

Chapter 25: Knot of Matter -- Speech Outline

1. **What do we mean by a divine life?**

A. Everything will be a change for the better

B. We will have total knowledge

- No ignorance, nor error, no trial and error, no falsehood
- Darcy will not have false pride or self-importance that makes him feel superior to anyone.
- He will recognize the value of Eliza at first glance.
- Eliza will see the truth of Wickham's character. She will see behind appearances and will not be attracted to falsehood
- No one in Meryton will believe Wickham's the scandalous lies about Darcy.
- Bingley will not doubt Jane's affection, nor she his.
- Mr. Bennet will recognize the danger of sending Lydia to Brighton and refrain.

C. No pain or sorrow, only joy

- Eliza will not feel Darcy has abandoned her and all is hopelessly lost when he leaves Lambton Inn.
- Jane won't feel deserted if Bingley goes to London – because their souls will always be conscious of their unity
- Mrs. Bennet will not worry about loss of the entail, because there is infinite prosperity

D. Harmony and oneness rather than competition and conflict

- Now we quarrel and compete materially and socially for money, status and power
- That is the action of ego
- We will not quarrel or compete with others
- We will feel equal and will accept all as equal
- We will value goodness, truth, love and joy not money or status
- Mrs. Bennet will not try to dominate Mr. Bennet or humiliate Lady Lucas
- Caroline will not be jealous if Darcy marries Eliza because she will feel the joy in their joy and love in their love
- Lady Catherine will not oppose Eliza's engagement

E. Total power to accomplish – no failure, --

- We will be able to do, be and have anything and everything
- We can accomplish whatever we will to accomplish
- Money will be valueless because anyone can have anything they want
- There will be no sense of limitation or unfulfilled want

F. No disease & No death

- Disease comes from disharmony
- Death comes from rigidity and incapacity to change
- Everything will be in perpetual equilibrium
- Everything will be capable of continuous adaptation and change
- Nothing will become old, rigid, inflexible
- Nothing will be unwilling or incapable of change

G. Why can't we have all these things even now?

- In this chapter Sri Aurobindo tells us that the root of the problem preventing us is the Knot of Matter
- In LD He tells us how to untie the Knot
- The solution is to spiritualized Matter – to supramentalize it
- That is the advent of the Supramental Manifestation which They came to bring

2. **Yogic Life**

A. Meanwhile we can have many of the benefits of Divine Life even now

B. Appa calls it Yogic Life or Mother's Life

C. Yogic Life is a half-way step between human life and Divine Life

D. Every person and event becomes a means for progress toward greater knowledge

E. Toward ever expanding power of accomplishment

F. On the Sunlit Path of joy

G. Conflict disappears

H. We feel goodwill for all and are in harmony with the world around us

I. Problems come only as opportunities for greater progress

J. Appa tells us we can overcome the knot of Matter and live this Yogic Life even now

K. First we have to understand the obstacles that Matter presents to Divine Life

3. **Matter and Spirit appear to be Opposites**

A. Divine Life appears impossible because Spirit and Matter are so very opposite in appearance

B. The idea of spiritualizing Matter sounds as likely as making stones think and talk or building a house out of air

C. But what if Matter and Spirit were fundamentally made of the same stuff and they only appeared to be opposite

- Like Darcy and Eliza appear to dislike one another

D. But what if Matter and Spirit are really two forms of the same reality?

- Then transformation of one into the other might be possible.

E. The sharp division between spirit and matter does not exist

- This appearance is not the reality
- He told us in Chapter 22 that Matter is Sachchidananda

4. **World is a differentiated unity – a manifold oneness**

A. One reality expressing in many forms but always remaining One

B. The Foundation of the world is not opposition or contradiction

- World is not a compromise between irreconcilable opposites
 - The family is one even when everyone seems to be quarreling
 - The nation is one even when each state thinks only of itself
- The foundation of the world is Inalienable oneness generating infinite variety
- Love and Hate are not really opposites
 - They are two different forms of intense relationship
 - Indifference is an opposite of both
 - That is how Eliza's hate turns into love of Darcy

C. World is a constant reconciliation of apparent division

- World is a struggle for vast ends of a secret Consciousness and Will which is one and master is the middle
- All the movements of the world are intended to overcome the apparent division
- We see the movement of the classes in P&P symbolized by Darcy & Eliza

D. The goal and conclusion will be a triumphant harmony of the emerging Will and Consciousness.

- Imagine a society without classes inequality and caste prejudice
- A world in which no one is superior or inferior, more or less important as a human being
- A world of many cultures but without borders and passports
- A world where every single individual is free to express his innate capacity and genius in harmony with every other person

5. **Matter & Spirit are One Substance**

A. This is possible because in reality Spirit and Matter are two poles of one substance

- Both Matter and Spirit are forms of substance.

B. What is substance?

- Substance is conscious existence presenting itself to the sense as object
- Substance is the form in which Consciousness works on itself

C. Matter and Spirit are two poles of that substance

- Spirit is the soul and reality of that which we sense as Matter.
- Matter is a form and body of that which we realize as Spirit.

D. How can they be the same substance?

- Ice, water, steam (clouds) and water vapour are forms in which the substance of water manifests

6. **Ascending series of substance**

A. There are many forms of substance

- Each appears very different to our senses

B. Matter, life, mind and spirit are different forms of substance

- Matter is like ice

C. Vital substance is pure dynamic life-energy

- Life is like water

D. Mental substance is more subtle, flexible, plastic – a subtler medium in which forms and movements of thought occur

- Mind is like clouds of mist
- E. Spirit is pure substance of being presenting itself as object to pure spiritual perceptive knowledge in which subject becomes the object
- Spirit is like a vacuum – to our senses, it appears to be empty but it is filled with infinite potentials
- F. Beyond there is only absolute identity, no subject-object, no substance

7. **Sense-Relation**

- A. World formation and cosmic progression are based on sense-relation
- B. There are many possible relations between sense and substance – an ascending series
- Like there are many possible relationships between people
 - Family is physical – Eliza and her mother
 - Friendship is vital -- Eliza and Charlotte
 - Shared understanding is mental – Eliza and her father
 - Affection is emotional – Darcy and Eliza
 - Devotees are related by a shared spiritual aspiration
 - People relate differently to the same person
- C. The type of Substance depends on the type of sense-relation
- In each case we relate to another through a different faculty
 - We can relate to the same person in different ways
 - Darcy changes the way he relates to Eliza
 - Through physical sense – tolerable
 - Through vital sense – she is lively
 - Through mental perception – light in her fine eyes
 - Through his heart and soul – darling Elizabeth
- D. Each world or plane is created by a different relation between sense and substance
- We live simultaneously in many planes
 - We are aware in the physical world of sensing material objects and forces
 - A vital world of perceiving vibrations of energy, urges, feelings, emotions
 - A mental world of thoughts, memories, ideas

- Timeless and Spaceless is aware of itself in a spiritual self-conceptive self-extension as the primal material for existence
- Beyond there is only absolute identity, no subject-object, no substance

8. **Matter is Brahman**

- The difference between Matter, Life, Mind and Spirit is conceptive – spiritually conceptive
- Brahman is the sole material in the universe, as well as the cause and its indwelling principle
- The real oneness is never abrogated, diminished or impaired – even in Matter
- Matter too is Brahman – nothing else
- It is a final form, objective aspect of the divine Existence
- All of God is present within and behind it
- Brute inert Matter is instinct with dynamic Life
- Unconscious Life expresses as overt energy the secret actions of unapparent Mind
- Ignorant Mind is supported and guided by its own real self – Supermind – which is also there in Matter
- Matter, Life, Mind and Supermind are modes of Brahman, Spirit, Sachchidananda
 - The same way clouds, water and ice are forms of the same substance H₂O
- Even so the practical distinction between them is very great
- This practical distinction is the source of the knot of Matter

9. **What problem does Matter pose to Divine Life**

- Even if Matter is not cut off from Spirit in reality, practically it appears to be so very different and contrary in law
- Material life seems the negation of all spiritual existence.
- Rejection of material life appears as the one short cut
- But that is no solution
- The crux of the problem undoubtedly lies in Matter

- F. Because of Matter,
 - Life is gross, limited, subject to death and pain
 - Mind is half blind, clipped, held back from vastness and freedom above
- G. The exclusive spiritual seeker turns to inaction and silence of Spirit's immobility in disgust, revolt and impatience with these obstacles.
- H. This is not the integral or ultimate wisdom
- I. Instead let us liberate ourselves from all passion and revolt and see the divine order of the universe
- J. Let us untangle the strands of the great knot of Matter denying Spirit
- K. First, let us boldly acknowledge the difficulty
- L. Knot of Matter – poses three difficulties

10. **Ignorance**

- A. Ignorance is the first fundamental opposition Matter presents to Spirit
- B. Matter is complete insensibility
 - it misses the delight of existence, the rasa
 - Consciousness has forgotten itself in a form of its works
 - As a man may be lost in the work he is doing
 - Infinitely self-aware Spirit seems to have disappeared
- C. Matter appears as only brute, inconscient material Force creating and destroying
 - It does not seem to know or care why it acts
 - It has not mind or heart to know or care
- D. Because of this Ignorance
 - We do not know the purpose of our lives or why we are on earth
 - We do not know our true soul or self
 - We do not know others or our oneness with their souls
 - We do not know the Divine – which appears not to even exist
- E. Matter imposes ignorance and limitation on our every movements
 - Darcy calls her tolerable
 - Darcy and Lady Catherine think they are very superior

- Eliza thinks Wickham is a God and Darcy a devil
- Mr. Bennet rejects Eliza's warning about Lydia

11. **Inertia – refusal or inability to change our habits**

A. Matter is culmination of bondage to mechanic Law

- That law imposes a colossal Inertia
- Inertia means incapacity to change
- Matter is not inert – infinite motion, inconceivable force and action
- Spirit is free, master of itself and its works, not bound by them, creator of law
- Matter is chained to fixed and mechanical Law imposed on it
- Matter works out that law unconsciously as a machine, not knowing who created it

B. Because of Matter we are slaves of our body and our habits

- Lady Anne is stunted and sickly from her birth
- Wickham can never forget the fact that he is a steward's son
- Mrs. Bennet is branded by her middle class origins
- Mary Thorne is born an illegitimate child
- Some people think: things would be different if only I were born rich. Born a boy. Born in America.

C. Because of Matter we feel subject to the pressure of life around us and its laws or rules

- Everywhere we are compelled by rules and procedures
- I cannot fly because of gravity
- I cannot marry that person because of caste
- I cannot take leave or change my job
- I cannot get a loan or promotion

D. Because of Matter we have no real freedom

- Like Charlotte who feels forced to marry Collins
- Like Mrs. Bennet who seeks desperately to marry five daughters and retain the entail because she did not have a male child

E. Our power of achievement is severely limited

- We feel helpless like Jane when Bingley goes to London and like Eliza when Lydia elopes

F. Because of Matter's Inertia,

- Life confronts the law of death
- Our aspirations are dragged down as if chained like a shadow to its own opposite
 - Love to hatred
 - Joy to grief
 - Success to failure

G. Matter responds to the demands of Life and Mind by refusing to change

- We too feel inertia
- My character is like that – what can I do?
- I am too old to change my habits or my ways
- My nature is like that – I cannot change
- I don't know how to do it and cannot learn
- I feel comfortable only in this house, this job, this room

H. Inertia prevents the conquest of Ignorance and brute Force, which is the power of Ignorance.

I. Sincerity

- Mother says we can change if we really want to
- Mother's force gives us the power of transformation
- Darcy transforms himself by the power of sincerity

12. **Division and Struggle**

A. The Inertia results from the third fundamental opposition – the principle of division

B. Reality is indivisible.

C. Divisibility is its whole basis for action in Matter

- Mind divides reality and makes it appear as if it consists of an infinite number of separate parts
- Our bodies feel separate from all other bodies
 - If I don't eat, no one is going to do it for me
- Our lives feel separate from all other lives
 - I have to look out for myself

D. Mind tries to overcome division by aggregation and assimilation

- Assimilation means competition and struggle to devour and consume others
 - Aggregation means we cling to the group, conform to the society, try to be accepted by others instead of thinking for ourselves, doing what is right, becoming a true individual
- E. Because of the division of Matter, our lives are a constant struggle between divided units
- each strives to maintain itself, its association, to destroy what resists or devour it as food
 - Eliza and Caroline compete for Darcy's love
 - Mr. and Mrs. Bennet struggle with one another for domination
 - If Darcy marries Eliza, he cannot marry Caroline or Lady Anne
- F. Because of division, our natural law of development is prevented
- The individual is shut up in his own personal consciousness of separate and limited mind, life and body.
 - Each is separate – I have to look out for me – basis for selfishness and ego
 - Conflict and competition
 - Ego
 - We have to struggle and strive for survival against the whole universal life which appears to be against us
 - Darcy's marriage to Eliza is painful to Caroline because she is left out.
 - Charlotte's marriage to Collins is painful to Mrs. B because she loses the entail.
- G. Division subjects our emotional and sense-mind to reactions of grief and joy, love and hatred, oppression and depression cast as desire, straining and effort
- Eliza feels Darcy is staring at her in condemnation
 - Darcy feels both for Eliza emotionally
 - He is torn with pain of conflict between attraction and repulsion to her
- H. The straining leads to incapacity, attainment and disappointment, possession and recoil, strife, trouble, unease.
- Mrs. B is never satisfied
- I. Because of division of Matter, our knowledge is partial and never free of doubt and denial
- Mind always sees only one side or part of the truth

- Dualities of truth pursued by error, light by darkness, power by incapacity, pleasure by pain of repulse and dissatisfaction
- Instead of a movement from light to greater light, will to greater will

13. **Result of the three fundamental oppositions**

A. Attributes of the Physical -- The Mother

- Stupidity, doubt, disbelief, obscurity, obstinacy, pettiness, laziness, unwillingness to change, Tamas

B. Law of Pain

- Ignorance, inertia and division impose the law of pain, suffering and dissatisfaction on the vital and mental existence

C. Suffering arises as we become conscious

- There is no suffering in complete ignorance or inertia.
 - Lydia and Collins think they are perfect – they do not suffer
 - Lydia is not afraid of disgrace of elopement

D. The emerging consciousness awakes to

- ignorance of the world
- the limitation of its knowledge
- the insecurity of its power and happiness and
- awareness of an infinite consciousness in which alone can be found infinite happiness.

E. Suffering arises because life seeks infinity and immortality and awakes to its limitation and insecurity.

- Darcy suffers only after discovering the light in Elizabeth's eyes. Till then he does not know he is missing anything.
- Eliza suffers only after visiting Pemberley and knows what she has missed.

F. Dissatisfaction

- Pain, discord, struggle and aspiration reach their acme in self-conscious mental man
- Our discontent and dissatisfaction with ourselves is a sign of our progress
- He who is satisfied is unconscious
 - Like Collins or Lady Catherine
 - Satisfaction is the end of progress

G. The soul cannot be satisfied with the finite

- Man is a finite-seeming infinity
- He cannot fail to arrive at a seeking after the Infinite
- Man is the first son of earth to become vaguely aware of God within him, of his immortality or need for it.
- Once Darcy knows Eliza, he cannot be satisfied with anyone else
- That knowledge is a whip that drives

H. All this is denial of Ananda, negation of Sachchidananda

- If this is inevitable, then the play of consciousness and force as universe is a colossal mistake

14. **Pessimistic Theory**

A. This is basis for pessimistic theory of earthly life and destiny of the mental being in material universe

B. It affirms division, self-limitation, ignorance and egoism as nature of material existence and embodied mind

C. It is a vanity or illusion to seek satisfaction of spirit or divine purpose in world-play

D. Reunion of existence and consciousness of divine self-delight is only possible in Spiritual heaven or quietude

15. **Mental consciousness offers no solution**

A. Principle of division is proper to Mind, not Matter

B. Matter is only illusion of Mind (according to this view)

C. Mind cannot find unity of Spirit or truth of spiritual existence.

D. This is Charlotte's world view

- material realities impose unassailable limits on human aspiration.
- As an unmarried woman, she has to seek security of money in marriage.

16. **Supermind is the Creator, not dividing Mind**

A. Principle of division is creation of divided Mind

- Matter is not the original phenomenon

- Mind precipitates itself into material existence
 - Dividing Mind has imprisoned itself in dungeon of its own building
- B. Supermind is the supreme creative power, not Mind.
- Immortal and infinite Spirit has veiled itself in material existence
 - Supermind permits the divisions of Mind and the material principle only as initial conditions of evolutionary play of One in the Many.
- C. Supermind is the completer term concealed and emerging from apparent Inconscience
- Infinite Being, Knowledge, Will are emerging out of Matter
 - Instead of thinking of his company as one among many divided from society, Jobs thinks synonymous with society
- D. Man is the instrument for transformation of mental into supramental existence
- He can develop a divine mind, life and body
 - A divine use of mind, life and body for descent of Spirit into form
- E. Supramental spiritual being shall impose a higher law than dividing Mind on mental, vital, bodily workings
- Will liberate mind and life from knot of divided existence
 - Will liberate body from law of death, division and mutual devouring
 - Spirit will be free in form, consciously immortal even in Matter, possessed of self-delight in a world subjected to law of unity, love, beauty.
 - Eliza's aspiration is fulfilled. She gets marriage, money, refined beauty and Darcy's love
 - Do we dare dream of getting it all?
 - Goodness is the basis of infinite wealth because it overcomes division
- F. This is the natural inevitable conclusion of nature of cosmic existence

17. **Ascending Series of Substance**

- A. Divine Life is possible because our present view of Matter and its laws is NOT the only possible relation between sense and substance, divine as Knower and divine as object
- B. There are other states of Matter itself
- C. There is an ascending series of substance

D. Material existence can be transformed by acceptance of a higher law latent within it but not yet its own.

18. **Money as Substance**

A. Money is a form of substance very closely related to Matter since its original source was the earth

B. Money has many forms – some material, others ethereal

- Gold, Coins, currency, cheques, drafts, Paypal, credit cards, electronic bank balance,
- Currency gold have no intrinsic value
- A rich man's signature as guarantor is as good as gold

19. **How is money created?**

A. Money is created by physical work

- mining gold, growing paddy, weaving textiles, manufacturing,

B. Money is created by social relationships

- trading in the market

C. Money is created by mental creativity

- Software
- Steve Jobs – innovation

D. Money is created by trust and faith

- Credit

E. But all have a common basis

- Money does not exist outside society
- Money is created by human beings based on their trust in one another
- Money is concentrated form of human social energy
- All energy is Conscious Force of Life

F. Money is created by aspiration and devotion

20. **MMC**

A. We see the link between spirit and matter in the building of the new centre

B. A spiritual aspiration has taken form as a material building

C. Devotion, Aspiration, inspiration, service, work are the stages of transformation of one into another

21. **Knot of Money**

A. Money is Matter = God for us

B. There is a knot of Money as of Matter

C. Ignorance

- We are ignorant of its true reality
- Physical mind believes in work
- Vital mind believes in status connections influence
- Many believe in power of bribe
- These are simply superstitions
- These are all obstacles to wealth
- Much more money can be created by ideas still more from aspiration
 - From Mrs. B's aspirations, not her actions
- Let's be practical or exercise common sense is to insist on physical blindness of matter
- Faith in money is superstition like propitiating gods idols
 - It fosters inertia of helplessness & dependence
 - It is Faith in limits rather than spirit

D. Inertia – helplessness

- We are helplessly subjugated and enslaved to its law
- To think money cannot come to us is the ignorance of inertia

E. Division -- Ego

- To feel jealous of others prosperity is ignorance of division
- We are divided from the true source - faith
- Selfishness

22. **Wealth is created within**

A. All Money is divine in origin

- As all forms of substance have only one source which is Spirit,
- As all powers are energies of Chit

- Money is valuable only because it is form of spirit
- B. Money is only form of Mother's consciousness
- C. Wealth is created in relationship, not by sannyasa or selfishness or lazy inertia
- D. It is created by aspiration, goodwill, self-giving, gratitude
- E. The true basis of Money is Consciousness and Consciousness = the power of accomplishment
- F. Mother gives that power to every devotee