

Sri Aurobindo's philosophy: Life Divine - Difficulties to review

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Background : Some issues related to present day society: The relevant book to review

I work in the field of Electronics and Instrumentation. I find interest to design different instruments. Living in this technological society it is important to have some awareness in this field. I believe, knowing about the solar cell or light emitting diode should also be treated as the general literacy. Apart from our regular teaching and research, we take some initiations for the general awareness in this field. One may find some of our attempt available in internet. With these words I am coming to the present discussion which is quite far away from my professional work.

Being attached with teaching profession I have some scope to read a few books. While searching on the subjects like history of science, technology, literatures, major world events I have come across many world famous books, ideas, writers. I have got some ideas on various creativities in different fields. I have scanned several books on Indian and Western Philosophy, life stories, dreaming and preaching of some famous personalities. I am also a bit aware of the power and limitations of the scientific methodologies that we follow.

Being a social being we have to interact with many other persons. Seeing and hearing different incidents around us, sometimes it comes to mind that recently we are not enough sincere to take care of the resources we have. I hope there are expert persons to identify and analyse these social problems.

Anyone can also may get some ideas from his own experiences, looking at events around him, reading the daily news. I am not mentioning any such problems with the idea that if anyone does not feel any problem, it is not my intention to invite troubles for him. But I hope there will be sufficient examples for anyone to find the incompleteness around us. Our curiosity will invite us to find suitable books/ideas where some of these problems have been discussed. We may find some relevance to know about the person who had already worked in this direction.

There are really some books which has significantly changes the human understanding and will also be equally meaningful as long as the human race exists. Sometimes we find no words to express our gratitude to those persons from whom we got such contributions.

The Life Divine:

Out of these vast literatures/creativities I will say that the writings of Sri Aurobindo, his books 'Life Divine' and 'Savitri' has some special meaning. His philosophy has some importance as far as the present day society is concerned. After a long journey, one may find his destination in this book.

Once I have decided to make a review on this book, but I found it to be difficult. 75 years back, after reviewing almost all the existing literature at that time the way this book has described the problems of the society, its reason and also the possible solution has definitely some importance. At least to indicate the difficulties to review this book will be meaningful. From such attempt one may get some clues which will be discussed according to ones own desire.

I request for your patience for allowing the repetition of my words in different tone to appreciate this book. From the introductory words about this book, one will definitely find that this book has some difference from other books. Anyone can read the biography of Sri

Aurobindo available in internet to see his academic qualification. A bright carrier of recent times may be comparable with his education. This back ground will be helpful to asses this book.

I will not go into the organization of this book. Some of his personal views are also available in 'Evening talk with Sri Aurobindo' and 'Letters on Yoga'. These letters may also be useful to get the background of his work.

About Sri Aurobindo:

He was a social activist, freedom fighter, poet, great philosopher and Yogi. His educational career, was mostly in England. He was equipped with western culture. He was extra ordinarily brilliant. It will be wrong if I say I have understood Life Divine completely. But I have seen/realized the specialty of this book. And without this book it was difficult to correlate many ideas of science, technology, humanities and of course Yoga and Spirituality. This book may be an asset on this earth. Always it will be interesting to initiate any discussion on this book and related issues.

Sri Aurobindo, an extra ordinary personality was engaged in different activities including the active politics of his time. Anyone will be surprised to find his intellectual level. Leaving active politics he inclined to spirituality felling the necessity of discussion on this issue. Generally anyone will also be curious to know what was his exact realization for which he opted that path. What was the exact contribution of such intelligence? Is it not applicable in present day? May be by this time there is sufficient development in science and technology. With the development of science and technology or with the modern society, there is no reason to alter the destination of the philosophical discussion which particularly discusses and correlates almost all the ancient literatures to find out the target of the individual being. As it is found from different communication and other write ups, he mentioned that one day human race will face typical problems. Sri Aurobindo felt that the struggle for resources will be solved one day. But different problems will come. Excessive material development will also be a problem. People will be unable to handle these resources. Conventional spirituality which supported him once will also not be able to guide him. Due to different schools and techniques people will also be confused to extract the essential thing about the spirituality. The old discussion on spirituality should be modified. Ideas should be correlated with the scientific findings. If there is some divine force as

stated in our ancient literatures, it must be manifested and realized following some logical basis. It does not depend on our beliefs and also our techniques, style and religions. Human beings, the highest creatures should not be deprived to get the experience of this divinity. Moreover we have maintained our law order based on some ethical and moral issues. What is the basis of these values? Telling lie is not recommended. But where is the scientific basis of nurturing such an idea. Even if it is not being proved scientifically at least there will be some logical discussion to show its merits and demerits of nurturing such concept. If there is no purpose of life at all, why one will follow such ethics? If I follow, why will I not be rewarded? How one can check it? Without being able to show any target of life, all these statement will loose its importance for the people who will come one day equipped with extremely logical mind. First one should find the target of life and then one should correlate his different activities with this journey. This creation should not be dull and stupid. By seeing and analyzing all our activities, is there no signature of the spirit of this creation? If we find anything like that, why will we not make a try to find it out and act accordingly?

Sri Aurobindo felt that a new discussion is needed. With this idea he had started his spiritual life and based on his realization he wrote this book.

This book may be considered in different aspects. The book has been written from his own experiences and realization. He had correlated his experience with then existing concepts of literatures, science, Yoga systems and also with ancient literatures. It describes the nature of this creation, its meaning, existence of human being and his fate. The issues that has been described in Indian and Western philosophy has been summarized.

This book has introduced a new horizon of our understanding of future life style. Debates of different Yoga systems including its teaching, techniques has been resolved and unified. From this book one also finds the spirit of formulating different ethical and moral behaviors. Based on these one can formulate the structure of the society and also the spirit of law-order of the society. Even today one will be confused to find the ethical issues of any defense lawyer. I have mentioned it since to discuss about the ethical issues of the defense lawyer is extremely important. In any judicial system concrete decision should be taken based on the evidences. But again there is debates which documents should be considered as evidence of a case. There is different definition of accepting one document as evidence.

I have mentioned it since if anyone does not follow any ethical and moral issues, his motion will be evaluated and restricted by the rules of the country and his fate again depends on the arguments of the defence lawyer. All the ethical and moral issues are really related with the judicial system in this way.

This book summaries the essential message that has been described in our ancient literatures. This book advocates the message of VEDANTA. This creation is maintained by ONE DIVINE force. The nature of this divine force, its manifestation is described. This interpretation attains a great height. We should remember that he was also a poet. His expression came not only by the imagination, but also by his direct visualization during Yoga. His expressions are the perfect combination of a poet and yogi. In addition to this he was the freedom fighter where responsibility takes the first priority. His responsibility had basically inspired him to do this work. He had abilities to move freely from this physical world to imaginative world and beyond that to reach the spiritual world. The struggle to attain this world had been discussed by him. The divine force, the Loving Mother of the *Sadhak* is always calling us. All of our creativities are nothing but our response to her call just to assure our existence and express our loyalty to her with the intension that she will not forget us even at the time when we will not be here. We are trying to maintain our all goodness, maintaining Dharma etc. just to reach our destiny. We will be sad if we find we are being rejected by her.

I will discuss latter where from the human beings get the idea of immortality. Why the human beings are not ready to accept his death? From the extremely lower to extremely higher level all of us are trying to go with the idea that all of us are very responsible, sensible, dutiful. I just mentioned here that this message has come from our inner self which is basically immortal in nature. Human beings are a part of this divine force. By analyzing all the goodness in our heart, we find the signature of the presence divinity. The tremendous force within us is ready for its manifestation. This force can be manifested either in divine or in demonic form. After the struggle only the divine force will survive.

The contribution of this book is immense. The discussion based on this book will be much beneficial for the society. The structure of the society is directly related with the knowledge. A society or relation which stands on falsehood will definitely collapse. By using our force and intelligence we can delayed the process only. According to me, as long as there will be discussion about this creation and our existence on this earth, it is not possible to replace this book by any way. This book will stand by its own

rights. We have not seen the writers of Veda, Purans, Gita, Chandi. As it appears all these experiences did not come from one person and of course at that time it will be logical to argue that there was not easy communication to check the cross reference like our present day research at that time. This might be a reason for different explanation of one fact found in the ancient literatures. But Life Divine has come from a single person from his own experience and subsequent verification of other literatures. The writer of the 'Life Divine' was present here just only 70 years ago. There are also some other famous books on spirituality and one will be surprised to find the explanation of Gita, Chandi, Rashtatta [Ref]. But still I will advocate for this book, Life Divine for the depth of discussion on various issues related to our existence and basic questions for which all of us are struggling in different style and role. Every lines, words of this book has some meaning. This sentence is much more appropriate for Savitri. So many problems will come even if the sequence of single sentence alters. This creation is not dull and stupid, every bricks and walls has its meaning. Reading of these books are also really enjoyable.

Difficulties to review this book: My limitations

As, mentioned, I had a curiosity to make a review on this book. Suitable review of this book will again be very meaningful. Wide appreciation of this book are available. Frankly speaking I have tried several times. But I failed. Now I decide at least to tell the reasons for this failure. To review this book requires tremendous amount of labour and of course ones capability to handle many issues simultaneously. I have not this much potential. Vastness, depth and the quality of discussion of this book is involved with many subjects. I hope few years are needed for this purpose. The associated books one need to read as reference to review this book will make a small library. Some of the terms like Chakra, Kundalini etc when I will discuss just in this present write up one will say I am talking nonsense. But there were many books written on these topics and once Indian lives were controlled by these concepts. Based on this once the Indian Rishi/seers declares him as Immortal Brambha. Without using some other terms like MAYA, VIDYA, AVIDYA, SAT-CHIT-ANANDA, MOKHYAY etc it is not possible to discuss Indian Philosophy. Even before the development of modern science, these terms were used to explain this creation. One can not avoid to use these terms. But what is important is to see the appearance and sequence of appearance of these terms. All these terms are associated with sufficient knowledge and knowledge will also come at different stages of our journey.

Sometimes we do not feel the need to know these things. We have our education system within the framework of the institute and within some course curriculum. There is not much scope to discuss topics found in this book in any college syllabus. Recently more than 5000 subjects are being studied by over 7.0 billion people all over the world. Due to extreme specialization, which is also needed for any professional work, we will be unable to communicate each others. Due to research and development in different fields the total amount of knowledge is definitely increasing day by day. But sometimes it will be a question about the knowledge of any individual person comparing this total knowledge. How will he adjust with this situation? Anyone will not be able to find him stable on this earth. Since we will not be able to communicate, we will also not be able to evaluate people. In spite of our good intension, we will do injustice to others being unable to asses. Or unnecessarily we will restrain ourselves. Motion of life will be again narrow and restricted in spite of having sufficient resources like literatures, science, administration, finance etc. Purpose of specialized higher education will be failed. More we attempt in this way more will be the failure. Again there will be no scope to return back also. So many disturbances will arise. Unification of different understanding, at least to some extent is needed. Otherwise there are the possibilities of getting no desire results after so much struggling and contribution for the society. We have to face the unhappy state. Our success will not be treated properly by others. We will loose the potential for evaluation. Any success will be treated by the next generation as if this has been achieved by depriving others. Anyone can also get scope to hide the inabilities just by accusing others. And who are accusing today, they will also be accused the same way by their next generation. We will be wrongly assessed by others. **To judge any one only by the professional work is not always justified.**

Definitely by our hard work and honesty we will attain some state. After attaining a certain level we will assign that state as the highest state and will look around with this notion. Just to maintain our ego and fulfill our temptation we will basically indulge the lower qualities. Being unable to appreciate the higher qualities we will inspire the lower qualities against this higher and will create massacre all around us. All the sensitive qualities, creation of the previous generation will be destroyed in front of us. One sincere person will be afraid to move further. Good intension will be isolated. Assurance and help is needed just at this point. This ego, whatever strong its manifestation, will not be able to stand against that Divine Force. Submission of lower nature to higher force is its fate. There is a definite style and approach of this struggle and surrender which has been described covering all the ancient literatures like Gita, Chandi etc. After the surrender of the lower force to higher or abolishing the

lower nature, our PURE state, called as 'Soul' will emerge. This is grossly the emergence/evolution of spirit over matter. When we are working with the view of only the existence of this material world our ethical and moral behaviours will be one type. Our ethical and moralities will be different when we think that the existence of the material world is not the ultimate. Its existence and our dependence on it is only a temporary state that is waiting for transformation/evolution. The final state is nothing but SAT-CHIT-ANANDA. This is basically the gist of all the ancient literatures that has been pictureised by Sri Aurobindo in Life Divine. Every time there is assurance from him like all other discussions about the victory of higher force. The discussion of the nonexistence of the material world is not only done for the sake of discussion. Anyone can feel it and see it just by doing little practices of Yoga. One can feel his existence without the support of any material when he is attaining his pure state of existence. All of the sense organs are at rest at this pure state. He is enjoying a world which is beyond ones description. This knowledge is extremely precious. A person having this knowledge can take control over this material world. A logical discussion will help to acquire this knowledge.

This knowledge which is required to nurture our soul is extremely delicate. Its protection is utmost important. Otherwise this life, the Divine Life will loose its meaning. That is why in Gita, Sri Krishna asked Arjuna not to tell this knowledge to those who has no interest. Thanks to Sri Aurobindo for his elaborated discussion. Without doing Yoga or doing a little Yoga one can feel the touches of the Divine force from the brilliant power of his discussion. Actually a discussion means resolution of many debates to make mind free and helps to release soul. One can easily understand the knowledge described in Gita, Chandi. Sri Aurobindo's explanation will help us to understand many other books. It will be helpful to get a proper idea about the things around us. This knowledge will be extremely useful to address many issues of the society arising from the ignorance. Sri Aurobindo had played the exact role of the Guide.

More specifically I will mention exactly the difficulties to review this book. While reviewing I will say this book suggest some modifications of existing ideas of Yoga. Most of us do not have perfect knowledge on Yoga. Which one is important for Yoga? Is it a technique? Is it mediation? Is it the restriction of some rituals? How is it related with existing knowledge? What is the difference between the persons who practices Yoga and one who does not do Yoga? When Yoga will starts? When it stops? After that what will happen? Why there is so many schools and thoughts about Yoga? There are many people who are not doing Yoga? How are the managing?

Recently the driving power of this world basically lies on the hands of the Young generation. Society is controlled by the decision of the meeting of the committee. Based on the decision of the committee our fate will be governed. We will wait eagerly to see the goodness of the committee members. Seeing the situation some of us try to simplify the Yoga for practical purposes. Availabilities of many books/trainings/schools indicate this. By following this one may be able to enjoy his life peacefully. This approach is no doubt appreciable. But the essence of Yoga and its associated knowledge will not be available by any way. To make life stable and secured should not be the only target. And it is also not possible. The main spirit for which Yoga is introduced is to teach about sacrifice. But sometimes we talk that by doing Yoga one will be physically fit and etc to make the Yoga popular. By saying these we are basically inviting more consumption. The purpose of Yoga will be failed completely.

Around 100 years back, Sri Aurobindo visualised such problems. Sometimes we become surprised to his visualization about the present technological society. How does he draw the picture of present day society at that time? In his time practically no such modern technology was developed. For example only 1952 we got transistors. We got Laser, optical fibre after 1960's and microprocessors around 1970s. Nothing was available during his time. He passed away on 5th December, 1950. I believe that problems of the society were not much multi dimensional in nature at that time. May be this is a reason this book did not receive much importance to relate with social problems. I believe as we will proceed further, we will get more and more technology and also the more complexity of the social problems. Day by day this book will be popular. This book will draw much attention of the future generation.

The book suggest some points which were grossly overlooked or discussed with less importance in Indian Philosophers or by the Indian Rishi/Seers. He had tackled the allegation that Indian Philosophy do not know to handle the material world. He had taken care about the most serious objection about the Indian spirituality which is the attempt to ignore the individual ego. Irrespective of one's caste, age, sex they prescribed Yoga as if science, technology etc has no meaning. All of us know that one day we will not be here. So, what is the reason to think only about Yoga. Manifestation of life was extremely narrow in our conventional Yoga system. To remove the pain and suffering of life they mainly prescribed Yoga and once it has started they ignored the other aspects of life. The Yogis were much more inclined for their liberation. They were not taking part in different works of the society.

Their Yoga power will be destroyed by performing ADHARMIC behaviors. Forget about the defence, they will prefer to leave his place allowing others to occupy it. They are afraid to attack people just to maintain their DHARMA. Otherwise they will be treated as ADHARMAIC. There were no such attempt against all the foreign invasion that took place.

Once when there was no practices of science, technology etc. people had much time to spend on Yoga. But in future they will not get much time for conventional Yoga. He argued that, if there is the divine force which is again conscious in nature should come in natural way. What is our duty to call this force? He resolved that we are definitely under this divine force and always it is ready to help us to transform our lower nature to higher nature. But we the human being can expedite or delayed the arrival of this force by our performed Karma. Any attempt which is working against the descending of this force is unethical. To expedite the arrival of this force is our duty. We will formulate or discuss our rituals, family system, society structure keeping this in mind.

There were some other aspects for arriving a SOUL on this earth. Fulfillment of BHOGA was not addressed clearly in ancient literatures. In these books they were much more interested to tell the stories of Gods/Goddess to pass time. If there is no individual ego, then what will be the purpose of this creation? Generally in our ancient literature it has been described that after getting '*Mokkhya*' one has no need to participate in this world.

Life of the Yogi was manifested in different ways. Sri Aurobindo realized this. This was the beauty of his Philosophy. Even after completion of yoga he had honored the individual ego. He used the term 'Life Divine'.

There was also some criticism on his work. In this context I will mention that before the Life Divine, there was VEDA, Purans, Gita, Chandi, and etc. It is my belief that it is almost impossible for any one to say anything beyond the message of VEDAs. I am advocating many things about Sri Aurobindo. But I believe that the highest message of his book was same as the message found in VEDA. But the way he had discussed, the way he had interpreted is beyond ones imagination. He truly felt there were really some point which were weakly discussed. It was not true that the previous Philosopher does not know these things. But at that time it was not needed for discussion. Just by the power of his discussion he had completed major portion of Yoga for which it was expected to pass many years.

I mentioned several times that he linked the knowledge that has been described in our ancient literatures. It is not an easy task. There are many 'Slokes'. There are 700 Slokes in Gita and Chandi. To explain the meaning of each 'Sloke' is not easy and after that correlation is also needed. This realisation also be discussed suitable for the people considering his society and its status at that time. We require knowledge at different level according to our age and profession. There is some hard facts in our lives. Our age will change. We will pass different phases of life. Our need or requirements for livelihood will also change with our age. Evert time we will find there are people some of whom are older and some of them are juniors. Even if we ignore everything, there will be distribution of age. There will be the distribution of resources. It is not because of any social problems. Developments is always associated with some distribution. Otherwise development will not be defined and measured. By our some action if it is sufficiently strong, this distribution may change and will take different form. But distribution must be there. We need it at least to justify our success. Without realizing this distribution if we fight against it, no such fruitful results is expected. Hierarchic is needed. In a family, in a corporate sector and even in a whole nation everything can not enjoy the same status. It is not because of the fact that other do not know to enjoy or have no power also. Caretaker and land owner of a house can not enjoy same status. To run a society since different jobs are required, different status will come automatically. Particularly in democratic system this will be a serious problem. Standing in this system we have to again honour the higher qualities. No, these are not problem at all. This is the beauty of this creation. All the rivers will be happy when it touches the ocean. If we get the target no need to be worried.

Sometimes I become surprised to find Sri Aurobindo's explanation. According to him due to the process of evolution, our consciousness will definitely expand. It will be manifested through all of our creativities. Our consciousness has been shifted from physical plane to mental plane and is waiting to go in higher mind and finally to spiritual plane. Leaving the physical plane conflicts will take place in the mental plane. Say for example if we consider the expression of one quality like zealously. Misuse of intelligence will be its associate characteristics. Zealousy is much more dangerous than physical obstruction when we are staying in mental plane. This qualities again will be manifested as love when I am staying in the physical plane. Expression of all our qualities will come depending the situation. To identify and apply any law order accordingly is extremely difficult. Our scientific discussion or any discussion based on clear logic is extremely needed so resolve these issues to rescue or lift mind to

higher mind. The white colour of any body if we understand must be expressed as white. It does not matter on our status. Without realizing this, it is difficult to appreciate any scientific findings.

In science the concepts on matter, space, time is important. The concept of vacuum is also an important concepts in Physics. All these concepts are being touched in this book.

So, there are many issues that which should be addressed first before going to review this book. After that one will be in position to evaluate this book. May be this is a reason for which people say the book Life Divine is difficult to follow. Since it is based on such issues and resolved the debates among those issues which we do not know at all even at its primary level. To understand his philosophy one should have read many other books, including VEDA, Gita, Chandi etc. which may not be possible always for everyone for our professional work pressure. This is true. It is not the fact that people do not able to understand it, if they try.

I believe, this book is a highest level expression of human intellect. I will spend few words to extend our mind for recollection as the back ground of this book.

Back ground of this book:

Our understanding before the development of Science and at this time of Science:

Scientific technique is the best technique to resolve any issue to its precise level. There are also limitations of science. Before the development of science people did not explain different natural events, particularly the natural calamities comes to him. According to his logical sense and existing knowledge at that time he assumed that behind all these events there is some power. When they were become angry for the misbehaviors of the human beings, these natural calamities comes as a punishment. People, for his protection based on the evidences available to him at that time created God. He also formulate some rule which please God. The person who did not follow this rules was treated as sinners. Worshipping was started. Concepts of *Dharma* arisen. In the name of *Dharma* exploitation also started. By using his force, showing the inabilities of others for not following the rules he started to rule over other persons. *Dharma* was defined without any scientific logic. *Dharma* becomes a bondage to us also. There were many fights to come out this bondage. Scientific knowledge played a major role in this context. But

one spirit was interesting to note. His intension was to get protection, to get *Ananda*. This is also the spirit of doing science today also.

In the process of worshipping which started with an unscientific way, turned to a logical basis. When one person is sitting for worshipping he observed the following things; feeling good, breathing is being controlled. Automatically his attention goes on breathing. By this way he had developed his Yoga system. He started to experience of light sound within himself. Side by side his level of thinking was also manifested in different way. By this way he had developed the technique of Yoga and also realized Knowledge that he attained during Yoga. By this way his experience were found in *SRUTI* and recorded in *VEDA, GITA, PURAN* etc. He had also realized the pain and suffering of human lives on earth. And tried to remove this pain and suffering. By this time science had also started to grow and by scientific analysis he explained many events without considering the role of Gods and Goddess. For the scientific people the old customs appeared as superstition. Of course some of this allegation was true. It also be mentioned that some of the scientists also follow the unscientific methods. To a scientist, science is also related with his profession. Out of many scientific limitations I can mention at least one here. Science can explain the events and also its reason. But it can not say the purpose for which the events is taking place. The debates and conflicts comes from such points. By this time due to scientific and technological development our society has been started to grow and develop. In this way we had developed this society ignoring some basic questions which were addressed in our ancient literatures. Without this knowledge it is almost impossible to describe this nature just by using the scientific knowledge. Scientific knowledge will help to create more technologies for our comfort. Many other issue like production, management, administration etc and based on that many ethical and unethical issues will come and we will also be coupled with all these. Basic questions for which science started will be continuously ignored.

Existing State of Human being: Pain and Suffering

Indian and Western Philosophy:

There is a difference in approach between Indian and Western Philosophy. But all the discussions were started with a primary concern. Even if we try to initiate any discussion today or even tomorrow this concern can not be ignored. Almost all the philosophers had realized that

life is painful, miserable, incomplete and mortal in nature. By his proper action he can control some issues to make him happy. But there are some issues which can not be controlled. Different approaches take places to remove his pain and suffering and to protect him on this earth. Group of philosophers mostly concentrated that due to lack of his needs he is facing this state. They mainly concentrate to solve it by providing material comfort. But Indian philosophy feels that by providing only some material comfort it is not possible to make him fully happy. One day he will not be able to enjoy this material world. Indian Philosophy suggests that his original state was '*Anandamay*'. Otherwise he will not seek for *Ananda* always. He will not be satisfied unless he is being returned back to his original state. This state is *PURNA*, where he will find his pure existence. They uttered the terms like, *SAT-CHIT-ANANDA*; *TATTOMOSI*, *AHOM-BHRAMMI*. He can exist on this state without the help of any material support; just like the *Sun* on this sky. Human being are separated from his pure state. He had lost his path to go back. One should try to show him the way to return to his Pure state. This is his own state. This is his final destination. This divine force is termed as Mother called by the Sadhak while doing his Yoga. By the term Mother automatically all sorts of protection are assured. Again the term *AHOMM-BHRAMMI* is uttered here. This is basically the transition from *DAITABAD* to *ADAITABAD*. Details discussion may be helpful. I am just mentioning to indicate use of any terminology has its place of occurrence and sequence. Simplification is needed. But over simplification will destroy the inner meaning.

In this context I am being tempted to include few lines which are really not needed for this present discussion. I am including since there are many creativities to highlight the meeting of the lower and higher consciousness. This may be described as the arrival of a river to the ocean. River loses its separate existence finally. Before reaching the Ocean it maintains its separate identity and also there was associated fear, tension etc. But all of its tension vanishes when it reaches to its destination. I am being tempted to include an image here just to encourage other creativities.



Rivers after the journey is completed meet the Ocean. When it reaches to ocean its duty is over. Relaxation may come after reaching the destination.

This image will be helpful to understand about Yoga. Some other discussion available in poetry, folksongs, *Baul* Songs, stories, paintings, photographs etc. may also be included here. There are so many creativities just to highlight this meeting or eagerness for this meet or being sad being unable to meet.

Even if we look clearly all of our action is being performed to get *Ananda* and to maintain it. It is not possible for any one to do any work with expectation that after this action his state will not be good. His intention is to get *Ananda*. Even a thief is stealing with the idea that he will enjoy a stable state. His suffering will be removed. To his family he will be treated as responsible person. To present us as responsible, dutiful, sensible, is the basic spirit of this creation. But there are some issues for which our purposes are not being fulfilled. *Karma* is not being performed accordingly. We are violating the rights of others. One will be surprised the discussion on *Karma* in our Indian Philosophy.

A gross picture of Indian beliefs are mentioned in the following section

Solution to remove the pain and sufferings:

Yoga : the way to return back:

'Being' and 'Becoming' is a major issues that has been discussed in Indian Philosophy. Sri Aurobindo had explained this by introducing the concepts of evolution process in his philosophy. Evolution is the highest cosmic creative force. Due to this evolution process we are all evolving and one day we will reach our destiny. Journey from the lower nature/state to higher nature will occur automatically. It does not depend on us. We just expedite or delayed this process by our activities. He had explained the qualities that will be manifested when we reach at the highest level. Before creation we are associated with this divine force. But to fulfill our ego we arrive on the earth and are being separated from our origin and become ignorant about our previous state. This force, for which we have forgotten our identity is termed as *AVIDYA: MAYA*. Always we are trying to return back to get our pure existence.

Anyway, here, we are being attached with different activities (*Karma*). There are two possibilities to perform the *Karma*. One *Karma* will generate more *Karma* which results more attachments. Performing his *Karma* in a proper way (*Sattaik Karma*) the remaining *Karma* will be reduced and gradually one will be free and will approaches to his destination.

Description of human body:

Human body/anatomy is extremely beautiful. Human body is constructed in such a way that really there is scope to return back. This whole universe is located within the human body. One should know the technique to explore it. From the beginning of the formation of the embryo this divine force guide him and also situated in our body. On the head (*Brambha Randhra*) it resides and spread through out the spinal cord and finally it takes rest at the end of the spinal cord. By dividing the whole path by six chakras Yogi tries to retuned back. *Kundalini* energy from the lower end chakra is rising and going up to meet *Shiva* at the top most Chakra on our head.

When one person doing meditation means he is withdrawing himself from this external world but doing *Karma* within his body.

Review of Different Stories/Books about the journey of human being:

Different Yoga system is basically helping us to return back to our original state. This journey has been described by almost all the ancient literatures (even in any recent poetry/songs, drama etc). Meeting of *Radha Krishna* may be considered the ascending and descending of this force to meet a point for completeness. On the way there are many forces which restricts the upper journey. There will be point when it will be difficult to move further.

With suitable diagram and figure different stages of a Yoga may be explained in a better way. During Yoga different stages come. Before Yoga the Yogi was enjoying basically his normal state and when he starts for Yoga/meditation he will gradually enjoy a different world. At the primary stage, he will not be able to reach that world and again it is not possible for him to stay in present world. In one side he will listen the divine call and in other side he will not be sure what will happen exactly by going over there. This state will go for some time. But seeing the urge of the *Sadhak*, his Guru approaches and helps him by providing more light and sound etc. *Sadhak* being inspired by the blessing of his Guru, tries to move further and gradually enters into almost a separate world, the so called Spiritual world. Here *Kundalini energy* is crossing the *Ajga Chakara*. *Sri Gurudeva* helps by his preaching and knowledge what we find in *Gita*. Along with the preaching of *Sri Gurudeva*, our divine Mother comes to protect his Son (*Sadhak*) which has been described in *Chandi*. Without the help of Guru it is almost impossible to complete the journey. From here identify of the individual being starts to abolish. He is feeling the different world. His journey is now completed. Generally after attaining this spiritual world after so much struggle, no one enters into his early life. At this state this world may appear to him as nothing but illusion or *MAYA*. But before attaining this world it is not wise to say this world as illusion. Sri Aurobindo had introduced many concepts at this point. This is a very important aspect to describe. at this point all the philosopher should be extremely careful to address the mystery of this creation very carefully. He must come out from his personal ego. At this point one will feel his pure existence. Before this there was extreme struggle. To feel this state is really not possible for any earthly people. To honor the individual ego and to make the life divine Sri Aurobindo advised to bring divine force to expedite the earth transformation. In this context I

can recall *Savitri*. The whole book describes the experience of this journey. In *BAISANAV* literature the different stages of the love story of *Radha-Krishna* may also be recollected.

Sri Aurobindo's feeling over existing idea

Sri Aurobindo also realized that before his time Indian Yoga has been concentrated mainly to remove pain and suffering of human beings. In a developed society at this modern day why people will always be worried about the pain and sufferings. He has his vast literatures, other supports of the society, family, friends, etc. If Yoga is defined only in this aspect, it will be treated as the business of only the suffering people. Academic people will be ashamed to accept it. It appears that Yoga had started by the ignorant people for their survival. Yoga will lose its proper meaning. Yoga is related with the attainment of higher force and knowledge which was uttered by our ancient Rishi/Seers. A wrong interpretation will create so much difficulties. All of us on this earth are looking for power, wealth, fame etc. So there is sufficient chance to misinterpret the Yoga. One may say that by doing Yoga one will be fit, healthily etc. It may be defined as the tools to fulfill our material desire. This is ok. But by saying only this, indirectly Yoga is being prescribed for more consumption. To save the human beings from this ignorance proper discussion is needed. Maybe for executing the earthly duty so much knowledge is not needed. But knowledge has its importance in some cases. Without proper discussion mind will not be extended to higher mind. A discussion is always associated with power. Power of the discussion will be sufficiently matched with the power of undivine nature. Without the help of Divine force it is not possible to be free from the lower qualities. Otherwise there will be a mismatch about our saying with our execution. Misuse of intelligence will be a major characteristic of the higher mind also. So in his Philosophy Sri Aurobindo recast the necessity of Yoga, its technique and style. There was an idea that unless doing Yoga one will not get the knowledge of divine force. According to Sri Aurobindo the present human beings are quite rich in his scientific discussion, by his poetic imagination. By just proper interpretation of the recent development of science technology and also the recent social problems one will attain the knowledge of Yoga, without following the conventional Yoga technique. A person who never done conventional Yoga or meditation, but working for the humanities and sacrificing accordingly, his mind of course is elevated. In some cases it will be difficult even for a Yogi to compete with that persons, unless that Yogi is not equipped with the tools and techniques of this

system. On the other hand that person will not get the benefits that are being enjoyed by a Yogi. Generally a Yogi can handle some extra ordinary power which we call as *BHUBHUTI*. The interaction of the subtle world with this gross world is known to a Yogi. This material world is nothing but some sort of condensed energy. Science has simplified many ideas that were difficult to realize through Yoga. By his work Einstein had changed the concepts of this material world. The findings of one scientific experiment has many potential. It is much more powerful than the Yoga *BHIBHUTI* of a Yogi. Yoga *BHIBHUTI* can not be a science by any way. It is the power/experience of one person. Scientific knowledge has its unique message. But to ignore the Yoga *BHIBHUTI* is not good. It is also a knowledge. Without ignoring it we will recommend to extend the scientific work to find the truth of this power. We will recommend to go with the scientific world. Doing Yoga is not only good, it is essential. But it is not good to invite a world based on Yogic knowledge. Practice of scientific attitude is always safe. I just like to say by this practice, the knowledge and associated power of Yoga will also come, if it exists at all there.

Due to academic discussion in any subject his mind automatically is expanded. With the help of this expanded mind a psychological method may be applied to replace the existing Yoga system. Description of Chakra etc will be difficult to accept for the coming day people.

May be Sri Aurobindo also knew about the present day situation when our life will be extremely busy. We will live in a society based on paper and documents. Any fight will happen in the mental plane. People will leave the physical plane they will prefer to damage one mental plane. Discussion on the misuse of intelligence is extremely useful in this context which I had mentioned a bit. It has been elaborated in all our epics in the form of moral story.

The conventional Yoga is difficult and Sri Aurobindo had simplified this Yoga technique. Only for this simplification it will not be fair to appreciate him so much. He had returned the individual ego even after attaining the highest force. His life is basically the Divine Life. This is his major gift for us. Discussion on this part is really a bit tricky. To allow one to participate in the earthly world is really risky. Any time he will be attached by *Karma*. To be in *Karmic* state and being free from the results of *Karma* is not so easy. One will be treated as dull and stupid.

But, here manifestation of life will be different. Because life is already connected to the Divine force.

I believe Sri Aurobindo has done his work considering the present day situation. He had entered deep into this creation to explore its mystery. Sri Aurobindo becomes the symbol of divine force itself. Without his work it was difficult to find correlation among different ideas. If we will discuss more about the nature of this force, its power of protection, its loving power we will definitely enjoy.

Without this knowledge I think it will also be difficult to explain the activities done by Sri Krishna. His every statements has tremendous meaning. By analyzing the action of Sri Krishna one may find two different aspects. Sometimes it will be ethical and sometimes it appears as unethical. Careful discussion is needed to resolve these issues.

Sri Aurobindo's Interpretation: Sri Aurobindo's modification in some issues

Sri Aurobindo had modified many issues in his work. He had not much discussed about *Kundalini Yoga*. At that time it was almost unthinkable.

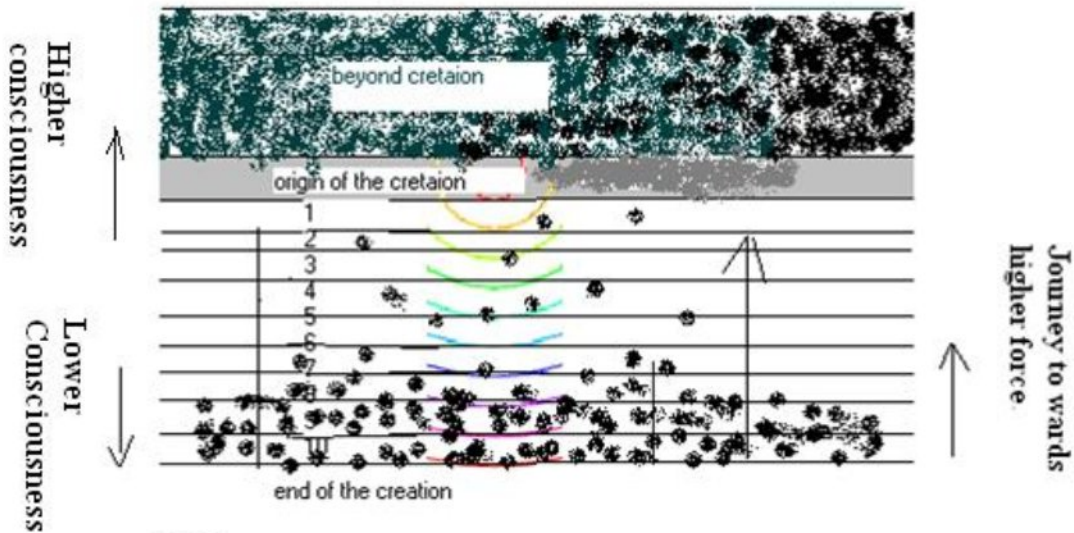


Fig. 1

There is a call from the higher force in the forward direction and also there is a call from the backward due to our lower nature. This is the struggle for all of us. Respond to this higher force may be expedite or be delayed due to our actions. Moralities, human values, quality of life, structure of societies etc whatever we are talking about should be formulated in such a way that the descendent of this force will be expedite. The schematic figure may be helpful to understand this discussion which I am not explaining explicitly. Actually whenever we read about our ancient literatures or even Life Divine such a pictures containing different planes arises in our mind.

We are all under divine force. At the time of our birth or arrival on this earth we are being separated from this Divine force. We are here to fulfill our ego. We are busy in our work. But from other side there is a divine call for us. Divine Mother is calling. Mother is waiting to get back his son. We are not doing yoga. Basically we are being called by this force and trying to respond.

The beauty of the creation is being maintained by the nature of its diversities. One should follow the equalness among different caste, age sex, differences of opinion. The urge to meet the Divine Mother. It will be extremely flat if there is only one opinion which again follows only me. Whatever strong may be my power and knowledge it is not possible for anyone to do all the work. Even if I know all the things, a child should be allowed to go through her/his play. To him/her it has no use unless I adjust my knowledge suitable for her. When I am interacting means I am accepting the ignorance. Everyone should be allowed to execute his duty. I can just help if he needs. Always there will a hierarchy in this society in every respect starting from ones age, income, profession etc. We can talk about equal rights. But to expect equal belongings is not desirable. Our excessive goodness will disturb the harmony. The book Life Divine as I mentioned discusses not only about Yoga, it also indicates different social problems that may arises due to our ignorance. Without the social structure, family system, it is not possible to talk about the higher knowledge.

We are living here only for a limited time. No need to use or attempt to get Yoga *BHIBHUTI*. What is its purpose? Having faith on the Divine Mother/ Force is the best power. To know the

characteristics of this force it is sufficient if any one simply reads about different 108 - names of Sri Krishna. Assigning different names different qualities has been attributed which always inspired a Yogi during his Yoga.

Conclusions:

From this discussion we get one point. After the creation we are being separated from this divine force and we become incomplete. According to Sri Aurobindo this incomplete is associated with lower consciousness. And he realized with our ancient Rishi/Seers that Yoga is essential for his return. It is the method to connect with the divine force to release his soul.

Our present state having lower consciousness (State 1) is under the process of evolution to attain the final state (State 2) having higher consciousness. In between there is no such state which may be considered as permanent. Journey between two states is the journey of the human being. To reach this state sufficient knowledge is needed which may be acquired by proper cultivation of science, technology, humanities, Yoga etc. Depending on one's potential and capabilities one can enjoy different charms and beauty on the way. This will be again challenge to the people on this earth.

I appreciate Sri Aurobindo's Life Divine. Being a realized soul he had taken troubles to write so many books. No such Indian Yogi had written this much. He had written with the idea that in coming days people will be extremely educated and for them Indian philosophy should be recast. He had selected this style and approaches. His ideas were also to honour the individual ego. He decided to go to the higher state and will bring this higher force to transform this earth.

In gist the human values and qualities will not attain its highest values unless it reaches to its Pure State. Journey will not stop unless this state is reached. Alternatively it reaches and connects with the divine force from where all of us has come. The present state is temporary state.

Sometimes it appears that there is a tendency in Indian philosophy to ignore some practical issues. Since these are basically the transition state when we consider the whole journey of our

lives. To what extent one will reject and accept depends on many issues. To go by adjusting with this will be a major challenge for the coming day life. Too much enjoyment will delay this journey and not to take any thing will raise the question about the purpose of our arrival. Otherwise, it is not true that Indian Philosophy do not know to handle this material world. In our old Yoga system it takes so much time and basically after acquiring this knowledge people get little time to participate on earthly life. He does not feel necessity to interact here. This is also a drawback of old spirituality. Some other types of ego or self satisfaction also arises. All the souls have come with some purposes. Even I know anything, it will not be possible for me to control others and also it is not essential also. Except a divine force or our divine mother there is nothing in this creation. We are being guided by this force. The main problem of us is the fear to loose our existence. All of our fear etc will go by knowing this force. To know this force, to know its manifestation in different fields is a great satisfaction for any individual. By virtue of this force we are being dutiful, responsible, sensible. Scientists, poets and others are getting inspiration to unfold their inner being. By knowing this force unification may come. There should not be any creativity without appreciating this force. Knowingly or unknowingly, all of us are calling this force, By virtue of this force all the problems will be solved. There will be no need to apply much tricky games. This world is not dull and stupid, there is a rhythm behind all the events. This assurance is there in this book.

The lower qualities has no power to prevail over the higher force. It is by no means possible to replace the higher intension by a lower one. It has been described the essence of all the preaching and moralities. Based on the geographical situation, culture etc. the rituals may be different. But again the spirit of prescribing the rituals must be same. The inner meaning of Sri Gita, Chandi, Rasleela and also other epic also be revealed and correlated from this book. Alternatively it also be said that starting from these literatures one may also reach the conclusion of Life Divine.

After reaching to Divine force/Mother one can say that this creation is nothing but illusion. But even if we say it as illusion or *MAYA* is nothing but the expression of this divine force. The *ABIDYA* is also the manifestation of *BIDYA*. This whole creation is nothing but the manifestation of this divine force. Pain and sufferings are also the manifestation of this force. There is nothing like good or bad. When one thing does not fits for our happiness we call this

as bad. The same thing appears as good to others. We are leaving only under the protection of Divine Mother. Everything that we are doing is nothing but her will. Individual ego will be transformed to higher ego. This is basically the divine life on this earth. This earth will be benefitted having such souls. They have power to perform many things. To protect such life should be our duty. Human beings are not the labour of this earth.

In this context I will say the special reason to like Sri Aurobindo. There are also some other significant work. But Sri Aurobindo had given so much importance on the present status human being. Human beings are very precious creations. Human being has tremendous potential for its manifestation. Actually he is a part of the divine force. One should treat him accordingly. He had boundless love for the human being on this earth. Through out his whole life he was working to ensure and provide rights of human beings on this earth. Every time his only concern was the betterment of the human being. His was worried about the excessive scientific and technological development. People may loose his path. He was trying to show this path. His love for humanities is really appealing.

May be this discussion is not sufficient to clarify many issues due to limited space But I will be happy if anyone finds inspiration to read this book.

Leaving my regular works, I am writing on this book. I am advocating for this book just to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Sri Aurobindo. This book has come from the sacrifice of such a brilliant life. In spite of having many scope for him, he selected to study on spirituality in order to establish it with logical basis and to show its necessity as far as we talk about higher knowledge for which all of us are struggling.

Finally I will say that the spirit of any discussion is to find all the possible ways to move from one point to another. From the discussion it should be revealed that the straight line is the minimum distance between the two points. Not to get this information from the discussion is definitely the weakness of the discussion. But to tell any one to follow only this straight line path, since it is the smallest distance, is not the essential role of any discussion. Satisfaction of logical mind is extremely important. Offering suggestions, criticisms have its separate need.

Motion of life, its manifestation should be free. Just to reach the other point is desirable. Truth will come by its own virtue. We just allow for its arrival.

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