. “I could never have done this,” is what one exclaims at the end. **And that happens every time we**

**are able to leave the work and its different parts in Her hands.**

This may generate Faith in you. In that case, consider whether you can give your child education, employment and marriage or you can leave it in Her hands. If you are lucky enough to arrive at the latter decision, you will, in the end, realise that you cannot have achieved that much. There is a better course.

**It is to give them Mother instead of property, education and character.**

It cannot be done orally or by instructions. Every time the duty presents itself to your Mind, refer that to Mother. Make that reference richer and deeper over the years till you reach the very depths of your being.

- ★ There is no greater duty than giving Mother to your children.
- ★ You certainly cannot give to your children what Mother can give them.
- ★ You are a lucky father if your children take to Mother as fully as they can.

The Third dimension of Time can be explained in more than one way, though, being analogies, they may not always be as precise as an example. Its characteristics are worth writing about, though apparently repetitive, in another fashion or one more time.

- ★ This plane does NOT have the negative side we witness in life.
- ★ It does not permit fragmentation, as it is in the plane of Being.
- ★ It is not a limited plane like Time. Not only is it a limitless plane, but there is a tendency here to grow.
- ★ Examples from life may not fully express the significance of this plane.

Some analogies for the indivisibility of this Plane.

- ★ A house can be divided, not a family.
- ★ The size of the brain is limited, not the extent of the Mind.
- ★ Degree ends somewhere, not education.

- ★ Passion for a woman dies after a time; Love does not.
  - ★ Skill is limited, not values.
  - ★ Wars always end, not Peace.
  - ★ Presents can satiate, not affection.
  - ★ Money is limited; the capacity to earn money is not.
  - ★ Production is fixed, not creativity.
  - ★ Discipline ends, not Freedom.
  - ★ Songs have a physical limit, not music.
  - ★ Companionship may, after a time, become flat; not friendship.
  - ★ **Force of Nature can be divided; not the Being.**
  - ★ Raw materials may run out; not the new products they can create out of it.
  - ★ Time is in limits; the third dimension is limitless.
- 

## IX. Theory of Creation – Science

All thinkers set about understanding Life and aim at knowing how the world was created. The Bible attempted it. We have its explanation of creation. Another attempt gave the explanation that God made Man as the potter makes his pots and breathed life into him. There is no rationally valid Theory of Creation. Whether a theory is universally accepted or not, it must be rationally justifiable. Logic and Reason are the two most profound instruments of Man. Therefore, rational validity of a theory is essential. Science too attempted it. As with others, it has no explanation for evil in life. Two explanations are advanced. One is chance. The other is Necessity. Sri Aurobindo came up with another hypothesis that meets all these three objections. Then Life proves that His hypothesis is valid. It has been given to the world for the past eighty years. The world does not seem to have noticed it. His hypothesis and the arguments with which He proved it can be stated in their essentials. I may be partially repeating my earlier writings.

- ★ God is a Conscious Being.
- ★ He is Infinite and Eternal.
- ★ He seeks delight.
- ★ Discovery yields delight.
- ★ Self-discovery offers the maximum Delight. God seeks it.
- ★ He created the Universe in pursuit of that Delight.
- ★ **He became the finite, inconscient Universe so that He might evolve back to His original status, thus enjoying Delight in the process.**
- ★ His becoming the inert universe involves the inversion of  
Being into inconscient Matter.

Infinite into Finite.

Eternity into Time.

- ★ He has created no evil or pain, but only delight.
- ★ The inversion occurs at all points of Sachchidananda as  
Light into Darkness.  
Knowledge into Ignorance.  
Ananda into Pain.  
Truth into Falsehood.
- ★ In the process of the above inversion, Mind gets created.  
Mind is a dividing Instrument.  
That division creates the separative ego.  
The ego suffers pain, evil, etc. There is no evil or pain in creation.
- ★ Emerging out of the ego is the part of Man, the most enlightened member of evolution.
- ★ Evil is thus answered.
- ★ Chance and Necessity argue in opposite directions, leaving us a Mystery.
- ★ Sri Aurobindo's position of the Infinite emerging out of the finite, enjoying infinite variations, answers chance.
- ★ The Truths and Powers of that Being demand a fixed order. Hence the Necessity we see in creation.

If His hypothesis is thus proved, the other questions this assumption raises must now be answered.

- ★ The first question is about the several determinisms we see. Who determines them?
- ★ We see material objects like genes carry psychological traits. How can we explain it?
- ★ **As God Self-conceived to create this universe, Sri Aurobindo explains logically that this determinism is by Self-conception.**
- ★ Explaining how consciousness issues out of substance, Sri Aurobindo says that answers the second question.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> I am deliberately not giving here all the explanations of Sri Aurobindo in *The Life Divine*.

Substance is material, consciousness carries qualities. As consciousness emerges out of material substance, properties and qualities emerge out of material genes.

The above arguments meet the obstacles faced by Vedanta, the Materialist, and the Scientist. Whether His position is accepted or not, it will be right if His Theory of Creation is discussed by all those who seek an answer. Science is the ruling thought now. They have not considered the role of mysticism in Science. Now that Science has become the Establishment, we cannot seek any favour from it, much less a course of suicide. It will be like Martin Luther waiting for the approval of the Roman Catholic Church for his doctrine. As the inheritors of Indian Spirituality, we should establish His Theory. Our Society's attempt to apply this Theory to Social Evolution as well as Individual happiness is one such endeavour. Let us more thoroughly examine how valid our applications are. They need to be justified in theory and in practice. For practice, I propose an experiment later. To validate this Theory of Social Evolution, we can examine the history of the world and some current events. Fiction is the creation of the imagination. History is of physical occurrences. Hence fiction carries a greater authority. We can conduct our search in all these domains.

Our assumption is the Infinite is emerging out of the finite. If this is true, the individual who applies this **LAW** must witness an infinite expansion of his activities.

- ★ Man is created finite.
- ★ His work expands infinitely when this law finds expression in his life.

In our rural project, we witnessed a thousand-fold rise in the income of the farmer. In another case of an American businessman, his project expanded 700 times. In the case of a water diviner cited earlier, thirty years of work came to him in one year. **These events show the infinite expansion in life when this Force is called in.** These are measurable aspects of life. The innumerable characteristics of life that are not measurable carry

other aspects. In our work of over forty years, we have seen all those characteristics precisely finding play in any work. More than trying to explain what is not explainable, I propose an experiment where the devotee can experience all these. The facts will speak. **Even when he feels these laws are true, the devotee will not be able to explain them, but he will be more than convinced.**

### *The Losing Concern*

There are companies that make little or no profits. Sometimes they earn pitifully low profits. In such companies these methods raise the level of profits meteorically. There are other companies which are marginally losing. Himalayan work there reduces the loss. **To make them earn any profit is a near impossibility.** When they do make profits, it is far out of proportion to the effort undertaken.

- ★ The Company that makes a little profit is POSITIVE and therefore readily responds to efforts of raising profits.
- ★ That Company which is losing, however marginally, remains NEGATIVE in character. For it to earn any profit, we have to change the character of the company from negative to positive.

In a country, travelling any distance is possible. To travel from Madras to Trichy or to Delhi only requires the travel expenses. When I have to travel three miles and those three miles are across the border of Pakistan, I need a passport and a visa from Pakistan. There enters a non-travelling factor, a political factor which has nothing to do with the experience of travelling. We have seen this character in companies. **The change from Finite to Infinite is such a change of character of life.** This Force achieves that too, though results are not dramatic there.

The theory embraces all such characteristics. A detailed consideration of the Theory explains all aspects of society in terms of that Theory. Before this Theory or outside this Theory such phenomena remained unexplained, a mystery. I shall cite

some from the individual or a collective life.

- ★ Wars are followed by a vast expansion of life's progress.
- ★ Help to another person, especially unsolicited, inevitably makes the receiver hostile to the giver of help.
- ★ Presence of jealousy in the society.
- ★ Between family members or friends, especially between siblings, there is greater jealousy where there should be appreciation.
- ★ Good people are often poor.
- ★ Dogs, known for their gratitude, turn vicious when they taste the blood of the master.
- ★ Human ingratitude is widely prevalent.
- ★ Often we see the rogue is rewarded, not the pious man.
- ★ **Romance dies at marriage.**
- ★ Anyone who is successful instantaneously becomes selfish, instead of being helpful to others.
- ★ Historically, sons murdering their fathers or brothers for the throne was very common.
- ★ Man loves the tyrant.
- ★ Power leads to self-destruction.
- ★ No saint has been popular in his birthplace. Most of them were ostracized or crucified.
- ★ Great successes remain isolated. No one comes forward to imitate them.
- ★ Power corrupts.
- ★ Jesus who brought Love was murdered by his own people.
- ★ Man, whose defects are apparent, refuses to see it himself. **Self is unconscious.**
- ★ Double standard is universal.
- ★ Falsehood is vastly popular. Truth is unpopular.
- ★ Good news never travels. Bad news travels fast.
- ★ Man begins to hate a confidant.
- ★ Life is full of various contradictions.

This Theory can fully resolve all the unsolved problems of science, if applied with knowledge. It can solve all the existing problems of human life. **In the past when such problems were solved, they were solved by one law of this Theory.** This Theory rises to the occasion that a Law must be true whatever the result – success or failure.

Consider this problem of science – whatever it produces has a deleterious aspect. Can this Theory suggest a solution? Is there a way in which the scientist will discover things which will be only positive and not give birth to negative consequences? Yes.

- ★ Car is a wonderful invention. But it creates pollution.
- ★ Atomic energy is a marvel. But the atom bomb can annihilate life.

All the discoveries of science are discoveries of Mind. The physical Mind creates the technologies out of the theories and discoveries of the thinking Mind. Both of them are partial. When a part creates something, at once or simultaneously the rest creates the opposite. Hence the negative consequences. Move from the part of the Mind to the whole of it – the Psychic Being. When you are in the Psychic you are in the center of the whole. Discoveries from there will be only beneficial. **The Psychic carries the vital and physical sensations too. Even the mental Psychic has both these sensations.** When a discovery is thought of, or a principle of it is considered, the accompanying sensation will indicate whether it is good or bad. Oppenheimer was sorry that he contributed to the discovery of the atom bomb. “Had I known that this discovery would lead to this disaster, I would not have worked for it,” was the substance of his later comment. By acting for the whole, acting from the center of the whole – the psychic being – even in the beginning, his sensations would have warned him.

The Theory speaks of the society as a single whole. The Individual is the conscious pioneer of the subconscious whole of the society. Only the ego is a part, a separated part, not the

Individual or his psychic. That individual is subtle. He is a conscious Individual. He is conscious of the society. Any consequence that would negatively affect the society later will be indicated even at the very beginning by the Psychic Being. **Thus, no scientist will ever discover anything that is harmful.** Such scientists can also suggest all the methods needed to neutralize pollution. In the case of science, we can say that a future disaster can be avoided by the scientist moving to the psychic.

In politics, it is not one politician that decides. It is a whole body, the government, the Parliament, the people. How can this theory be helpful there? The Theory says that the citizen, as he is, is a lone individual. He has no power over the society as a person. But the Individual who moves to the Psychic Being is no such lone individual. He is a pioneer. He represents consciously the subconscious aspiration of the society. **When one man moves consciously to his Psychic Being, the entire society subconsciously moves to their psychic consciousness.** One man opposing disharmony — the war – will be heartily endorsed by the entire community. He will thus be effective.

### *Philosophy of Science*

Science is a part of knowledge. Philosophy is the knowledge of the whole. **Science has to base itself on philosophy. It has to announce its philosophy and justify it.** The government that floats any scheme cannot declare that this scheme is undertaken for the sake of the scheme. It has to tell us why this scheme is floated and how it is beneficial or relevant to the society.

- ★ A scheme is a scheme of the society.
- ★ Science is a branch of Philosophy.

Science is not free to pursue science for its sake. It is a part of the whole. It has to explain how it is relevant to philosophy. It has to declare its philosophy. We do not know what the philosophy of science is. We know science has consciously divorced itself from philosophy. In that measure, it is a retrogressive step. It

becomes irrelevant to the society. Science is a part of the society and is its servant. Science cannot part company with philosophy and survive. Its survival cannot be relevant to Existence; nor can it be rational. Science is discovering Matter through the instrumentation of Mind.

- ★ Science must define Matter as well as Mind.
- ★ Science has not known Memory in its terms.
- ★ Memory is only one faculty of Mind.
- ★ If science has not defined Mind till now, it must at least aim at defining Mind at a later date.
- ★ If there are other definitions of Matter and Mind, science must not ignore them or refuse them out of hand.
- ★ Sri Aurobindo has defined Spirit, Mind, Life and Body. Either these definitions must be discussed or science needs to come out with its own definitions.
- ★ Science has not yet come out with a Theory of Creation that is comprehensive.
- ★ To explain the tree from the seed and the seed from the tree is a circular argument. That way the process of the growth of the tree or the production of the seed is explained. Sri Aurobindo says it explains nothing. **He says this explains nothing and adds the Cosmos explains both and God explains the Cosmos.**
- ★ That which permits prejudgements cannot claim to be science.
- ★ Pronouncing on Reason, Sri Aurobindo says reason relies on a camouflaged intuition for its conclusions. Also, He says reason comes to harvest what Intuition has discovered.
- ★ Science bases itself on objectivity. In that case, science owes us a definition of subjectivity and objectivity.
- ★ That branch of knowledge which ignores any phenomenon, even one, cannot be a complete whole, much less an integrated whole. Science cannot be science as long as she ignores anything.

- ★ More subtle and more powerful is a statement of His on the subtle plane. A metallurgist claims the more subtle a metal is, the more powerful it is. Science that declares that gross material plane is all must explain this phenomenon.
- ★ Insight and Intuition are known phenomena. They deserve no apology. **Science must pronounce on them.**
- ★ Where there is a power, that power is not its own. It is the power of something else. Sri Aurobindo tells us where that power issues from. Science must give its answer or deny that idea and declare a power can be on its own.
- ★ Sri Aurobindo said there is no waste in Nature. It is an idea for serious consideration.
- ★ He argues and proves rationally that force is anterior to the instrument. If this is conceded, momentous questions of logic arise. Such important issues must be faced.
- ★ No aspiration of knowledge can ignore subtle and causal planes.
- ★ Infinity is an age-old concept fully involved in our mathematics. Can infinity confine itself? Or can we have INFINITY confined? What about Infinity on the physical, material plane?
- ★ **Why should enquiry stop at some point, perhaps at an inconvenient point?**
- ★ Science should certainly offer a definition of the Truth it is seeking and distinguish that Truth from FACT.
- ★ Technology can be social and utilitarian. Science should not impose that limitation on itself. It should be logical and rational. The assumptions on which scientific inquiry is carried on must be so.
- ★ Even if science is not capable of solving every problem we face, she must have an explanation for each one of them.
- ★ Science is the essence of existence, not a mere process of its constitution. Process leads to utility. Essence is

knowledge. Science must go beyond the process to essence.

- ★ Time and Space also deserve their attention.
- ★ They consider the law of contradictions to the end. Even parallel lines meet at infinity. Why persist in the law of contradictions? Why not try to reconcile them?
- ★ Energy is not the end. It has an origin too.
- ★ Try to explain the world as a place of Harmony and Truth.
- ★ Science takes itself for granted. Instead she must come out in the open and plead her case.

As the Vedas were split into knowledge and ritual, the field of science splits into theoretical scientists and men of scientific technology. This is an important distinction, and necessary too. We are just now concerned with the former. **He has the option of either becoming a Mind that embraces cosmic knowledge or an efficient technician who insists on his partial knowledge.** The secret of yoga in life, the clue to enter into earthly paradise, the key for everlasting luck lies there. God gives the option. Man makes his choice.

- ★ Destiny is choice.
- ★ God gives total Freedom.
- ★ Man exercises the choice in Freedom.
- ★ The choice exercised in his favour is destiny.
- ★ The choice exercised as God intends is evolution.
- ★ **Luck is Man accepting the choice of his evolution.**

### *The Future*

Science is of a part, is partial. Spirit is a whole. Science can become a part of the Spirit. Spirit can never become a part of science.

- ★ The Future is not for partial Science.
- ★ The Future belongs to the whole, to Spirituality that is of the whole.
- ★ Hatha yoga has scientific precision in the subtle plane.
- ★ Science cannot claim in any of its parts or work a similar

spiritual fullness.

- ★ If it does, it does so in punctuality, orderliness, cleanliness, classification and systematization. That is what Sri Aurobindo says the Westerner has discovered — Brahman in Matter.
- ★ Punctuality has a few levels.
  - ◆ Punctuality of the part
  - ◆ Punctuality for punctuality's sake
  - ◆ **Punctuality of the whole.**

To do one's own work punctually is punctuality of the part. When it degenerates into a fad or fetish, one follows it for its own sake. When punctuality of the whole is taken into consideration

- the punctuality of all the parts is automatically taken care of more precisely than before;
- **one may have to disregard punctuality of any kind and pay attention to the supreme need of the whole.** It may be observance in the breach. It is at that level one gets into the Spirit of anything, here punctuality.

There was a time when excellent ideas were casually considered. No one would come forward to credit an idea. At most, it would be approved or appreciated. To pay for an idea is alien to European or Indian culture. Only in USA that became a principle. Culture frowns on money value. What is valued is work, physical work, especially technical work. **The old cultural values of the world which frowned on paying for an idea, gradually evolved into a custom of NOT valuing an idea for an idea's sake.** In any study, it is well known that the point of transition from empirical studies to study of a law is a breakthrough. Once a law is discovered, the unorganised that was floundering all over producing little or no results, is on the royal road wasting no time and producing results all the way along. **There is no study which is not governed by a law or minor theory or at**

**least assumptions.** It was the practical mind in Peter Drucker that said there is nothing more practical than a good theory.

- ★ People estimate the population thousands of years ago not empirically, but on the assumption of their productive capacity.
- ★ Knowledge of the theory of planetary motion helped discover two more unknown planets.
- ★ Farmers look for water springs under an anthill. The capacity to relate one phenomenon with the other gives birth to a rudimentary theory.
- ★ Observation of facts, observation of relationship between any two facts, and observation of results repeating exactly in the same fashion, lead to the discovery of a theory.
- ★ The discovery of a fixed ratio between the length of the pendulum and the square of the period of its oscillation is the discovery of a law valid in a limited context.
- ★ All the governments are looking for clues in national development. They know roads are helpful, and education accelerates development. Savings has a role to play, population is a determinant and so on. Economics has developed so many theories, all valid in a localized context.
- ★ In a company we know people, capital, technology, market, and organisation matter. But to declare that productivity is at the peak when all of them are balanced **is to discover a theory.**
- ★ Neither economics nor management has come out with a Theory that can grant these subjects the status of science.
- ★ Science is a field of many theories or laws, but basically they remain empirical. Empiricism will not grant any branch of knowledge the status of a science, even though the world has conceded it in practice. Such a recognition has no validity in the field of Reason.

Our position is that the spiritually awakened man is in a position to make every subject a science. Science as we know it

can rise to the genuine status of a real science. As Sri Aurobindo has expounded the Theory of Creation, its extension to all other subjects is now possible. Our Society<sup>4</sup> has attempted it in the field of management and social evolution.

- ★ Discovery of a Theory changes a collection of disparate individuals and tendencies into an organised society.
- ★ Theory of Creation enables one to become a spearhead of the evolution of earth.
- ★ The first can hasten social progress.
- ★ The second can hasten the advent of the next species, viz. the Supramental Being.
- ★ **I have concentrated on finding a FORMULA for the endless success of the Individual.** I call it the formula for LUCK.
- ★ This formula can be rationally explained. One has several works on hand. This formula can be extended to enable all his works to be a success and win the title of 'Unfailing Success'. To start with, let me narrow it down to all major decisions. One can be happy if he can bring about in all his major works – wedding, employment, promotion, admission, new venture, etc., — a success, an unfailing success. That can be ensured if all the outer factors and inner urges are positive. Before the commencement of an act, if these two conditions are fulfilled, the work is sure to be a success. Any extension is for the future.

The four quadrants below represent four states of a person. I now confine myself to the first quadrant only. Quadrant I is (+,+) meaning all the inner urges and outer factors are positive. Quadrant II is (+, -) the inner is positive and the outer is negative. The III is (-, -) a quadrant where both are negative. The IV is (-, +) the inner is negative and the outer is positive. Work started in each of these conditions will meet with the results described below.

<sup>4</sup> The Mother's Service Society, Pondicherry

II + , -	I + , +
III - , -	IV - , +

- I. Unfailing success
- II. Difficult to begin but will end in a success.
- III. Cannot begin, but if begun will fail.
- IV. Make a good start but end in a failure

We can start with Quadrant I and be successful. Later the conditions of the second, third and fourth Quadrants can first be moved to Quadrant I and then the work started. The same formula can be further used to refine the results by subdividing Quadrant I into four quadrants similar to the original one as follows:

II	(2)   (1) I
	(3)   (4)
III	IV

This rational formula can be taken to its logical conclusion of making all works we initiate into unfailing successes. Beyond speaking of the principle, let me not stretch my point here.

What is rational above lends itself to be rendered in spiritual terms. It can be explained as,

- ★ We act on impulse. It will meet with poor success.
- ★ We think and plan. It will yield greater success.
- ★ We can pour our emotions into our planning and enjoy a far greater success.
- ★ We can base our emotionalized PLANNING on our experience. It can give unfailing success appropriate to our idea and experience. It will be the highest human result.
- ★ Instead we can cease to think and plan, suspend our emotions, disregard our experience and **wait upon the inner Spiritual IMPULSE and let it do the work.** The results will be better than the human BEST. **This is called consecration.**
- ★ There are further stages, which may not serve our purpose here. What consecration begins surrender completes. My *formula* is
  - ◆ Consecration for the householder
  - ◆ Surrender for the yogi.

\_\_\_\_\_

## X. India

In this chapter I wish to consider where India stands in the spiritual scheme of things. Sri Aurobindo dreamt of Freedom for India and it came on His birthday. That was the first of His five dreams. He desired Asia to be free also. During His lifetime, even His second dream came true. World Union was the third. India becoming Jagat Guru – World Guru – was His fourth dream. His final dream was the advent of the Supramental Being.

Today India is Free but she is broken into three parts – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh – and is poor. A recent report says that population which was described all along as a curse, is really an asset to India, as it will supply manpower which is shrinking all over the world. On the strength of her increasing work force, the report says, India will become the third largest economy in 2050 AD behind China and US. The report projects that by then India's present per capita income of 486 dollars will rise to \$17,366. **Even though it is only a projection of years hence, it is heartening to read that one day India will not be poor.** This report mainly considers the advantage of the increasing population. For years we were hearing that population is a curse. Western nations had awakened to the inconvenience of a large family long ago and their populations have become stable. That population may have a positive side too is a recognition of a higher truth. Theoretically, population, like any other aspect of life, is neutral and the character it gets is *given to it by Man, by his Choice*.

The report I am referring to is like most of the recent reports on economic growth. Present decades are dominated by economic factors, as the first nine decades of the twentieth century were dominated by military strength. Trade, prosperity, wealth, and economics are the themes of this decade. Education does

not enjoy that significance now. Culture is not a favoured theme for the present. **Spirit on which I dwell will come later. So, I have taken up the theme of spiritual opulence for this book.** By this, while I do not abandon my theme, I keep myself centred in what concerns the world. If the advantage of population alone can raise the country to that affluence – the affluence Italy enjoys today – we can encourage ourselves by other expectations. A nation's prosperity is determined by the following varying factors.

- ★ Its productive capacity depends upon:
  - ◆ how much our productive forces will attune themselves to the latest productive technologies;
  - ◆ how much our educational system will organise itself to be more effective;
  - ◆ what **ORIGINAL** approaches the system will adopt, and
  - ◆ how far it can draw upon its latent cultural strengths. The USA had nothing to draw upon three centuries ago except the hard work the people could put in. We have a prosperous past that can be rekindled now.
- ★ What percentage of her population can turn to entrepreneurship.
- ★ How much her new methods can vitalize themselves by our own earlier cultural and spiritual gains.
- ★ **How far our educational system can be reoriented to its original SPIRITUAL values.**
- ★ Capacity to export.
- ★ How far other nations find our market attractive.
- ★ **How far other nations desire to buy Indian goods because they are of Indian ORIGIN.**
- ★ **How much they wish to follow the Indian way of life and accept the Spirit as a worthy goal to seek.**

The Green Revolution demonstrated two things: 1) The power of organisation can raise the volume of production four times in thirty years and 2) the value of scientific farming. Organisation

combined with latest knowledge in half of the country has quadrupled production. That can be extended to 1) the whole of India 2) ten other crops 3) twenty other cash crops, which means in the next thirty years agricultural wealth can rise four to ten times what it is now. Our educational system similarly can contribute its share in raising production in agriculture as well as other sectors. It cannot be less than another five times. Grameen Bank is one small original departure from the dull, dead, routine that activated life. No great revolution was undertaken in banking except nationalisation in 1969 and expanding into rural areas. Chit funds are generally frowned upon because of the duplicity played by the promoters. Their conception is **primitive and elementary**. Still one company has done well in the last thirty years.

- 1) Its expansion is from thirty lakhs of rupees to Rs.3000 crores, about 9000 times.
- 2) Its essential value lies in the ready useful value for the customer.
- 3) It is so because it is indigenous.
- 4) Banking, if cured of the present ills and tuned to indigenous needs by innovative methods, can grow in the next thirty years more than her growth in the past thirty years, from 4 thousand crores to 1200 thousand crores, a 300-fold expansion. It is safe to assume a 300-fold expansion, if efficiently used, will finance a 300-fold expansion of production or life in general. Bringing chit funds under the strict regulations of banking will be of great help.
- 5) If an elementary system can expand thus, how much more other walks of life will expand when tuned to the growing social forces.

### ***Entrepreneurship***

The urban population seeks sedentary salaried jobs. **Traditionally, the farmer is an entrepreneur par excellence.**

Sixty percent of our people are in farming. In them that skill is ingrained. They have the innate talents. All that they need is to reorient it to the present need. There is one small institution of one man which has trained thousands of students and teachers in this skill over the past few years. This is an indication of our scope. Should this happen, the above-mentioned projection for 2050 has a chance of advancing itself. As detailed above, there are more than half a dozen factors this projection is not considering. Earlier I spoke of the brainpower of India that *Business Week* cited. A news item speaks of a Management Institute, refusing a Rs.10 crore assistance from the government because along with the assistance it brings in bureaucratic interference.

- ★ **This is surely a symptom of national self-respect asserting against the mountain of governmental prestige.**
- ★ Self-respect is the major ingredient of Spiritual awakening.

### ***I.I.T.***

Our I.I.T.s recruit on the basis of talents. They are of world class quality. To create a few great institutions may be possible, but what about the thousands of colleges and schools that turn out half-literates? **I constantly speak about the inability of India to produce original scientists and the USA's inability to create Saints.** No country can produce products that are not in the soil. If some I.I.T.s can reach high standards, it means,

- ★ The possibility of all engineering institutions becoming I.I.T.s is there.
- ★ What is needed is the determination.

I see silver linings here and there. They are not results, accomplished results, but realities that can lead us to results. I have watched the labour of the Indian milieu for over fifty years with patriotic yearning. I have given thought to the process of development and as a result created a Theory of Social

Development. I have applied it to business Management. Its practice has vindicated the truth of it. All of this I view from Sri Aurobindo's point of view, the view of His Theory of Creation. The Force that descended in 1956 is in action. The establishment of the world resists it powerfully, though it finally yields. As a result of thought, observation and experience, my opinion of the future can be stated as follows. I shall give it in the graded fashion in which it exists.

- 1) Moving as India is moving, so many forces other than population – better and wider education, awakening national pride and awareness, organisational values necessarily emerging, money moving into its native creative role of self-multiplication, the service sector becoming creative of prosperity and employment, etc., – will make themselves felt and the projection of Goldman Sachs – that per capita income in 2050 will be \$17,000 – will be advanced ten or fifteen years. This is so because the projection mainly bases itself on the advantages issuing from the rise of population, not the other factors.
- 2) The minimum things that government and society can do are innumerable. I give some of them below. Our situation will be better if the following gets accomplished for whatever reason.
  - ◆ Extension of the organisational innovation of Green Revolution to all other parts of India, to all other sectors in the appropriately modified form;
  - ◆ Collecting the arrears of banks and administratively streamlining the banks, extending their services to every village;
  - ◆ Removing the hurdles for education becoming commercially viable so that LOCAL resources will move into the service of education;
  - ◆ Creating TRANSPARENCY, which will reduce corruption to a great extent.

- ◆ Gearing education fully towards entrepreneur-ship. These are measures that can be done fully just by an administrative decisiveness. They will bring into the field of development the freshly released energies of the society. **These measures are capable of bringing India to the level of the most developed nations by 2020 AD.**

- 3) *Business Week* has noticed the role of brainpower in India and says that it is capable of making India a major economic partner of USA. Our brainpower is in potential, not fully developed. Similarly, I mentioned earlier we have vast organisational powers which are superior to others. They are invisible. I mentioned an industrialist “discovering the hidden 12 crores”. Thought can be given to how India can meaningfully borrow technology and apply it locally with the right modification. It will be a vast reservoir of potentialities. **This way we will not be creating anything new, but bringing to the surface whatever is well developed and using it intelligently.** That way
  - ◆ The voice of India will be heard with respect in the world.
  - ◆ The world may wonder from where this energy is emerging. That may lead them to give thought to our spiritual background.
  - ◆ India may not only borrow technology, but may start exporting technology in some little measure.
  - ◆ Indians may win Nobel Prizes.
  - ◆ India will emerge as a leader of the developing nations.
  - ◆ The Theory of Social Evolution will be taken note of by the world and may receive a greater consideration.
  - ◆ **Economically, India will have gone beyond all nations between 2020 and 2030.**

- 4) The elite of India or at least the youth should come to realise that
- ◆ Man made Money; Money does not make Man.
  - ◆ Organisation has the power to produce, not work. **Of all the organisations, that which is fashioned by spiritual energies is the best of organisations and it outdistances all the existing organisations**, as the car overcame the horse.
  - ◆ Spirit is not for the forest; it is for our HOME.
  - ◆ **Man must be utterly truthful and cannot afford to utter one falsehood.**
  - ◆ Life can be reorganized on the basis of spiritual values of Truth, Honesty, Loyalty, Integrity, Purity, and Perfection.
  - ◆ There is no knowledge in Matter. It is all there in the Spirit.
  - ◆ Spirit lends itself to being organised in life as Power, Product, Results and Prosperity.

With that, the Spiritually awakened Individual will arise in a million households, life will be vibrant and anyone will be shy of considering affluence, as we are not proud of weighing 340 lbs now. Wealth will recede into the background as the foundation on which life rests. The major occupation of the Indian Mind will be with Spirit, Culture, Truth, its ways in life and educational attainments. **No bright child will go to school or college beyond the primary levels to be introduced into the system.** The world will seriously consider Spirit as a real power and for that purpose will turn to India. These pronouncements appear to be wild claims of thoughtless inexperience. On the contrary, each of these claims can be convincingly explained, rather rationally presented if the length they need is available. Many need the length of a book, others call for a chapter. Here I can only take some issue and explain it as an example.

We see the difference between a mercenary army and one

inspired by patriotism. Patriotism is, after all, a vital nervous emotion, not a spiritual emotion. Suppose C.Subramaniam had tried to convince the Parliament or a committee of the efficacy of Green Revolution, it is doubtful whether we would have had a Revolution to speak of. **Sri Aurobindo says for the Force to act on the government, we have to be the government; it cannot be done through another.** The Vedas are preserved till today in their pristine purity without a syllable mispronounced. This is done by religious dedication. Such a thing could not have been achieved by the edict of any ruler. Vedas are thus preserved by those who took to their *karma kanda*. This is only rituals. The purity and effectivity will be far greater when it comes to following the Jnana Kanda. That too is Spirit in itself. **What we speak of is the Spirit in work, divinising work**, a phenomenon the world has not yet witnessed.

Reading about the conditions of USA in 1700 AD, it is hard to believe it is the same America we witness today. Our skepticism will vanish in the actual doing of it. We read today that workers at Maruti factory are paid an average salary of Rs.33,000 per month, a fact we could not have imagined at the inception of that company. K.R. Ganesh and K.V. Raghunatha Reddy entered Indira's Cabinet as Deputy and State Ministers and quit as such. Their erstwhile colleague, Mohan Kumaramangalam, entered as a Cabinet Minister. Rajiv entered the Cabinet as Prime Minister. Ganesh and Reddy were workers in the Communist party, whereas Kumaramangalam was their leader. Rajiv belongs to another unique category. **Whether it is possible to enter Indian politics directly as Prime Minister is a valid question; still it is not valid for Rajiv.**

USA exercised physical prowess to build herself up. Beyond physicality lies vitality and mentality. India has spirituality to draw upon. Only that we need to know how to modify the ancient Spirit so it can be brought into modern life. Because of her spiritual past, India can enter the domain of Prosperity at its peak,

if only her leaders know how to tune the one to the demands of the other. This can be illustrated by the success of Green Revolution as well as the defeat of Hitler by England single-handed.

The 'Grow More Food' campaigns undertaken by the government till 1965 were a dismal failure. An attempt was made to grow crops in the empty spaces in the government buildings as a measure of maximum utilisation of cultivable space. Famines periodically visited India, the latest one being the Bengal famine of 1943. The direct simple explanation for it was that rice, which had been imported from Burma year after year, could not be imported that year because of war conditions. The population was steadily growing from '43 to '65. **The Food Portfolio was held by the doyens of Indian politics — Rajendra Prasad, Rajaji, Jagjivan Ram, etc. It only proved to be a gravedigger of their political careers.** When Sastri took over in 1964, he could not persuade anyone to take the Food Ministry. Sastri went to the house of C.Subramaniam and persuaded him to accept it. C.S. accepted the portfolio on condition that a floor prize for food grains would be assured and as a Food Minister he would have a free hand at innovative measures. Sastri promised both and promised to publicly support him in the Parliament. The efforts of Subramaniam became a success for the following reasons, all of which were ultimately reasons that were spiritually valid.

- ★ Subramaniam did not think of how the food problem could be solved or that somehow it had to be solved, but how **it should be solved.** That is a spiritual approach.
- ★ He decided that with respect to FOOD, a nation must grow its own food in the long run, not try to solve it by buying it or importing it from outside.
- ★ He relied on the efforts of agriculture scientists to increase food production. It means he resorted to KNOWLEDGE to solve a physical problem of production. Mind is the

closest representative in the body of the Spirit. Seeking the help of technology was a spiritual method to improve agriculture.

- ★ He created a quasi-government body – Food Corporation of India – to handle the new challenging problem. Spirit grows in Freedom. In fact, Spirit demands total freedom for its growth. In the circumstances, he gave as much freedom to Food Corporation of India as possible by removing it from the bureaucratic apparatus of the Food Ministry, by making it a quasi-government body.
- ★ He could do all this because he was a farmer himself, who had the common sense of India which directly sprang from its native spirituality. What came to be known as Green Revolution had, by circumstances – providentially – all the ingredients of Spiritual values of India intelligently modified to the local needs.
- ★ He made his efforts function independently so that the results would be long lasting – put them on an **ORGANISATIONAL** basis, thus drawing upon the secret strength of Indian spiritual light. It is a matter of joy that the brainpower of the Indians is taken note of by the Americans. It is true. India's greater strength lies in her capacity for organisation. Organisation is the result of Spiritual light in vital work. In the West, organisation came out of experience, that is, it came from below. In India the productive organisation was informed by the descending Spiritual Light. That is the signal reason behind the growing validity of trying to grow more food. That was why it came to be known as the **Green Revolution.**

Spiritual knowledge gives a penetration into affairs human. It is not a claim of one's greatness. All great things are born out of the Spirit is a truism in spiritual wisdom. Had it not been the fact,

Indian Freedom would not have led to the freedom of 45 other nations. Spirit is an entity by itself, a preeminent feature of human life, not a prerogative of India. The onslaught of darkness represented by Hitler nearly accomplished its total victory over the forces of freedom in the world. Tiny England presided over by blind politicians was certainly not in a position to meet the colossal opposition of Hitler, that too single-handedly. Indian political leadership was as myopic as the leadership of Britain, which was talking of Peace and Prosperity when existence was entirely threatened. Congress leadership, barring C. Rajagopalachariar, lost sight of the Spiritual destiny of India and played into the hands of Hitler even as Subhas Bose fondly hoped Japan would serve the cause of Freedom in India. It was at this perilous juncture that Sri Aurobindo risked unpopularity in His own country and chose to support Churchill, and as a token sent funds to the Governor's War Fund. **He sent His Spiritual Force to Churchill to fight Hitler.** No chronicle of war will explain the brave fight of English men and women against the hordes of Hitler. It was a Spiritual fight. From any point of view, Britain's defeat was around the corner. Only His spiritual support courageously finding military expression in Churchill saved the world from the catastrophe of German imperialistic aims.

It is noteworthy that Japan's progress in the East was checkmated the moment her troops were on the borders of India. India is a sacred soil. She could not be terrorized by the forces of darkness of the world. Churchill, as if he acknowledged this spiritual fact, wrote as follows in his book *The Second World War*:

“No great portion of the world population was so effectively protected from the horrors and perils of the World War as were the people of Hindustan. They were carried through the struggle on the shoulders of our small Island.”

– Volume IV, page 181

Churchill was unaware of the fact that that small Island was carried on the shoulders of Indian spiritual might.

It was natural for a slave nation to adore the conquerors and ape their ways. For over a hundred years British culture was the ideal for us. Now we imitate the American way of life. True, it is inevitable for the gullible masses. **The elite cannot afford to follow the credulous masses.** The elite is supposed to think, discover the best means and lead the nation. In the event the elite fails, the leadership should come from the spiritually aware youth. I see concrete signs from the youth. I do have vast hopes in the cream of Indian people.

- ★ The future of India lies in her discovering the springs of Spirituality – not religion and its rituals which are long dead.
- ★ That golden future emerges in the youth of the nation as entrepreneurship.
- ★ The future is for self-employment, not salaried jobs.
- ★ **The future of India's greatness lies in her expressing her Spirit in the national life, not in her imitating any other nation.** We can borrow their advanced technology, but NOT their lifestyle. It appears that they have a superior practical organisation. It is true within limits. But however superior that organisation is, our borrowing it and working it here will not enable our greatest endowment of spirituality to emerge. In the Green Revolution the excellent organisation of the various corporations was subordinated to the spiritual idea of Self-sufficiency. That was the reason for its great success. In industrial technology, we subordinate ourselves to the organisation and look beyond the borders for inspiration. That will not serve the Indian purpose. It is also true that most of the modern management strategies coming from outside are innately spiritual. Pleasing the customer is a spiritual value of taking the other man's point of view. In

education, we emphasize memory, whereas the West lays stress on understanding. There they are more spiritual than we are. But, moving further to Silent understanding, the West has no idea of what Silence is and will frown upon it. **The path of Silence is the path that will produce the Genius. Here we must refuse to make thinking final.** Dag Hammarskjold felt his room was filled with a strange power of Silence when he was the leader of UNESCO delegation in Paris. Soon he was offered the UN Secretary Generalship. Silence not only gives greater, higher knowledge but also accomplishes at a higher level.

Western children are taught to think, while our kids memorise. Thinking is far more powerful than memorisation. **We must take to thinking, but that does not mean we must follow the US ways of thinking.** As thinking is more powerful than memorisation, Silence is more powerful than thinking. Switching to thinking should **NOT** be because we imitate America, but because thinking is more valuable. The West does not know of Silence at all. They will scowl at the idea of Silent will and Silent thinking. Should a Westerner be given Silence, he would, like Mother's husband Richard, consider himself an idiot.

- ★ Thinking must be followed, not as an American value but as a mental value.
- ★ Should we be unfortunate enough to ape the West, we will miss the sacred Silence. Beyond Silence lie Vision, Intuition, and Knowledge.
- ★ India should not have the misfortune of imitating the West. In fact, no country can afford to blindly ape another country. **A value can be borrowed, must be borrowed and modified to the indigenous conditions.** That is intelligent imitation that honours the sacred value of individuality. Individuality must be preserved because it is Individuality that achieves.
  - ◆ **Enriching the Individuality while preserving it is the right method.**

- ◆ **Destroying the Individuality is a dangerous course.**
  - ★ Not only should we not blindly imitate America, but even America should not blindly imitate India.
    - ◆ Blind imitation destroys the Individuality.
    - ◆ It is harmful. In fact, it is not possible.
  - ★ Each culture should contribute to others and to the central pool but endeavour to preserve the Individuality of all.
  - ★ That Individuality exists as social individuality, psychological individuality and Spiritual Individuality.
  - ★ **We aim at building the Spiritual Individuality of the Indians.**
-

## XI. Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga

Sri Aurobindo's yoga is of importance for this book because **it makes Spiritual opulence possible**. As yoga is the antithesis of family life, this aspect of Sri Aurobindo's yoga is relevant and is of interest here. He calls His yoga Integral Yoga. It is so called because this yoga is integrated with life. In Sanskrit it is called *Purna Yoga*, meaning everything in creation is included in this yoga. He has also said that this is a yoga of Self-Perfection. The Self that is known to be aloof, perfects itself by emerging through our minds, lives and bodies. Hence the Yoga of Self-Perfection. **In perfecting life, this Self enriches life, makes it spiritually opulent**. There is one more description of this yoga. It is the yoga of spiritual evolution. We know our tradition describes the Spirit as unchangeable and immutable. But Sri Aurobindo has perceived the evolution – change by growth – of the Spirit in all planes. The Spirit that evolves in life makes life,

- ★ invincible, unfailing
- ★ one of ever-growing abundance
- ★ conscious by the force and consciousness that are separate joining together
- ★ capable of prolonging life at will, conquering death
- ★ ascend and integrate itself with consciousness
- ★ evolve its Psychic Being
- ★ enter the third dimension of Time from where it is now – in successive, processive Time as we always know it.

His yoga will be presented in this chapter only from this point of view. Therefore, I do not expect the reader to encounter difficulties of comprehension. Let me start with stating every aspect of this yoga, along with the corresponding position in the

tradition and explain each such statement from the point of view of Spiritual Opulence.

- 1) Tradition shuns life, women, and money, as they are parts of ego.  
**Sri Aurobindo accepts life and woman as sacred and hopes to win money from the Asura to put it at the feet of the Divine. It is this aspect that makes life luck.**
- 2) *Karma* determines life. Therefore life is full of ups and down.  
**This yoga dissolves karma. Therefore grace acts in life. There are no failures here.**
- 3) In life we live in Time. Therefore our past determines our future.  
**In yogic life we live in the third dimension of Time. There is no past here, only the ever-present. One is not determined by the past.**
- 4) Life is in *Prakriti*, Nature, where there is no soul. The Soul is behind as witness. Hence suffering, pain, and death are in life.  
**Yogic life is not in Prakriti. It is in the evolving soul, the Psychic Being. There is no suffering, pain or death.**
- 5) Life is full of contradictions. It causes trouble. That is the source of all our problems.  
**Here we have the knowledge that contradictions are complements.**
- 6) Tradition seeks *moksha*, deserts life, leaves it to take care of itself.  
**We seek transformation, refuse moksha; transformation is fulfillment of life on earth.**
- 7) Pure Mind seeks Pure Spirit as *moksha*. The Spirit returns to its origin through a short cut.  
**The evolving Spirit returns to its origin through the universe, thus fulfilling the intention of God. This process dissolves the ego, the source of all our troubles**

- here — pain, suffering, death, evil.**
- 8) Life exists in dualities, light and darkness; high and low; evil and good; pain and *Ananda*.  
**We see no dualities here. Darkness is for us intense light; evil is a greater good; pain is intense *Ananda*.**
- 9) Yoga needs methods such as *asana*, *pranayama*, *japa*, *mantra*, austerities, etc.  
**Here there is no method as above. The only method is surrender. Mother asks for purity, openness, sincerity, and receptivity.**
- 10) Man is Mind. Mind is partial. Therefore life has its problems.  
**Man is Supermind. It is a whole. Hence life has no problems.**
- 11) Events take time to fulfil themselves as life is in Time.  
**Here we witness instantaneous miraculousness as we are in the third dimension of Time.**
- 12) Human life is ego-centred.  
**Divine Life is Psychic-centred.**
- 13) Our life exists on the surface mind, limited by Ego, Mind, Time as finite.  
**Mother's life is in the subliminal free from Mind, Ego and Time. Therefore it expands into the universe. Life is rich.**
- 14) Ignorance vitiates life, creates obstacles.  
**Ignorance is the greatest creation of God. Emerging from it is delight.**
- 15) Life is in activity, noise. Its scope is limited.  
**Higher life is in Silence; its scope is unlimited and more effective. It can move to Silence behind Silence.**
- 16) *Jivatma* has no reality. It has to go and dissolve in *Paramatma*.  
***Jivatma* is discovered as *Paramatma* in this life. Hence heaven comes down on earth.**

- 17) *Ananda* is above. It cannot come down. When it comes down it flashes like lightning, as it has no body.  
**Here *ananda* expresses itself through Matter. Matter gives *Ananda* the body it does not have. Hence *Ananda* becomes permanent here.**
- 18) After the Vedic period, life is divorced from Mind and Spirit. Vedic *Rishis* lived in tune with Nature.  
**We must now recover the harmony of life with the Spirit at the supramental plane.**
- 19) The more Man advances, the greater are his problems. It is so because he lives in Mind.  
**The more he advances, the greater is his *Ananda* as he lives in Supermind.**
- 20) Man seeks austerity. Hence he courts a dry life.  
**This life can be simple or luxurious but never austere. Austerity is for the child soul.**
- 21) Anything in life is limited – resources, energy, longevity, etc.  
**In Mother's life nothing is limited unless we put a limit on it. Life is like a tub whose water is limited in quantity. Mother's life is like a well which is supplied by a spring below. It knows no end.**
- 22) The ruling power of life is falsehood. All our troubles issue from that falsehood.  
**Mother's life is ruled by Truth and Truth alone. No wonder life's sufferings are not found here.**
- 23) Status, wealth, and power matter in life. All do not have it.  
**Consciousness alone matters in this life which anyone can acquire in any measure he likes.**
- 24) External social life and movements of Nature are beyond the control of Man.  
**This life is based on the outer reflecting the inner. Therefore, all external events can be controlled by**

- controlling our own inner movements.**
- 25) On any showing, a certain amount of cruelty, violence, and injustice is inevitable.  
**Mother's life is full of compassion and divine justice.**
- 26) Waste of material energy, Time, etc. is part of life  
**There is no real waste as Nature accomplishes many things at once. Mother's life accomplishes more with little resources.**
- 27) Blood is thicker than water.  
**There is something – consciousness – thicker than blood.**
- 28) Human nature will not change.  
**To transcend nature is our aim.**
- 29) Scarcity of one thing or another is inevitable.  
**Abundance is the rule, scarcity is what man creates.**
- 30) Man is selfish and mean.  
**Self-giving and generosity are the rules.**
- 31) Destiny rules life.  
**Man decides his own life.**
- 32) Love, Romance, Friendship are ephemeral.  
**They are the only lasting values of life.**
- 33) Ideals are not practical.  
**The greater the ideal, the more practical it is.**
- 34) A sound mind in a sound body.  
**Mind rules the body.**
- 35) Education means degree.  
**Neither degree nor knowledge is complete education. Education is the experience of the mind.**
- 36) We have to do as others do in the society.  
**It is not the society, not even the conscience we have to follow. We must follow the Soul.**
- 37) Man is the highest creation of God.  
**Man is not final. Supramental Being is the next species.**
- 38) Mind has created the world. Ego has created the world.  
**Supermind has created the world, not mind or ego.**

- 39) Contradictions are a feature of life.  
**Contradictions are complementaries.**
- 40) Spirit is different from Matter.  
**They are one.**
- 41) God has created the universe as His Lila.  
**God seeks delight in creation through Self-discovery.**
- 42) To know God is Knowledge. To Know the World is Ignorance.  
**Knowledge becomes Ignorance, the highest accomplishment in creation.**
- 43) We cannot know how the One becomes the Many.  
**We can know it. The One and the Many are part of Brahman.**
- 44) Life is evil.  
**Life is a creative specialization of the Force.**
- 45) We cannot know the process of creation.  
**Self-creation of the Infinite Being creating form out of force is the process of creation.**
- 46) Sat is different from Chit which is different from *Ananda*.  
**All of them are one.**
- 47) The tradition does not define Spirit, Supermind, Mind, Life or Matter.  
**Sri Aurobindo defines all.**
- 48) Evil is the opposite of good. We have to live with it.  
**There is a Self-existent good, against which no evil exists.**
- 49) Rebirth is there for man to overcome karma.  
**Rebirth is necessary for the evolution of the Spirit.**
- 50) Any work has its own Time. Time has to come.  
**Man can make Time come now.**
- 51) The Spirit is inside.  
**The whole universe and the Transcendent are inside.**
- 52) Matter moves Spirit.  
**Spirit moves matter.**

Sri Aurobindo's yoga announces to the world new spiritual powers. Man was doing *tapas* to reach God. HE says God is longing for Man's intimacy and has come to his doorstep. Man now suffers in various ways, a million ways. All such sufferings can be shed and turned into their corresponding joys. What HE shows us today in evolving Spirit has been the history of mankind and the history of the earth. Man lived through hunting. When game was not there, he moved to other places. He did so when water sources dried up. A revolution took place when he discovered agriculture and well digging. He produced abundance from the land, found water underground, stopped his nomadic life, and settled down. It was a major revolution 10,000 years ago. From then on dozens of major and minor revolutions have taken place. That is the history of civilisation. The latest is the advent of the Internet. God seeking delight arrived at a moment of fruition which Sri Aurobindo calls the Hour of God. This is the moment the Godhead buried in the darkness of Ignorance can wake up and hasten evolution. Should man respond to that, That will respond as the descent of Supermind abolishing pain, suffering and death from the face of the earth.

Sri Aurobindo came on earth to announce its advent and realise it. **A portion of the Lord came as Sri Aurobindo.** Those who came to Him saw a *Rishi* in Him. Later others thought HE was an Avatar. Mother declared HE was not an Avatar but the Lord. HE was a portion of the Lord. Lord who worked up above and made the HOUR come, came down to realise it in human consciousness. He was not understood as HE ought to have been. There was no response from MAN. MAN betrayed Him, Mother said. Betrayal is an intense form of friendship. HE did not give up. He retired into the subtle plane and succeeded in His mission in 1956. His force prevented the third World War. He is still working for India to be united geographically. Man has indirectly responded to Him partially. The partial response has resulted in vast material progress, but generated pollution.

Of His five dreams, the next is world union. India becoming the World Guru follows. For that, geographical unity is essential. Abolition of poverty and ushering in Prosperity will go a long way in achieving unity. Poverty can be abolished by hard physical work as the world has done. But today the world has progressed and sees that type of hard physical work on land is no longer absolutely needed. India can escape the phase of agriculture and enter into Prosperity directly. There are signs of such a possibility. The Revolution of Rising Expectations perceived by Harlan Cleveland in the 50's is emerging in the rural areas. Primary schools have skipped teaching the alphabet and the rigours of exams all over the world. The child starts reading directly without learning the letters.

**India can enter the phase of Prosperity directly by starting at the other end of seeking the products of Prosperity.** As land and factory were the fields of production, man's needs which serve other's demands has become a field of productivity. It is the creativity of the society. That stage is seen as a silver lining in Indian rural life. It is the carpenters and electricians who are making the cell phone a rural reality. Communication makes their productivity rise. Productivity is Prosperity. This, in my opinion, is the response of social life to the descending Force. Man and his evolving soul can respond to that Force. Now that a new field of creativity has come into existence, Man's spiritual recognition of it can make his life spiritually rich. By recognising Spirituality as Prosperity, Man can escape the trauma of hard physical work the world had to go through hitherto to reach prosperous living standards.

Man resorts to prayer when medicine fails or his efforts fail. With faith, man can bring himself to pray before he seeks the doctor or exercises his efforts. **He can avoid the treatment, as the disease will disappear.** The call of this book is for Man to see the Force in the atmosphere and avail of it. It is for this purpose I have hazarded writing a chapter on Yoga here, which I would

normally avoid. I am writing in this chapter difficult concepts of philosophy but not in terms of Philosophy or Yoga. I write them in terms of life.

Man loses his purse. Not much is lost. Sometimes it can be regained. His search may yield results or not. When he gets the purse back he will find himself in the physical plane of existence. Often the purse too is not recovered. Resorting to prayer,

- ★ The purse will certainly be gained and
- ★ **His life moves into the spiritual, supramental plane.**
- ★ The gain is not the purse, but his raising his consciousness.
- ★ Should my call be heard and MAN enters opulence, the gain is not abundant wealth, but Man rising into the spiritual consciousness.

I shall be justified in recording a few hundred experiences of devotees in every walk of life but as long as the reader is willing to perceive the spiritual luck that is beckoning him, the examples cited so far will serve the purpose. I dare not invite Man to do yoga, though I shall be delighted to know that some have considered that possibility. I consider that it is my spiritual privilege to place before the Indian citizen the wonder that awaits him. It is available for all, all over the world, but to the Indian it is available in a greater richness more easily, as the light is there in him. I shall dwell on yogic aspects only in that measure. The Indian government can solve the problem of Kashmir by this Force, but I have no access to the Mind of the Indian government or its spiritual appreciation of the Presence of this Force. Should India respond to Prosperity in a wide way, it is my hope, the atmosphere will change for the better and no problem of hers, including Kashmir, will be an exception. Kashmir will unite India and Pakistan.

### *Yoga in Life*

The police in our town is the army for us. There is no comparison between the army that defends us from aggression and the police who quell the local riots. **To the ordinary citizen,**

**the police is the army.** We know the policeman who risks his life defending lives and property needs to be as brave as the soldier at the front. It is equally so for the fire fighter whose risk is even greater. So, I confine myself to considering the **TRUE** yoga in life and do not stray into the higher realms of yoga that evolves man into the Supramental Being. The following are my territories for people in various sectors.

1. There are people below the line of poverty. They are crushed under the great weight of poverty especially in the economically demanding social obligations. If all these people come to know of Mother, allow themselves to be engulfed by Her atmosphere, pray to Her for the alleviations of their problems, **before long all of them will cross the line of poverty, some of them will step into upper middle class, a few of them will rise meteorically above that too.** Since 1980 when the Tamil population recognized the Divine Mother, it is happening in a good measure. As a matter of fact, they came to Mother after the lower middle class responded to Mother. In 1970 in our experiment in our rural project, we heard that
  - ◆ In this one year bumper crop, everyone in the village had paid off all his debts. One man who was debt ridden for 17 years got fully out of it.
  - ◆ Marriages took place everywhere. One agriculture labourer, flush with money, celebrated the marriage of his nine year old son.
  - ◆ Twenty-five years later we heard at the town market a characteristic comment: “It seems all the money in the world is there in this village.”
  - ◆ **The Truth is poverty was banished and abolished at its very roots in a token experiment.**
2. Next comes the devotee from the lower middle class who in 1980 was taking home a salary of less than Rs.1000

and was living on one square meal a day, not dreaming about higher education, decent employment or a house. At once they all moved into the comfort of the middle class. By now all of them have moved into the comfort of upper middle class, except those who refused to give up the belief in traditional rituals and all that goes with it. Ritualistic life effectively shuts out this Force. All of them without exception now own houses and a good many of them have cars now. Marriage and jobs, the two ghosts that haunt the middle class, have ceased to be a terror to them since they took to the worship of The Divine Mother. **People who have not expected their son to pass S.S.L.C., now find him with a PhD from USA.** Those who have not dreamt of the top post of their department went higher than that and scaled still further heights rising to national eminence. Mother is everywhere in Tamil Nadu and Her Presence is seen as dynamic life that is prosperous.

3. The response from the industrialist, even the industrialists of the small scale, is meager. Their rise is so meteoric that they are unable to keep their balance. An ego trip or an activation of their greed leads to their falling by the wayside. Our work in this sector remains theoretical and practice is nominal. It is theoretical in the sense that our ideas are appreciated in the reading, not in practice. Life outside has responded in a token way to cleanliness and orderliness. Wherever they are taken to, prosperity shoots up sky high, though they do not know of the existence of this Force. Their values – cleanliness, orderliness, and organisation – have attracted great prosperous waves.
4. In the eighties we published in about a hundred days in a leading newspaper our ideas about Prosperity, and submitted to the Planning Commission 138 concrete proposals on their invitation. Perhaps none of our proposals were incorporated into the government's Five

Year Plan. To the hundred articles in the newspaper we rarely got a reader response. Maybe the responses were a few and inconsequential. **But the nation at large, particularly Tamilnadu, has responded.** Almost all our suggestions have been implemented in one form or another. Hire purchase was our pet theme then. Now it is a reality.

5. Higher still lie **OPPORTUNITIES**, much of which are availed of after a fashion, but none in a systematic way. The population has not heard of them as yet, though our ideas are written about constantly. They are opportunities in the industrial fields as well as in the realms of higher education. In fact they are beyond the sphere of higher education. It lies in the plane of originality in the mind. The only valid experiment I know of I mentioned earlier — that of Nirupama.
  - ◆ The opportunities in small scale industries and heavy industries are enormous. Those who doubt the possibilities need only look at China, Korea and Taiwan. Singapore is unique. What all those countries do on their own, we must be able to do with the Force in the atmosphere. It is the Force that acts everywhere, but we can receive more of it because of our heritage. Software industry shows signs of such a possibility. I am of a different opinion. **I see India can skip the agricultural phase and enter into immense Prosperity by urbanization and through the service sector.** Economists may not see eye to eye with me. In the coming centuries or even in the coming decades, manufacturing will bring up the rear of the Indian economy. It is in this area India can provide economic leadership to the world, by creating NEW ways of economic activity. It is possible if India wakes up spiritually, not in terms of ritualistic religious worship

or the *tapas* of the *sannyasi*. India must seek the Spirit in LIFE, in Prosperity, in the Divine Living, here, *ihaiva*, not in the other world. In the event of India's spiritual awakening, economics will go far behind and manufacturing will have as little place in the nation's economy as *khadi* and village industries do today.

- ◆ In the field of higher education, perhaps the highest possible education, India can set out to create geniuses in as great a number as PhDs in the West now. Genius is the lowest member of *Rishihood*, the last rung of the ladder that leads one to be a *Rishi*. Now that Spirit in life has made the *muni*, *Rishi*, *Yogi* who seek *moksha* back members, Genius is within the reach of all who are mentally awakened. One may wonder whether this is not a wild dream of someone who has lost his senses. My reply is those who see the educational and urban progress of USA, who think of how the world war was won, how India won her freedom without armed uprising, can visualize this possibility. The real understanding will dawn on people when they invoke the Spirit in the experiment I shall be suggesting later. Today we see hundreds of people coming into hundreds of crores in one or two decades. For all my dreams to gain validity in the understanding of the reader, the reader

- **must see that utter Truthfulness is abundant Prosperity in his own life.**

- should witness the power of ORGANISATION to raise an individual or a nation from nowhere to everywhere.

The East India Company, with a capital equal to one third of the income of England, founded an empire in India fifteen times the size of England in India. It led to a world empire. One must see

ORGANISATION is all in progress. The East India Company newly created an empire. In India the treasures of the Vedas and the Upanishads are buried. They have to be unearthed, *moksha* is to be renounced, and spiritual fulfilment in life should be sought after as a goal. One can then see that Genius belongs to a far lower level than that of our goal, at least five or six levels below it.

- By education and government support, in twenty-five years children of agricultural labourers occupy the IAS cadre and other jobs of equal eminence. It is not because of utter truthfulness. For the level of truthfulness that is prevalent there today, just because they are Indian citizens, they enjoy this administrative privilege. I ask for utter truthfulness in the mentally awakened. Such a cross-section of people – espousing truth and giving up rituals — will find Genius within their reach. Genius is not an endowment one can work for. Render your Being one of Truth, call in Mother into your spiritual life, and the spiritual splendour will blossom in you. Genius will be one of those results.
- It is absolutely necessary that India does not ape America or any other nation. It is equally necessary India should not develop further superstitions in the field of religion and spirit. *She must actively endeavour to give up all the present superstitions religions have given us.* Those who cling to superstition of any description – religious, social, educational, administrative – cannot receive the TOUCH of this FORCE. They must be content with what their horoscope has in store, granted by karma. I have no meaningful suggestion for them.

- Money has entered into a new phase of existence in the world. *So far, Man sought money. Now money seeks MAN.* That money will be available in copious abundance to those who have lost their money value. All those who cherish money will enjoy its scarcity, or, they will receive a small portion of what is sanctioned to them. Or, they will receive the lower social value of money.  
To those Indians who rise above the value of MONEY, who realise that man is more valuable than money, money will be at their service. It will present itself in unlimited abundance. The Indians need new values. They are not divine values, but will lead them there. They are
- Psychological independence, a capacity to stand on one's own legs, **an ability NOT to accept help wherever it comes from.** A software company refusing a ten crore assistance from the government is an excellent omen.
- Today some, at least, cherish the future where they can sit idle while others will feed them because it is their religious privilege. I have no comment to offer to them. I wish to say one should be proud not to receive help.
- Sri Aurobindo talks of the old Indian aristocracy. Now we must go back to that purity of *Jnana*, the honour of the courageous, the self-giving of those who produce and the selfless service of those who are skilled. It is a magnificent passage where Sri Aurobindo speaks of the leonine courage of the seeker of the knowledge and honour. Not only that, it has to be raised to its logical spiritual efflorescence, the life of Spirit. We are petty in our minds and life. All that is petty, mean, and perverse

springs from untruth. They can be dissolved as if by a magic wand in one flourish. Maybe it would have been an effort of Himalayan proportions before HE was born in 1872. Now 132 years after His birth and the descent of the Force in 1956, for one Major Decision to live by Truth and truth alone, India can rise resplendent in her spiritual garb.

---

## XII. Token Experiment

Mostly man imitates others' success. His own mind is convinced when he sees another has succeeded in a venture. Therefore he would like to imitate it. There are other fresh ventures where Man is not so certain because he is not sure that he would succeed where another has done well. In such cases, he would be careful. If possible, he would like to experiment in a small way. A rich Reddiar boy very much desired to go to Madras for college education in the twenties. His parents were doubtful of the outcome. The boy cited several other cases. His parents argued that it might not be true in their case. Finally they consented to their son going for higher education on condition that he would be the roommate of another boy known for excellent conduct, as he hailed from a reputable local family. After graduation the Reddiar boy entered politics and became the Chief Minister of Madras, then known as the Prime Minister of the Presidency. The boy with an excellent record of character retired as Postmaster. **Yoga is not for all**; yogic life is something everyone can aspire for. Hence my invitation to an experiment. An experiment has the alternate possibilities of success or failure. That is the rule. This experiment has all the chances of success and no chance of failure. It is so because it is undertaken in one of our daily activities which one would be doing anyway.

The experiment is **to observe the infinite emerging out of the finite**. In our life there are very important activities like wedding, employment, shifting to another town, buying a property, getting introduced to VIPs, and so on. There are trivial activities such as eating one's dinner, a casual conversation, buying a routine article, going to the beach, playing with children, etc. An experiment is theoretically valuable in both types of acts equally. But for a practical appreciation, we would like to see the

vast results in an important item. Buying an orange is an act. This experiment will give you the finest orange. The result is not measurable. Also it will not be striking. The boy who failed to get a clerkship in a bank three times getting selected as a Manager in State Bank is striking. One should choose an act where the results are apparent, measurable and when it rises in quantity or quality, it will ring a bell in the mind. The water diviner getting thirty years' income in one year is one such. You have to select an activity which will be satisfactory for you when it is successful.

All the events I have cited happened on their own. **There was no planning and therefore no expectation**. Here we plan and therefore the expectation is a bar to the result. The results arise in spite of the expectation in two ways. One is the increasing success overwhelms the person, and he forgets his planning. So, it does not become an obstacle. One who was doing three crores of business was supplying to a company of hundred crores of rupees. He consciously undertook this experiment in the hope of reaching a hundred crores in fifteen years. When the whole experiment was detailed, he became very seriously interested. Seeing his serious interest, he was told it might be reached in five years with utmost seriousness. He saw his business progress by leaps and bounds. He lost his head. He had one more motive that his progress should be kept a secret. He kept it a secret from the one who had initiated him in the experiment. **He touched a hundred crores of turnover in 2½ years**. Another man was in an employment that offered little scope for progress. He undertook a two-year experiment which was a grand qualitative success in work. The job had no opening for progress. The experiment was over in June. He could buy a property in December which he could not dream of even after retirement. The energy released will never go waste. It will always find an expression elsewhere.

How to select an act for this purpose? I have cited the example of a last grade servant building a terraced house when his goal was a thatched house with brick walls. It is a striking result, but

its worth is not measurable, as his humble goal was not raised to a high goal. His humble goal was unrealised. To realise it, the negative has to change into positive consuming infinite energies. We have several important questions. The first is the selection of the act; the next is who is qualified to attempt this. These two are decisive. There are many, many more stipulations to be fulfilled, such as how to conduct the experiment, what are the do's and don'ts, etc. I wish to give a very detailed account of all these, but let me pronounce their rules emphatically even at the outset.

- ★ The very best results require utter truthfulness.
- ★ Experiment needs highest capacity and comprehensive responsibility.
- ★ Unhurried speed of action is *sine qua non*.

Though I shall be explaining each of the above strategies in the fullest possible detail through one or more examples, it may be seen that the above pronouncements are sufficient for any reasonable understanding. Some may consider utter truth is impossible for them. Mother says if we do not want to lie, She will never give us an occasion to lie. A man who cannot rise to the stringent requirements demanded above may still undertake the experiment, **but I cannot guarantee him the results I have been loudly proclaiming.** Very few come forward to experiment. Most simply listen to these descriptions and look for results. Responses vary from casual half-hearted attempts to stiff opposition to the very idea. Results too vary. The American businessman mentioned earlier was totally opposed to any offering, which is an essential condition to the completion. His project soared 70-fold and further to 700-fold, but at the last moment he put up a refractory behaviour and denied himself the opportunity. **We understand that the absence of offering led him to deny a magnificent opportunity.** Still, his own business doubled in one year.

Another person, having taken to Mother, was fond of announcing his lack of faith, not knowing that the unbeliever

has a higher belief. He had a *Darsan* of Sri Aurobindo as the golden Supramental *Purusha*. As soon as the Force begins to act in one's life, the devotee gets alert, wants the result but not through the Force. He prefers it to come for his own capacities. That is unconsciousness and rank ingratitude. One who came here forty years ago chose to avoid the place, came back after ten years with a turnover of eleven lakhs. In three years he exhibited all the above behaviours and left us with a turnover of fifty lakhs. There was another wonderful specimen of humanity. When luck offered him while he was on a salary of Rs.2000 a post of a Manager with the same salary along with a 10% profit sharing in a new industry, he gave the response of, "I don't want any share in the company but after five years please give the factory to me entirely as a gift." He tried this with three other people but still he settled down in his own company. To such refractory people good results come, but they also bring the same behaviour from others towards them. **One common feature in all these cases is that the beneficiary invariably tries to harm the benefactor when there is one.** Often one is on his own. In that case, he cannot harm anyone. Sometimes someone takes interest to offer essential help. That person is sure to be spoken against or quarreled with. The beneficiary tries his best to create obstacles for the benefactor. It is a rule without exception. Coming to the experiment, the devotee should choose the ACT in which he has full proficiency. All his moves must be inward, i.e. by silent will, not overt utterance. The following are the rules one has to follow.

- 1) As long as he is excited about the prospect, he should not begin the project.  
**The Project requires a calm inner attitude.**
- 2) His intention should not be spoken of to anyone to whom that communication is not called for.  
**Execution must be Silent.**
- 3) If there is to be a partner, he must be one of GOOD WILL. Often we believe people of ill will to be of good will.

One must be clear about it.

**Better to have no partners, only subordinates.**

4) Self-reliance is the cardinal rule.

**Reliance on oneself is reliance on Mother, at least our faith in the Mother.**

5) **Mother First, anything next, is the central rule and faith.**

It was election time. The majority party was openly threatening the minority community with annihilation. The majority party was afraid of losing by a narrow margin. The minorities are really a tiny minority. One belonging to the minority community was visibly shaking and in terror. On an advice similar to the above, he sat calling Peace for twelve hours. Peace poured down in floods and spread over his entire state. A week later most unexpectedly the minority party came to power and terrorized the erstwhile ruling party. **It was a moment of life or death.** Therefore he could call from his depths. No one can muster that strength to call like that for an experiment. If he can, I would put down the next rule as

6) **Constant, intense call from the depths.**

Having taken to an experiment of TRUTH, one is not able to maintain it throughout. Suppose one has taken up house building as the experiment. Trying to procure a scarce commodity, he is tempted to follow devious ways as before. It is not permissible. A rule in such experiments is Truth is indispensable. Deviation from Truth will turn a project for the country's Presidentship into a presidentship of the local panchayat. Even that will be, in that case, an elevation. The experiment is valid when no compromise is introduced. This is an experiment that has raised a Rs.400 employee to a status of Rs.400 crores wealth. Should he resort to compromises he will end up with a job of Rs.4000 which is itself a rise of ten-fold. **How can he know he has missed that exalted target of 400 crores.**

Fit activities for the experiment.

1. Alliance
2. Job
3. Office inspection
4. Promotion
5. New venture
6. Raising Public Deposits
7. House Building
8. Winning a court case
9. Foreign travel
10. Settling a long standing family dispute
11. Elections
12. Exams
13. Book Service (Selling books on one's own faith)
14. Fund raising
15. Tournaments
16. Expansion of an industry
17. Reconciling with a refractory parent or child
18. New appointment for a senior post
19. Producing a film
20. Conduct of a function such as convocation
21. Founding a new political party
22. Winning a case against a politically influential party
23. Winning a case where you are just, while the law is not on your side
24. Reviving a losing company
25. Raising the profits of your company
26. Sales campaign
27. Seeking Vice-Chancellorship when your name is the third on the Panel
28. Publishing a book
29. Medical treatment
30. Winning the GOOD WILL of a spouse

***Meteoric Expansion***

The theory of this experiment is our usual work is *finite*. Even when it is successful, the results are limited. When you want to sell a property purchased last year for one lakh of rupees, if you are successful in a steady market, you will sell it for the same price and your loss will be the cost of registration expenses. In stable markets you may not recover the cost. **Only in the real estate market while it is rising we witness the phenomenon of selling a plot for Rs. 35 lakhs, while the cost seven years before was Rs.10,000.** This is more true in urban areas. This experiment which meets all the do's and don'ts will witness a result like that. I shall list below various rules to be followed and precautions to be taken to avoid the wrong thing. In principle they are,

- ★ Every traditional belief — however much we are used to it or how sacred it is to us — must be given up as it is narrow.
  - ★ Every expansive emotion, impulse, or act that is right must be fully accepted and followed, as it widens the result.
1. To us, the auspicious hour is sacred. *Raghukalam* is to be avoided. **I have absolutely no quarrel with such beliefs.** It keeps us tied to the past. If you want to honour such beliefs, please do not venture on this experiment. It will be a disappointment. Suppose you are one who has been honouring *raghukalam* and now believes it must be given up, the experiment will yield the result. If an M.P. who has been promised the Cabinet post as a result of such an experiment, inwardly feels the significance of the auspicious day, he will still be rewarded with the post but it will shrink into the post of a deputy minister. **The finest result of the experiment demands no such inner sentiment towards it.**
  2. Visits to the temples and *prasadam*s from there will fully cancel the expansive results of the experiment.

3. Cash offerings are necessary. Hesitation here will be counter productive. The water diviner mentioned earlier (p.163) refused to offer cash and declared he only needed blessings and not prosperity. He received a hundred times more work but very little cash. On his realising his folly and reversing his refusal, all the arrears came in.
4. People in position often are under the illusion they can command public opinion. Power blinds them. The public cannot be ordered to respond in a fashion people in power demand. One such man mistook his seat of power for popularity. He started a Tamil Journal and made himself the editor. He is a non-Tamil. Articles on philosophy were written by uneducated cronies of his who knew neither Tamil nor the philosophy. That is not a journal anyone would receive even as a free gift. He printed 500 copies – forty years ago – while in his institution the main journal that was most popular had only 1300 subscriptions. He could not sell ten copies. He used physical pressure in every possible way and sold 300 of them over a long period. He realised the folly of starting the journal. He could not sell 300 copies of the next issue. At this moment someone who was interested in an experiment of this type took it up and sold the next issue up to 500 and subsequently raised it to 1000. He did so by a maximum effort, **by exhausting all his known resources.**
5. When this Force begins to operate, the previous best doubles. In the rural project mentioned earlier (p.93) in the year of our scheme, groundnut price per bag ranged from Rs.60 to 90. The highest price ruled only for two days. When the scheme was in operation the season began with Rs.90 and went on increasing to Rs.190, a price never heard of in the year 1970. That was not the behaviour of prices. During such periods of expansiveness, individuals will have their usual

promptings. Those urges will reflect upon the individual fortune, in a general positive climate.

- ◆ A farmer who must take his produce to the market is approached by his neighbour for an ordinary help. He can respond selflessly or selfishly. His response of Self-giving will push up the ruling price of Rs. 160 the previous day to Rs.180 when he sells. His selfish response of denial to help will act in the opposite direction and will push down the price to a low Rs.130
  - ◆ During the period of our experimentation, it is helpful or even necessary for one to observe brahmacharya.
6. Expression of *Swabhava*:  
There are people who cannot refrain from interrupting another in conversation. If he takes to this experiment, he needs to control himself entirely. His expressing his *swabhava* will neutralize the results of the experiment. *Swabhava* has myriad expressions. Good expansive traits can be expressed. Unhealthy traits cannot be expressed. One who is in the habit of borrowing heavily from money lenders can decide NOT to borrow from them at high rates of interest. **On the same day of his decision, he will get a bank loan.** To him the temptation of going back to the money lender will arise often. Once he goes back to his old habit, he will witness all the expansive movements in his work will come to a stop, never to revive.
7. Human nature is resourceful in the extreme in negative matters. Having launched the experiment, one can witness a **GOOD ANGEL** coming to him and opening up apertures of good luck. For a while everyone will recognize the angel to be the hero of the project. Slowly the ego rears its head. Efforts will be made to attribute the luck to other causes. Careful efforts will be made to remove the good angel from his role. It is an egoistic move of ingratitude. One who starts the Project cannot

countenance such talk in his people without injuring the cause. **Should he do so, everything will come to a dead stop.**

8. One common experience in such expansive lucky occasions is the beneficiary will carefully plan NOT to communicate the lucky news to the one who has worked for it solely. Such a thought will be detrimental to the result.
9. This is a yoga of Self-Conception. Work done relying on oneself will expand. Reliance on another will be a shrinking movement. One can see such occasions everyday more than once. Each time you shift to yourself it expands. Each time you rely on another, things stall.
- ◆ It is a choice of every moment, giving us an unfailing confirmation of the rule.
- In the rural project, the whole work was planned centring it on the Farm Manager as he was on the spot. The project progressed and the bank sent all the Demand Drafts to the Farm Manager to be distributed. The Manager had an extraordinary impulse. He went to the devotee who sponsored the whole thing and said that he could not be part of the project. **The devotee agreed, understanding that he alone was held as the sole responsible person.** The resounding success of the project was, among other things, due to the Farm Manager disowning his responsibility.
10. A devotee was a partner in a Project. Disputes arose. It was resolved but the power of attorney was withheld and the property given to him. Now the property became a burden. He consciously undertook a token experiment so that his resources would be exhausted. Had he had the power of attorney, he would have drawn Rs.45,000 for his work. His token experiment was started on June in 1971. Everyday was an uphill task. It was like pulling

teeth. The ordeal continued for 51 days. On that day Rs.10,000 came with a promise of another Rs.15,000. It came a week later. Now a minor miracle occurred. The bank pressed him to accept Rs.45,000. He could not respond, as he had no power to sign. The bank could not decipher his reluctance. In successive offers they raised the Rs.45,000 to Rs.85,000. He was given the funds and the bank, by a mysterious process, got the signature of the man who had the power of attorney. A month and a half later, the holder of power of attorney volunteered to give him Rs.2 lakhs, as he was pleased by the effort at the Project.

During such periods of unheard of expansiveness, every day occasions arise to be angry with a refractory driver, or to bargain hard in buying a simple article. The refractory driver should remind us of our own refractory behaviour. **We have no right to shout at the driver or punish him.** When life is bargaining to give the Project Rs.3,10,000, if you choose to bargain for Rs.17, Life will withdraw its generosity to you.

11. In our tradition we do not spend the last paise. We hold back a rupee or two because, we believe, the emptiness of the purse cuts off the link between the incoming funds and ourselves. **True, this is a great rule for those who believe in horoscope and karma.** As we are favoured by Life outside karma, the rule is different. The flood of money that waits outside, Mother says, waits for you to spend the last paise, literally. It is difficult to practise even after you see it working. It requires FAITH in the Mother. Such occasions arise frequently. Every time one must rise to the expectation of the Mother.
12. Good omens arise. We must honour them. Bad omens arise. It must caution us. One who tried to buy one acre ended up after 10 years with 365 acres when there was

pressure on him to buy up to 1000 acres. Not understanding that the Force was revealing itself as a good omen, he disregarded it and lost the opportunity. When a lucrative project was proposed to an industrialist, he insisted on his refractory partners coming in. Not seeing that as a bad omen, they were let in and the project was ruined. **Knowing full well that the Force works only through believers, to accept non-believing partners is foolish.**

13. One important rule here is to accept what comes and not seek anything on our own. When you seek, you begin to disqualify yourself even in the beginning. When you refuse what comes to you, again you miss the luck that seeks you.
14. As solutions are in-built into the problems, one needs to be resourceful. The plot acquired by the government (p.48) was saved by one such resourceful idea that it was the property of an ex-serviceman.
15. This is a discipline that emphasizes patience, non-reacting equality. But there are outrageous situations when those who should be guardians try to betray. In the context of heinous crimes, one needs to acquire the *raudra bhava* and try to crush the enemy. **You will witness a powerful enemy crushed before your very eyes.** It must not be out of reaction. It must be a deliberate stroke powerfully dealt with in Patience.
16. There are a good many people fond of being foolish and ruining themselves. Not only that, they will come forward to repeat it. Such people, if they can, repeat it any number of times. I know one who did so for the sixteenth time. Another did so forty-four times and still went on accusing all those around. This experiment is not for them.
  - ◆ Complete folly has a great attraction to some. Let them not attempt this.

- ◆ Among them are some shining ones who cannot at all see it is utter folly. Let us be cautious about them.
  - To put an enormous amount of cash month after month in the hands of a 13-year-old boy is not wise.
  - To withdraw one's share that yields 95% profit and invest it in another project that will yield 35,000 for an expense of 65,000 is one such act.
  - To start a factory before the technology is perfect is, on any showing, unwise.
  - To ardently believe your arch enemies to be your good friends after being around them for ten years is an act of utter folly.
  - Not to know your whole institution is jealous of you and is actively planning to destroy you is an unpardonable blindness.
  - **In short, people who are devoid of common sense cannot venture to undertake this token experiment.**
  - There are a good many people who are unaware of their selfishness. Selfishness will not pay, at least, here. It may pay, if they adopt an unselfish attitude with respect to the Project
  - When you see your property has risen a thousand-fold in value since you bought it forty years ago as no other property of similar description has done, you must be cautious enough to follow these rules.

### *After the Experiment*

If your experiment is successful and the result you had was ten times or seventy times more than the normal one, you can enjoy the result. But you will not be able to have that METHOD as a permanent possession. **If you want many of your activities to expand like this, you must learn the process by which this**

**result issued.** If you do so, you will have ushered yourself into LUCK permanently. Its essence is, you must be able to see that during the project period you are

- ★ Calm, equal, patient, Silent, expansive, generous, unexpectant and sweet in your bearing and behaviour.

Sri Aurobindo says birth is the first mystery in life and death is another mystery. In the above experiment, if you want to know the process by which this miraculous result was brought about, you can enumerate all the physical details of the work you had done. But by repeating all of them exactly, the result cannot be reproduced, because this result was brought about by a mystery in addition to all those details, and that mystery lies in the subtle plane invisible to us. In fact, it lies in the causal plane that is further away. As I said, it can be known as the attitude we had, not as the work we had done.

- ★ Man is restless, especially his physical being is restless. Restlessness cannot let this Force act nor permit this result. **Restlessness should die down.** Peace, Spiritual Peace, should enter in its place. It is not in our power to bring it down into our physical being. The Force alone can do it.
- ★ Man is selfish, and cannot see the other man's point of view. To see the other man's point of view, to practise Self-giving is necessary for this Force to act.
- ★ Equality is the consciousness of the Infinite. We are finite, we act and react. Capacity to not react brings in equality.
- ★ Our finite being can take interest in us, it can be selfish. It cannot be generous, which is an expansive emotion. When one moves from the finite human interest to the divine generosity, one expands and lets the work expand.
- ★ Mind always thinks. While the mind thinks, its work does not expand as in our experiment. Thinking must stop and SILENCE emerge in the MIND. Only in Silence our finite work will expand. When we move into the Silence behind Silence, our work becomes divine work and expands to

the dimensions of the universe.

- ★ Sweetness is the knowledge of Love. When Love is born and acquires knowledge, sweetness issues. It is not in MAN, not on his surface Mind.
- ★ You can go deeper into your personality and examine each faculty of Mind, Vital and Physical. Even the spiritual can be so examined. **You can think of the higher expansive quality in the subtle, causal fields — that faculty which corresponds to the one we have.** If we have the capacity to think, the corresponding higher quality needed for this expansion to occur is Silence. It means one has to Silence his mind. When the expansion did occur in the experiment, we can now recollect that our mind or being had all these qualities.

So, the Process of enjoying luck permanently, the capacity to do any work in such a fashion that it expands ten or a hundred or a thousand times is to move in our minds from the human surface to the divine depth. It can be written as two columns. **It is one thing to write and know the Process and another thing to actually move to the other side.** Well, we may do so once and may not be able to repeat it again, as we need ENERGY. Anyway, the experiment will show the result if not a thousand times or even ten times, at least double. As I said, this experiment has no chance of failure. The least will be double. Once one sees the result in some measure, it is for him to raise the multiple as high as he can and make it permanent.

### ***Energy for the Expansion***

Any expansion needs energy and this expansion needs great energy. In the experiment we have followed all the rules. It is called a negative discipline, i.e. we deny the thought that arises, push away selfish response, etc. When the discipline is positive, greater energy issues. Instead of pushing away the thought that insists, one can call in SILENCE. It is to be positive. **We call in Silence for a greater result. It is mercenary.** To call in Silence

for Silence's sake is to be more positive. To call in Silence as a method is a finite act. To call in Silence because it is one aspect of the Spirit is to be Spiritual. The twelve aspects of Spirit – Eternity, Infinity, Silence, Peace, Unity, Truth, Goodness, Knowledge, Power, Beauty, Joy and Love – can thus be called in. It will expand the work.

To do the work for the result is to be work-centred. To do it for luck is to be centred in our life. Work itself is divine if we do not do it physically. To be centred in that WORK has a wider power of aspiration. **Our energy increases with the quality of aspiration rising.** There is no end for it till one reaches Brahman. In practice, one cannot raise his aspiration thus. In doing an experiment, one isolates himself from all activities and focuses on the work. Therefore the aspiration is intense. Suppose we do not focus like that, our energies are spread out all over our life activities. In such a condition no concentration is possible. For luck to become permanent, the concentration must be there all the time. It is not easy. One way to handle that situation is to solve all the problems on hand using this Process and start availing of all the opportunities that present to us. One who does that will rise like the employee of Rs.400 salary. Certain attitudes acquired truly and permanently help that process.

- ★ A perfect sense of humility in all circumstances is one.
- ★ Another one everyone can try is the Silent will.
- ★ Taking another man's point of view is possible at times, not always. If one can acquire it, it is a gateway to Supermind.
- ★ Not to allow egoistic expression of any kind is very powerful but very difficult.
- ★ **Genuine good will to all is very powerful and it is possible for anyone to acquire it.** Good will goes with generosity. As long as one sees the difference between generosity and vanity and shuns the latter, all that I have spoken of so far is summed up in GOOD WILL that is generous.

It is said of Napoleon that he accomplished in three years what kings had not accomplished in centuries. Apart from Jesus, he is the only human being on whom the greatest number of books have been written. His success is phenomenal. He was a *vibhuti*. We believe he was the previous incarnation of The Master, Sri Aurobindo. Historians refer to him as a mathematician. He calculated every work in terms of numbers and did so in his mind. This is one of his many prodigious qualities. Planning a military attack, he knew the shortest routes on the map. He would calculate the time normally needed for the enemy troops to move to a point. For him to move to the same point, he would resort to a shorter route. **And he would calculate the time needed for him.** There lies an advantage. And by that advantage he would surprise the enemy. In ordering for supplies, his ready mind would calculate the bread and meat required. He would allow for wastage. He had a formula for such wastage. Often he did these calculations in his mind. When such figures were written down, orders were precise. His army was never short of supplies. This, they say, was a major contributor to his victory. We go by impressions, not by calculation. Calculation and detailed planning make a little energy go a long way, i.e. expand the efficiency of that energy. When deeper aspiration supplies greater energy and planning extends its effectivity, no wonder the results rise manifold.

Work can be understood in several ways. In each method there are stages, as in the energy – force – power – results continuum. The expansion I speak of takes place at each point of transition. Hence infinite expansion is the order of the day.

---

## Conclusion

**The Experiment I spoke of is the crux of the entire theory I have explained.** The result, the manifold result, validates the theory. But the experiment carries within it something more important than the magnificent result. One who values the result, of course, will certainly get the result. Everything will stop there. After some years when he again hears of such things or recollects the earlier experience, he will, like the MLA who acted as the Chief Minister for one day, say to himself, “Of course, it was one golden day in my life. Now what?” That was why I plead that we can recognise the result, but disregarding it, we should go after the Process. It is eminently possible for us to know the process, as it is our own experience. We must be able to enumerate that process step by step and learn its value. I repeat, the value of that Process lies in what Sri Aurobindo calls the Mystery, what the world has been feeling as the Mystery. Memorising the various steps of the Process, or writing it down, if we repeat it on another occasion, we will certainly get the result which everyone gets, not the grand result of manifold magnitude.

- ★ The Mystery is the state of Consciousness in which the work was done – calm, quiet, expansive mental attitude.
- ★ Add this to the work, and at once the flat result will turn into an expansive result.
- ★ **More than learning the Process, one needs to learn the elements of the Mystery and be able to repeat it every time.**
- ★ For the purposes of the theme taken up by this book – Spiritual Opulence – I shall stop here, though it is not the end.
- ★ I shall speak of the next step, though I will not take up its practice. The further step is the essence – Brahman. It

belongs entirely to the domain of the yogi. Achieving the essence, one will be able to transmute one object into another. In our tradition it is called alchemy. That is not the topic here.

There was an occasion to discuss theoretically the practical affairs of a 1000 crore company. After the founder, the next generation took over. In a few years the company became a losing concern. As any company has an immense reservoir of several descriptions – financial, monetary, social power issuing from status, good will, trade contacts, reliability, the need of this company for the suppliers, etc. – they could borrow extensively and came to a halt, a dead stop. Efforts were taken to revive the spirit of the original company. It proved successful in several places, but not in cash flow. For a company of this size, they were literally not in a position to raise one crore of cash, as every known source was drawn upon using all market mechanisms. Now that the company had witnessed dramatic improvements in many sectors, the proprietor was desirous of doing something to relieve the stress. His desire traveled and reached a table of the above mentioned discussion. The following was the discussion, which was only of theoretical significance.

***Is there any valid idea that can be seriously considered here?***

Yes.

***Do you mean to say it will work if practiced?***

There is no doubt about it. Our discussion can only be theoretical as neither of us are the decision makers.

***Assuming I gain the ear of the decision maker...***

Gaining the ear is far different from his coming forward to implement it.

***Assuming he implements it.***

Certainly it will work.

***What will happen?***

All the money you need will come.

***When, how? How is it possible? You have no idea how much they need.***

It is not the volume of money that matters. What matters is the seriousness of the decision-maker's decision.

***Today the company is all right, very much all right in several respects. The past burden is a drag. Everyday the pressure increases. It is a wonder the company survives. Losses increase due to credit purchases.***

How much extra cash will be needed to stop the credit purchase?

***It is quite a sum. About 300 crores. At least 200 crores of rupees.***

What are the monthly expenses?

***Around 80 crores.***

Now what do you do? How do you meet it?

***About 60 crores of money is actually spent every month. Actually they postpone as much as they can, but somehow ultimately it is met.***

Which means actually 60 crores flows in and keeps the operations up.

***It does come in, belatedly. It is like pulling teeth, but it does come in.***

If what you say is true, some three months of expenses can certainly come in.

***'Come in' means, how?***

Any expert in finance will tell you a way out.

***Having handled a straitened situation for a number of years, you cannot think of a better expert than the proprietor. He knows no way out.***

An expert will have a wider experience. Your proprietor will have a great experience of one situation.

***No, this proprietor belongs to a community of such experts.***

Better consult a real expert or retired people in this field.

**The proprietor along with this person consulted an expert. He said, “The rules permit 200 crores to be issued against your future receivables. You have to reach the top decision maker of a sympathetic bank.” It turned out to be true theoretically.**

There are a few things at this juncture. They are:  
If the proprietor believes what you have said, he will get the money.

***What else is there besides that?***

If you ‘will’ on behalf of the proprietor, it will also work, though not effectively. Sometimes it may be more effective.

***Is there more?***

Yes, it depends upon how that money comes.

***You mean through whom?***

No, it can come through a loan or income.

***Are you serious?***

Please recollect our experience 25 years ago. First, all the needed money came as a loan. Next, it came as income.

***Yes. I can never think of that experience in this light. Is there more?***

There certainly is more. It is for a later occasion.

I used this incident, as it suited my theoretical purpose. When there is a need, a genuine need, and the person is a serious personality, whatever the situation, all the needed money will come unasked. Whether it comes as a loan or income or gift depends upon what YOU believe in. If you believe, “I can only get a loan” it will come as a loan. Allowing no thoughts in the mind, it will come as income. Faith will evoke a response from life to bring it as a gift. Further, how soon will it materialize? Let me simply say it can happen at once or later. That too depends on your faith. These are theoretical discussions. In the Experiment

every movement will be an experience. Each will be a practical fact. No room for speculation. When such an experiment is made successfully and the process learnt and the mystery unveiled, what next?

The very first thing is, you will see no problems around you. You will be surrounded by opportunities which you are not anxious to avail of.

*The personality that was praying for this thing or that thing will no longer be there.*

You will be a new person, a new born person born into something pleasant and sweet. It is the higher consciousness. Most of us would like to stop here and it will be right to stop. Some may like to go ahead. How did we arrive at this blissful condition?

### ***Beyond the Scriptures***

Our scriptures – Vedas, Upanishads, Gita – are sacred. The world outside has not yet known that Spiritual wisdom. All lead us to Moksha. Gita has given a quicker path. Sri Aurobindo has gone beyond all of them and offers us what they never could dream of. Shall we say HE offers us here on earth the Bliss of Moksha? Maybe it is that or better than that. HE has laid it down in *The Life Divine* as philosophy, in *The Synthesis of Yoga* as practice of yoga, in *Savitri* as poetic vision, while The Mother has recorded all these practices in Her body and the cells. It is called *Agenda*. I would like to explain how any of these books or all of them can be used so that one receives the MESSAGE of these books. Before that I wish to suggest another Experiment for those who have successfully conducted the first experiment.

### ***An Experiment based on the Experiment***

The Divine Mother speaks of children of the Mother. Some give their souls, others their lives to divine service. Yet others offer their work and others their wealth. She says the true children of the Mother offer their souls, lives, work and wealth. Others

are to Her valueless ciphers. This experiment is for those who aspire to become the true children of the Divine Mother. She also says those who are capable of service to the Divine should not waste their energies in national service. I am not addressing this experiment to those exalted souls who are the true children of the Mother capable of directly serving Her. The less exalted souls are the patriots. This experiment is for them.

If you are one who is seriously interested in one of the national problems such as water scarcity, lack of good schooling in your place, good hospitals, road accidents, border conflict on the boundaries of Pakistan, low income, Cauvery water, etc., I wish you do this experiment on behalf of India in your life.

The only spiritual qualification to do such an experiment is that you should be directly affected by the problem. It cannot be a theoretical interest. In that case the results cannot be seen in practice. Whether it is an issue where you want to solve a problem or an opportunity you want to avail of, do the experiment not for your own personal benefit, but IMPERSONALLY do it in all purity and truthfulness. You will see that problem will be solved for the nation or that opportunity will be availed of by the entire nation. Suppose you are an industrialist, you constantly meet with situations where things are to be accomplished by using influential contacts or bribes. If you shift your reliance to Mother and only to Mother, you will witness the miracle of meeting officers of integrity, incorruptible politicians and work will get done smoothly and faster.

- ★ If you take it as a convenience, you alone will get the results.
- ★ Suppose you want that benefit to reach the whole population, you must act as a citizen, not as an individual.
- ★ **You will witness the miraculous phenomenon of corruption disappearing in that particular sector.**
- ★ The wider the emotional identification, the wider the result.
- ★ Should you be so successful, this is not a power you can

go on using in this fashion for every other problem. The next step for you is to shift your service to the Divine, to look to Her to solve the problem of the nation in the way She deems best, not in the narrow, personal fashion of our own understanding.

In the case of the theoretical discussion on a company's cash requirement, we saw the theoretical validity of a certain argument. Now that the above argument's practical value is seen in some measure in the national experiment, we can consider the further stages of such an argument. Below it can be theoretically explained as it is the essence of these BOOKS. They are not to be further experimented upon. Their theoretical validity is their practical effectivity. If you are not of that frame of MIND, the following will be empty words for you. For a right attitude, the following will be valid.

- ★ The company needs money. If so, that money will come. If the proprietor is one who will receive those funds and pay off other pressing liabilities to relieve himself, it will not come. Those further funds are meant to generate fresh profits. The mind should be disciplined to use those funds for the intended purpose. Then it will surely come.
- ★ In what manner – loan, profit or gift – it will come depends on the belief of the proprietor.
- ★ This is a true principle in any walk of life.
- ★ Money needed for any genuine work will come in good abundance.
- ★ What is true of money is true of other types of assistance.
- ★ The extent of your effectivity depends upon your emotional identification – selfishness or selflessness, etc.

When Sri Aurobindo was in jail, Swami Vivekananda appeared before Him and showed Him the Supermind, but did not tell him how to reach there. When the government released Him, His heart was in politics and the Freedom Movement. God asked Him to do another work, giving up politics. That is how Sri

Aurobindo took to yoga. It began in the jail when HE had the Supramental vision that everyone and everything is Narayana. The Vishwarupa Krishna showed to Arjuna had two sides, good events as well as the evil of life. Sri Aurobindo's vision did not have the wrong side, as it was Supramental vision. For the next ten years HE worked to discover a path to the Supermind. These four books describe His path to us. The various experiments I spoke of will qualify one spiritually to comprehend these books *in toto*, as the experiments open spiritual depths in us. No longer will one share the general response of the readers that Sri Aurobindo's writings are incomprehensible.

---

## Appendix

*Letter from Nirupama Raghavan to her American 'uncle'.*

Dear Uncle Bob,

I was recently doing Aristotle's Poetics with my mother in relation to my Literature studies, and as I couldn't remember his examples, I had to draw parallels in books I had read. While I was discussing this with my mother, I told her that a majority of the fantasy books that you or Garry Uncle had given me were based on ancient cultures taken slightly out of context and refreshed. I quoted several authors, but she couldn't follow because, very simply, she hadn't read any of those books. Since you are the only person I really know who reads fantasy — Garry Uncle quit reading those a few years ago — I felt I could discuss knowledgeably with you on this.

One of my first observations on fantasy:

Most authors base their books on ancient cultures. Some of them do it deliberately, like Drake. Others probably mix some history in unintentionally. For example, Tsuranuanni, the planet on the other side of the rift of Raymond Feist's Midkemia, is quite clearly ancient Japan. The Empire Trilogy explores the interaction of West and East. Arrakis of Frank Herbert's books is almost the same, mixing in the West as the Empire, represented by Jessica and Leto Atreides; the Chinese? Indian? — philosophy of the Tleilaxu; and the Islamic view of the Fremmen. Paul is a mixture of Fremmen and Atreides; Duncan Idaho is the compound of Tleilaxu and Atreides, the essential 'civilized man.' Paul forces the Atreides culture into the Fremmen, creating a dangerous mixture of fanaticism and sophistication. Which is probably why his successor is Leto II, nearly immortal, to balance the factors. This is also a common rule in history — if one king rapidly expands his empire, as a warrior, the next will essentially be a gifted

administrator. In cases where this has not happened, the kingdom has collapsed. Then there are two probabilities — the grandson of the warrior will reinstate it, or it will decline into oblivion.

Paul Atreides is an unwilling tyrant. His abilities force him to rule; every step he takes is a historical event. The excerpts Herbert provides before each chapter prove that. Such a responsibility is taken in one of three ways. One is that the subject of such idolatry will succumb to his image and become shallow. The lives of most of today's actors and pop stars prove that. The second is that, again like some actors, they become recluses, hating what they do but doing it because there is no option. The third, and rarest, is that in spite of everything, they retain an objective view and act correctly. There are three Atreides whose lives are chronicled in the Dune books — Leto, Paul, and Leto II. Leto I is the startoff, the catalyst. He is an aristocrat, a leader. Paul is the conqueror, the seer. His flaw is that he is unable to come to terms with who and what he is. His son Leto does not have his vision, but he has his experience, and is able to think out logically what Paul had to do intuitively. He is the one who stabilizes the entire galaxy. There is a concept in science called the edge of chaos. The edge of chaos is the boundary between chaos and order. For a civilization to flourish, it must be held at that edge. Too much order stagnates a society, and too much chaos collapses it. Paul takes the Fremens out into the galaxy, and total chaos ensues. His son clamps down on and freezes the social structure, and when we next see Arrakis, it has lost its impetus, though not its significance. All structures of power — the Guild, the Bene Gesserit, the Fish Speakers — all have renewed their old rivalry immediately after Leto's death. Which is also a standard pattern. If a king has conquered several countries and consolidated them, when the peak of his achievement declines, the countries fall apart and regain their earlier status. It has happened in the wake of Alexander, after the Mughals, after the British Empire, after Soviet Russia, to name a few. In war, chaos is always stronger

than order. Therefore the Fremens, who are representations of chaos, win against the feudal empire, until the best of the Fremens and the Atreides are united by Paul, who is then the edge of chaos, and the resulting mix overwhelms the unprepared and decadent rule.

In fact, in many ways, the Dune Chronicles resemble your book. Especially the first three: Dune, Dune Messiah, and Children of Dune. Both you and Frank Herbert speak of touching something beyond the realm of human perception. In both books, the primary contact is completely solitary. In both, it is initiated by a program calculated to bring about that effect. In Herbert's novels, it is the Bene Gesserit's breeding program. In *The Legend of Brahman*, it is a series of classes introducing everyone to the subject in hopes of finding those who have the ability to understand what is being said. It is rather like playing Battleship — once you make a hit, you can sink the ship easily. The purposes, however, are vastly different. The Bene Gesserit intrude upon the individual. In a concept in the book '*The Runelords*' — I forget the author — there is such a thing as a 'personal circle' — which must in no way be impinged upon and cannot be touched against anyone's will without harming the individual. The Bene Gesserit intrude upon Paul Atreides as they have intruded upon his ancestors, and in him the stress reaches breaking strain. It produces a reaction that is the buildup of every emotion ever felt against them that comes out in a titanic destruction of their entire plan. Their whole purpose is destroyed when Reverend Mother Mohiam tells the fifteen-year-old Paul that they could help his father but would not. He understands the undercurrent — it isn't essential! — and it shapes his opinion of them. Had the teachers in your book intruded upon your hero's personal circle, it would have turned their plan on its head. Since he was the one whom they sought, he could also have negated whatever they stood for. Another thing that struck me was that in the beginning, an artificial means is used to procure the same effect that later

## Spiritual Opulence

becomes automatic. It also moves from the unknown to the known. The main difference between your hero and Paul is that Paul knows fully that his actions will create havoc, and that no matter what he does, he is powerless to prevent it one way or the other. That complete knowledge breaks him. Even when he is blinded, he is not absolved of his responsibility/necessity to act. The idea that despite being blind, he can see because he lives in the future, and therefore knows everything to the point of his death, is enough to finish him off. His flaw is that he feels bound to fulfil the future as seen by him. The sheer inevitability of his life is what kills him as a person, which is why he chooses to come back anonymously as the Preacher to undo his actions, seed enough dissatisfaction that his son does not have to go through what he does. Unfortunately, due to his own resignation, he dies exactly as he foresaw, and his son is forced to transform.

This is all I have for the present. I have written this from my memory of both your book and the Dune series. Please send me your comments on this.

With love,  
Niru

---