

Sri Aurobindo's Vision of the Future



In this conversation Roy describes what attracted him to the teachings of Sri Aurobindo, what His vision of the future for humanity is, and how we can use His ideas in a practical way in our own lives.

PART I: First Contact

Welcome to this first of our conversations series.

Thank you. I am happy to be here.

You have been involved with the eastern teachings of Sri Aurobindo for many years. Is that right?

Yes, I have. But please allow me to correct you at the outset. Sri Aurobindo's work is not really an eastern teaching. It is both a western teaching and an eastern teaching, and yet it is neither. Actually, I believe it transcends both.

Why is that?

As a young man Sri Aurobindo was educated at Cambridge in England, and as his later writings reveal, was quite conversant with virtually aspects of western literature, including its great fiction. He was also very well versed in world history, and the social, religious, and spiritual movements of the last ten thousand years. In his thought processes as well as his writing style, he was a very modern thinker. He could jump from analysis of the works of Freud and the latest forms of psychology, to a critique of the works by DH Lawrence and Tolstoy; to a profound discussion on how the emerging UN could influence the future of humanity. And yet he could still explain the deepest aspect of spirit for the individual, and to the underlying Divine forces that enabled the universe.

He had a staggering grasp of the main issues and developments in the world of politics, science, history, literature, the social movements of the time, and had a deep and broad understanding of the religious and spiritual writings and teachings of the major, and even minor, religious movements of the world.



Sri Aurobindo

He had an extraordinary English vocabulary, as expressed in his letters to his disciples, and in his massive body of writings, that included works of metaphysics, mystical poetry, and social and literary commentary. If it weren't for the more metaphysical and spiritual topics, you would think you were reading a contemporary writer or thinker who published in the London Times. Of course, he also wrote spiritual philosophy and metaphysics, which is not the

typical fare of an English journalist. Yet, even there he expressed himself with great precision, with impeccable argument and logic, with beauty of language, almost unparalleled in the history of man.

And yet on top of this vast knowledge of contemporary life, he became perhaps the greatest spiritual figure of the last 100 years.

So did you get involved with his teachings?

Yes, I have been involved in these teachings for many years; since around 1973 or 1974. Like all of us at that time of great discovery, i.e. in the turbulent and wondrous late 60s and early 70s, we were immersed in a sea of change.

At the time a close friend of mine, was not only reading but was also practicing the ideals set out in Sri Aurobindo's teachings. We grew up together on the same street in Queens in New York City, played baseball on the little league team my father managed, and knew one another in high school. When I went off to college and returned home, I saw that not only had he gotten involved in Aurobindo's teachings, but that it had deeply affected him. He seemed to emanate an inner glow that I was not the only one to recognize; a light that could only come from a person who was connected to something deep and profound.

One day at my parent's home, after returning from college, my friend gave me a copy of French author Satprem's book *Adventure of Consciousness*, which was sort of the definitive introduction to Sri Aurobindo at the time. It was a very inspiring and thrilling work to a young man of 23. The book not only presented Satprem's impressions of Sri Aurobindo's teachings, but also included pictures of Auroville, the international, UN-sponsored spiritual community that was rising out of the red clay in southern India near the former French enclave of Pondicherry. This was very exciting to me at the time. It was here in Auroville that a part of Sri Aurobindo's vision was being played out.

After a while I began to not only absorb Sri Aurobindo's ideas, but began to feel a very real inner change within my own self; as a new spiritual feeling began to well inside me, paralleling my rising interest in his teachings.

So that was the decisive change for you?

Well there was another incident that also played a big part in my turning to these ideas. At the time (in the mid-70s) there was a big interest in alternate living communities. There was, for

example, the development of the new age community of Findhorn in Scotland; famous for its ability to grow an astounding variety of the world's plants in a difficult soil. They claimed they used spiritual means to enable this to occur; even using fairies and elves!

Well, there was one particular gathering that was to have a huge impact on my life. It was a big gathering at the vast St. John the Divine church in upper Manhattan near Harlem in New York City to present to the public three key new age communities -- Findhorn of Scotland, Lindisfarne on Long Island, and Auroville of South India. I knew of all three; and of course, was most interested in Auroville, which was the international UN sanctioned free spiritual city developed by Sri Aurobindo's spiritual partner, known as "The Mother."

I walked into this immense church -- I believe it is the longest in the world -- and climbed up to a high side balcony, where I watched the presentation of the three communities. As I watched the narrated slideshow on Auroville -- including the new futuristic architecture, the incredible gardens and trees that were emerging out of the terra cotta clay soil, the latest environmental technologies that were being developed there, -- I sensed a new world arising there, guided not by wealth or status or survival, but on profound progressive spiritual values. The entire city was to be an experiment in consciousness. It was overwhelmingly inspiring for me. Some deep chord inside me was touched; the world within me was changing.

I remember one thing in the presentation that really struck me was when the speaker's statement that one of the NASA astronauts on one of his orbits around the earth had seen an incredible light emanating from the area around Auroville. This made me feel that there really was something special going on there.

At the time, I was an aspiring magazine journalist who had hoped that by covering the gathering, I could write an article on one or more of the three spiritual communities for one of several new age and other cultural issues that were coming into the fore back then. Instead, I came away overwhelmed by the vibration I felt whenever Auroville or Sri Aurobindo or The Mother was mentioned. However, instead of pursuing a career as a journalist, I followed another path -- to follow the path of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, and to somehow find a practical work environment where I could meld my efforts to those inner ideals.

So that was how your connection to Sri Aurobindo began?

Yes, that's where it began. First, my close friend who emanated the vibration and introduced me to some of his works, including Satprem's wondrous breakthrough introductory book on the life of Aurobindo, the Mother, and Auroville. Then the gathering at St. John the Divine where I saw and felt the spiritual power trying to be born in the new futuristic township of Auroville. And finally, and most importantly that sense inside of something different, something profound and future-oriented that began to well inside me. It was this presence that has guided my life since.

But now that you had the inner feeling of the spirit, what vehicle did you have to make it real; I mean in a practical way?

Well, that's the next part of the story; the decisive part.

(pause) A few years later, after going through a profound two-week darkness from which I awoke from through a spiritual-type experience, I moved out to California and came in contact with a group of individuals in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles who were taking the ideas of Sri Aurobindo and applying them to practical, everyday areas of life. For example, they started a business to distribute products from Auroville and nearby Pondicherry, trying to apply Aurobindo's principles in the activities of their work, whether it be going down to the port to pick up goods, or selling out in the field, or keeping the accounting system up to date. In all aspects, they were trying to apply his principles -- not just business, but in Indian development, in literary thought, and others. When I saw what they were doing, I very much wanted to get involved. It was the fulfillment of a dream, to connect spirit with my practical working life.

So that was the next great turning point of my life. It was in 1976. Applying Sri Aurobindo's ideas to all of the activities of work became the focus of my life, and continues to be so today. After all, he did say that all life is yoga; meaning that every bit of work we do is an opportunity to apply spirit to it, to enable its infinite potential of life to emerge through it. It was thus a dynamic, practical spirituality, which was just what I was looking for.

So what happened next?

Well, that's the next part of the story; the final piece of the puzzle.

Well after a while, I moved back north to the San Francisco Bay Area, where I felt more at home, and where I started my own distribution company -- selling the goods that my friends were importing from India. I continued to try to practice spiritual disciplines in my work. E.g. before I would talk with the buyer at a store I was trying to sell to, I would open myself to "the spiritual Force." The idea is that when you open to that power, it takes over, enabling everything to go right, including getting the sale! Some of the results were absolutely astounding, as life would respond to my efforts in the most extraordinary way. Now only was there a presence emerging within myself, but I saw how the spirit could be applied to the practical details of life outside myself.

(pause) So now I had come full circle in my life. I had found my inner calling; and it was supported by an outer work, in which I could apply the power of the spirit. I was now in essence reborn into a new life; I had gone passed through some great opening to a new way of living.

That's an inspiring story. It sounds like it was a time of great adventure.

It was an overwhelming adventure. And it was taking place inwardly and outwardly. Or as Satprem called his book on Sri Aurobindo, "Adventures in Consciousness."

(pause) Now I have a different sort of question. I can understand why you would be attracted to a spiritual genius like Sri Aurobindo, and feel that kind of presence, but what were the ideas

that appealed to you; to your intellect? Or were you just led by the feelings, the presence, and the experiences you had?

That's a very good question. Though many of us at the time were having all sorts of inner and outer experiences, from drugs to gurus, which definitely attracted our emotions and feelings, there was also the intellectual aspects, the ideals and metaphysical teachings and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo that had a great impact on me.

After all, I had just spent years at Syracuse University expanding my intellect in areas such as history, science, psychology, and sociology. Also, the world was also changing very rapidly around us in the mid-70s; creating great intellectual ferment and change as well.

At the time, I had been reading many spiritual ideas and principles from many authors, including Lao Tsu's Tao Te Ching (The Way of Life); Alan Watts' synthesis of eastern and Western thought; books on comparative religion, and the new, emerging spirituality. I began to move in circles where all sorts of new, stimulating, fascinating ideas about society and the future of humanity were available to me. Add into this fertile mix the tumult or events of that time -- the winding down of the Vietnam war, Nixon's impeachment, the upheaval in China, hippies taking to the roads in the US, gurus popping up like poppies -- and it was an overwhelming time of ferment and creative change.

Still there was no body of work, teaching that put all of these disparate ideas and principles together for me. Something deep inside me was missing; intellectually and spiritually. There was no world view, no comprehensive understanding of life; only bits and pieces of the puzzle of existence. However, when I came in contact with the teachings of Sri Aurobindo, I felt all the loose threads binding together; all of these rich ideas and principles coagulating into a comprehensive knowledge and teaching that was pure, profound, deep, complex, yet crystal clear.

When I read Satprem's explanation in Adventures of Consciousness of Sri Aurobindo's vision of the future, I finally discovered what I had been subconsciously yearning for: the integral truth of existence: the roadmap and pathway to our spiritual future. I had come upon the great vision of the future that I had aspired for somewhere deep in my heart and mind.

Perhaps even more important was the fact that in reading Aurobindo's works I felt a spiritual presence welling up inside me. Increasingly, I felt a subtle something radiating from within. And yet what I felt was something very different, unusual in a spiritual sense; infinitely creative, undiscovered, visionary, and futuristic.

This was something very unexpected. This simultaneous feeling of the spiritual presence, and that which had a sense of the future about it. It must have been what my modern soul had yearned for.

It sounds like a great turning point in your life.

Yes it was. I had begun to come in contact with the very purpose of my existence. Perhaps the individual soul in me had somehow come in contact to its universal and transcendent purpose in life.

(pause) Well, I guess that would bring us to the subject at hand, Aurobindo's vision of the future.

You mention Satprem's book *Adventure of Consciousness* as the starting point, the work that first brought you in contact with Aurobindo's teachings. What was it in the teachings that really got to you?

First, let me speak of Satprem, and his style of writing. To a young man of 24 his prose was very exciting. Satprem as you may know was the main disciple of the individual known as The Mother. The Mother was really Sri Aurobindo's great spiritual partner who worked with him to implement his vision for a new, spirit-based Divine life on earth.

Satprem described in glowing, sometimes apocalyptic prose, how life on earth in its current form had reached its limits. He suggested that society had gone as far as it could go; in its old thinking, in its old perceptions of what is real and true. Satprem felt that we couldn't continue any further without society imploding, which in many senses it has. The world had now moved to the breaking point, with acute strain, due mainly to its limited perceptions of the nature of reality, and to the inability of the human mind to grapple with the enormity of its existential and practical problems. For Satprem, Sri Aurobindo vision of a new existence, of a new spirit-based humanity and divine life on earth was the way out. It was for me a very different and new way of thinking; an entirely new worldview.

(pause) I like using the expression "New Thinking." It's a term Gorbachev, one other great hero of mine, had popularized. His country had gone to the boundaries of its possibilities, and could go no further. Instead of testing them -- its old forms and limitations -- he simply gave up the entire system, and opened the doors to infinite new freedoms and possibilities.

In the same way, Sri Aurobindo gives us an opening to a world beyond the spent boundaries of the old thinking; but for the *entire human race*. Aurobindo gave us a vision of what a future society could be like if we transcended our limited vital and mental views of existence; beyond the stifling materialism of the West; beyond its material, empirical view of existence; beyond the static view of life of the East; and embrace a dynamic spirituality; an evolution of consciousness; a new way of experiencing life through the power of the spiritual Force now readily available to all in the world.

Naturally, this was very stimulating to me as a young man newly engaged in the world.

(pause) Sri Aurobindo's vision seems rather modern; unlike the traditional spiritual views of existence.

Yes, very much so.

In fact, one of the things that made Sri Aurobindo's vision so compelling to me was the belief that in *all* activities, situations, circumstances in life one could bring to bear the spiritual Force, and thereby evoke the infinite from the current finite. Whether you were a businessperson, a writer, a politician, or a homemaker, it didn't matter. Everyone and everything was to be included in this upward, evolutionary movement of endless progress and higher consciousness.

In his view, one does not experience the Divine by withdrawing from the world to some spiritual retreat or hermitage, or otherwise separating ourselves from the daily activities of life. Instead, spirituality is to be brought into and expressed *through* life; through every act, circumstance, and situation, evoking the infinite potential within it.

For Sri Aurobindo everything is part of this upward, evolutionary movement. Everything is part of an unfolding of consciousness, which from the perspective of the Supreme, from the supramental viewpoint is actually a Divine unfolding.

(pause) The main problem of course was that we humans were profoundly unaware of this evolutionary movement of life. So Sri Aurobindo comes along to reveal to us what was unknown; to give us a vision of what was possible.

That as you may know is the great purpose of the Avatar: to bring the world a vision of a new possibility that is ready to emerge in society. In his case, to reveal an ultimate possibility for a new, divine existence beyond the current vital and mental life; one in which we could evolve from our current limited nature to a new supernature -- overcoming all of the strife, suffering, pain, ignorance, division, conflict and contradiction on earth; replacing it with harmony, oneness, truth, wisdom, goodness, creativity, light, love, beauty, delight, timelessness, and infinity.

He indicated that if we were to perceive the Spirit that is embedded, hidden, involved within us, as well as connect to, tap into the spiritual Force that surrounds us, we would actively participate in our own personal evolution; as well as the evolution of society; even of the universe itself! That is, we could actively participate in and affect the destiny of the human race.

He repeatedly suggested that we could infuse the various planes of our being -- physical, vital, and mental, -- with the Spirit in order to uplift them, including the activities we are engaged in and the circumstance that come our way, whether in work, in our families, in our business, or the social institutions we partake in.

So everything in life was to be included in this upward, evolutionary movement! Nothing and no one was to be left out, denied. Even the murderer, the dictator, and the promiscuous lover played a role in the universal unfolding. That is because everyone, and every individual matter or thing can rise to a higher level than its current condition. That is, the consciousness and spirit can be evoked in each thing so that its infinite potential that is involved, hidden within it can be realized.

In this way, we move beyond the boundaries of what we perceive as possible. We overcome the boundaries and difficulties of life that Satprem had so passionately railed against.

Now we understood that the final frontier is not outside ourselves, but is within.

That changes the whole dynamic of life; the equation of existence. It opens the doors to a new world, a new future possibility for humanity.

PART II: A Vision and a Boon

You've expressed the events that led you to Sri Aurobindo, but was there something in Aurobindo's thinking or a book of his that attracted you to his path?

Yes, very much so. Both of these.

First of all I was taken by his use of extreme logic, and utter rationality of thought. Something, by the way, that any serious western thinker would envy.

Take his opus *The Life Divine*. In this book he attempts in the most complex of metaphysical terms to systematically uncover the process by which the universe came into being; as well as the nature of existence; the purpose of existence in the universe; the means of individual transformation; and the destiny of humanity as a whole. He takes us through this extraordinary journey of discovery in an extremely rational way.

By the way, at a further point, you realize that these metaphysical expressions of the nature of existence are not mere speculation on his part, but are real experience of his; the experiences of a spiritual voyager non-parallel who had reached the summits of divine insight, experience, and realization.

And yet what really inspires are the staggering conclusions he has come to.

Which are ...

Which is that there is a future before us so utterly different than our current existence. That there are cosmic forces and powers at work so staggering, that we must give up our current views of life, dismantle these intellectual underpinnings, and develop a new vocabulary for a new, divine, infinite-like existence.

Is that where this concept of Supermind that he is so identified with comes in?

Yes, that is the ultimate instrument and force for change that he discovered.

(pause) However before I go into that, I think I need to explain the goal he envisioned; in particular, where he felt humanity was heading.

(pause) Sri Aurobindo's vision begins with the assertion that humans may not be the final rung on the evolutionary scale. That we might witness the emergence of a new species; one that is above and beyond the current humanity. Or, perhaps we could say that it is the same human species, but that has evolved to a new level that appears to be very different in functioning, inwardly and outwardly, from the current human individual. Different, emotionally, mentally, spiritually -- even physically!

He has developed this vision of a future humanity or a new human species, depending on how you look at it, based on a logical, rational evaluation of the past and a visionary projection of the future.

Among the topics he addressed head on in his evaluation and projection are: what is the source of the universe? how did it come about? what is its purpose? what is our purpose? to what degree has the universe and the human race progressed to this point in time? what are our human limitations? what is our human and spiritual potential? what would a future spiritualized existence be like? and what is the evolutionary possibility for the entire human race?

In this stupendous evaluation of existence, he traced an arc that reached back to the original principle or source of things -- which he called the Divine Reality -- , to the creation that emerged from that source; to our present state and condition, to our psychological and spiritual potentials in the not too distant future.

Perhaps what is most remarkable is how he systematically shows how the past and the present conditions of Man inevitably lead to this new, transformed, spirit-based status of humanity.

Finally, Sri Aurobindo also tells us how we can make that fantastic future possibility occur.

And what is very appealing to me, is that this very different human future he envisions can come about rather quickly, much of it even within our lifetime, if we systematically follow the process he has outlined. In other words, by knowing the steps in this evolutionary plan, we can consciously follow it now and hasten its arrival.

Were there any indicators in the world, or that you experienced in your own life that Sri Aurobindo's vision could come about?

(pause) Well, it was certainly very appealing in 1975 for a young man of 24 to see the gardens and futuristic small modern edifices rise in Auroville in India -- the City of Light the Mother envisioned that had arisen out of the arid clay land there. It was even more interesting to learn of how some inhabitants there were making an effort to create a new spiritual-based existence - - at both the material and spiritual level. That is, not only through the new pavilions, residences,

gardens, and forests they forged out of the barren land, but also through their own individual experiments in personal growth and higher consciousness.

But what is Auroville actually?

I guess you can think of Auroville as a giant laboratory and experiment in consciousness. Put a number of pioneer-oriented individuals in a community where they could forge their own lifestyle, where money is no longer used, and let them create a new world based not solely on physical and technological values but on psychological and spiritual ones.

Also, don't tell them too specifically how to create the new world, or how to conduct their lives, but let the experiment on their own and determine what is the best way to make their way to this new Man, to the new species that Sri Aurobindo and the Mother envisioned.

(pause) The only obligation on the Aurovillians was that they agree to collaborate in building a new world based on a higher consciousness; on spiritual, inner, psychological oriented values. If individuals from all over the world could come and work together and build a new city, while making the effort to change themselves inwardly, then the foundations of a new human existence could be founded.



The Matramandir in Auroville

Of course I later found out that one did not have to live in Auroville to undertake this experiment in consciousness. One could do it done anywhere -- perhaps even better if you were outside of Auroville!

After all it is in the small moment and movements of our daily lives that the right consciousness could be brought to bear, which would become the first stepping stones to manifesting Sri Aurobindo's future vision. In that sense, time and place is irrelevant; and what is relevant is the deeper and higher consciousness we bring to any work or activity; which means that is can occur anywhere, any place.

Life's individual moments and circumstances is the cloth out of which the new world is to be woven. It is the attitude, awareness, and values we bring to any act in any moment in time, and the way we make use of the spiritual Force, that would build the bridge to this new world.

So this sounds like it requires a pioneering spirit; requiring individuals to live a very different sort of lifestyle; not tied to the old social mores.

Yes, it required a radical change from the traditional middle-class lifestyle. One that demanded a psychological and spiritual orientation. One that could be a forerunner of a new human existence, a New Humanity.

(pause) By the way, speaking of a revolutionary lifestyle, did you know that Sri Aurobindo was himself a revolutionary activist? In the early part of the 20th century he worked for Indian independence, and engaged in radical politics to try to loosen British colonial grip on India.

Also, since he was a revolutionary in those early days, the British were very eager to have him captured; and did in fact have him arrested and then incarcerated in the Alipore jail.

And yet it was there that he had the first great religious experience of his life, where he reached complete mental peace and silence, which led him to give up his revolutionary activities.

Moreover, to avoid the British authorities who were trying to hunt him down, he retreated to the French enclave of Pondicherry, south of Madras in South India, where he assembled a small group of followers. There he began a massive effort to understand the nature of existence, and began to write enormous tracts on metaphysics and yoga. At that point, he had begun his own personal and spiritual transformation in earnest.

So what did Sri Aurobindo write about?

One of the themes he consistently addressed was the nature of the evolution humans were going through. He described how we were slowly evolving from a physical orientation focused on survival; to a vital life of want, desire, interaction, and expansion; to a predominant mental existence in which we perceive more of the truths of existence, and we more consciously direct the course of our lives. Through education and other opportunities to engage in purer, more logical thought, we are slowly becoming more rational beings, even as our mentality is still influenced by our physical and vital wants and desires.

Sri Aurobindo tells us in such works as *The Life Divine* and *Synthesis of Yoga*, that we as a race are slowly moving from the inconscience, inertia, and incapacity of the physical plane; the passions, irrationality, attachments, and ego of the vital/emotional plane; to the knowledge, perceptions, and insight of the mental plane; a process that has radically accelerated in the last several generations.

Are there any contemporary examples of this?

Well, just look at the Internet. It is really a new, more complex form of organization. And organization itself is a power of thought and mind. So the power of mind is beginning to expand exponentially in the world through this powerful technology.

And yet Sri Aurobindo believed that our ascendance to a logical, rational mental being was just the starting point for something much greater -- what he referred to as domain of the Spirit. Just as the mental is for the most part a vast leap beyond the vital/emotional, mostly animal nature of the human being, the spiritual is a vast leap beyond the limits of a mental orientation.

At the level of spirit, the mind expands from an essential Ignorance and partial knowledge to an integral, many-sided truth of things through experiences of light, vision, intuition, revelation, and supramental perception. Through an opening to the Spirit, one discovers our true inner nature, our True Self, which he called the Evolving Soul, which fosters experiences of true oneness with others and with life; while enables the mind to expand to the spiritual experiences I just mentioned. Also, one experiences the spirit by having intimations of a transcendent, divine Influence and Power; a spiritualized Force that one can open to that can divinize life around us, while transforming all aspects of our being.

Thus, Sri Aurobindo envisioned that the human race had the capacity to fully move beyond the passion and ego centricities of the vital plane; could rise beyond, surface mind to true rational and logical mentality; and the exceeds these and break through to the spiritual domain of Mind, Heart, and Self.

In fact Sri Aurobindo believed that rising to the spiritual domain was our ultimate destiny. He envisioned a future world where all activities would be infused with the spirit, which would lead to our own perfection as well as the perfection of life around us. If enough individuals were able to rise to this higher consciousness, they would be forerunners of a New Human Existence; one that would culminate in what he referred to as a "Divine Life on Earth."

This is a very powerful and inspiring vision. (pause) And yet hasn't the Spirit been there all along? Why hasn't the world embraced it all this time?

Well there are two points to consider. First of all, though the spiritual domain has been acknowledged for thousands of years, only a very few have functioned from that profound poise. Even those who have risen to that level have done so in a somewhat limited way, especially when you consider the range of experiences, powers, and aspects of the Spirit.

Now however thousands of years after the Rishis of India connected with the Absolute in their ecstatic experiences with the Divine Source, we too now are beginning to understand the vast complexity, richness, and possibilities of the spiritual domain. As we garner the psychological and spiritual experiences of a great variety of cultures; as we move away from the limits of religion steeped in dogma and single lines of truth, we have the opportunity to know the spiritual in its various aspects: as the Silent Being and Witness behind All, as the Infinite Consciousness, as the Lord of Creation, as Soul within; and so forth. We also have the freedom and opportunity to experience from among the many spiritual qualities -- including that of peace, silence, oneness, knowledge, wisdom, truth, creativity, delight, love, timelessness, and infinity.

It is important to note that Aurobindo has eloquently mapped out virtually all of the domains of the Spirit, and has even uncovered new ones, such as Supermind, i.e. Truth Consciousness, as well as the evolving soul within us. He has done this all the while coaxing us to experience spirit in any and all dimensions so that we can change our nature and evolve to spiritual-oriented being.

(pause) The other point about the Spirit always being there is that the spiritual plane is itself evolving! This is where Sri Aurobindo looms large in the picture. After tracing in *The Life Divine* the source of the universe, what he calls the Absolute, and how the universe was created and unfolded from out of It, including we humans, he uncovers something that is unique in the history of consciousness. He has discovered in essence a new aspect and quality of God.

What do you mean?

Well, he reveals that the Divine, God, Brahman, the One, whatever name you give it or experience you have of it, would never have become the universe, the creation if it weren't for a particular cosmic power. He calls that power "Supermind," also known as "Truth Consciousness." This supramental power is the force of the Infinite Divine that created the Many, that is our universe, our world, us, out of the One, the Absolute, infinite Omnipresent Reality.

In essence, 15 billion years go by, and a gentleman named Sri Aurobindo has perhaps the deepest, most profound, and most varied inner experiences any individual has ever had, and makes a great discovery. He has discovered the very spring that activated the universe. Moreover, he tells us that we too can discover and harness this Force and Power, make it a tool in our lives, which will enable us to create infinitely as well.

Sri Aurobindo believed that if we discovered and utilized this Truth Consciousness in our lives, then we could rise to a level of consciousness and being that is unprecedented in human history. That we could call down its power into our being to transform our mental consciousness, our emotional/vital being, even the very cells of our bodies and our physical makeup.

He then tells us if enough individuals made this decided, radical change that we could witness the arrival of a new human species, with powers, capacities, and experiences that are far beyond the current human; as different from the current human as Man is from the animal.

But how did Sri Aurobindo know that this Force would have this effect? Was it a philosophy, a mental construct, or something he knew was true?

Before he could broadcast his belief of the existence of the supramental, truth consciousness and power, he had to see its effect in his own life.

In his own experiments Sri Aurobindo utilized this new power to see how it functions. He began to understand its nature, how it must have played a role in the creation of the universe from a divine Source, and how it can be the lever through which individuals and humanity evolves itself into a higher nature. He in fact spent much of his later years trying to "bring down" this power into the world in a more fully formed way.

For example, he had discovered that this force would only have power

in the world if it was fully absorbed into the earth's atmosphere. Therefore, along with his partner The Mother (Mira Alfassa), he worked inwardly to bring about the descent of this Truth Consciousness, which he called "Supermind," into the earthly realm. At one point in 1967 (seventeen years after Sri Aurobindo's passing), in the midst of the student rebellions in Paris and elsewhere, the Mother one day announced that the supramental truth consciousness and power had fully descended into the earth consciousness, a breakthrough in spiritual history. The result was that it was now beginning to affect peoples, governments, and circumstance in untold ways. By the way, the Mother also indicated that anyone born after that time was more fully under the influence of Its power.



The Mother

That is pretty startling stuff! On the other hand, was there anything a little more practical, you know, for the average person, that he observed about the workings of Supermind?

Yes. Fortunately, along the way, he also discovered some unique and practical functionings of this power. For example, take the idea of accomplishing something in life. Normally when we want to achieve a goal we have to have knowledge about what we aim to accomplish, plus we also have to have the corresponding will for it to come about. One without the other is not very effective. too often in life, we have the knowledge of something, but not the will for its achievement; or the will, but not the knowledge. To have both is a rare thing, but those who do will usually succeed in the long run.

Well this new supramental functioning and power gives us both powers simultaneously. When we are under Its supramental Influence, we have the sudden, complete, integral knowledge of the thing or matter under consideration -- such as the specifics of how to achieve it -- plus we garner an inherent power for it to manifest as a real living thing in the world!

We gain both powers simultaneously when we open to Supermind, to Its Supramental power. This is not something humanity has never known before, in any way, shape, or form! It is a new and unprecedented power in the world.

Obviously, this is something far beyond our current way of living, of functioning. Presently when we want to accomplish anything, we need to plan out what we want, develop a will and aspiration for it come about, make the full, persevering effort; and then hope luck is on our side; not knowing if in the end we will be successful.

Well, when we open to this supramental truth consciousness and power, we garner the integral knowledge about the matter, even as it suddenly manifests as a living reality in the world! The thing we hoped to accomplish through considerable planning, time, and effort just happens on its own; in totality; in a perfect perfection.

By opening to Supermind, the universe broadcasts into our Minds a total, integral knowledge of the matter, while tending to manifest it as a living reality. What we hope to understand and accomplish, quickly or even instantaneously, happens on its own.

That is the power of opening to that spiritual Force, to the supramental power Sri Aurobindo had uncovered -- which, by the way, was the power that enables the universe to emerge from a Divine Source.

To instantly bring total knowledge about a matter or object and its full manifestation instantly or very rapidly is an overwhelming power of Life. What can be more practical?!?

That's astonishing. It would obviously change life as we know it.

(pause) Could you fill us in on any other ways this power operates in the world?

(pause) Well, there are new sorts of life perceptions and awareness that we experience when we open ourselves to and are guided by the Supramental power: by this descending spiritual Force.

Normally when we function in life we are focused on ourselves, and the things outside ourselves are perceived as separate or different from myself. However, when we open to this power on a regular basis, we begin to forge an inner life; a witness consciousness, if you will, that looks out on life and feels one, not separate from it. In other words, through constant consecration of circumstance, we begin to connect with our Inner Being, which can culminate with a bond with our True Self and Soul, what Sri Aurobindo calls the Psychic being, the Evolving Soul

Stationed in that poise, we perceive less division between the world outside ourselves and our selves. There is no sense of separation, which causes us to look out on things from the poise of Ego, which is separativeness and selfishness. Instead we feel a unity with the life beyond our bodies, including a deeper bond with others, and a more embracing and connection with life's circumstance; with the flow of events.

In essence, through constant consecration, we forge an opening to our Inner Being, which causes us to calmly look out on the world, and thereby become One with all of it. This leads to harmonic feelings towards others, to a life of less stress and turmoil, to a constant welling up of good feelings and high energy, to deep insight and awareness of the nature and flow of life, to making right decisions that lead to more perfect outcomes, even attracting additional good fortune in the process.

Ultimately it creates high achievement, broader and deeper awareness, a more elevated consciousness, and a deep happiness and joy in being alive.

Again, this would seem to create the possibility for a radical change in the way we function in life; to how the world would operate.

Yes, if we learn how to open to the spiritual Force, we begin to live in this astounding new way; a way that has no precedence in human history. As a result, every problem could be solved. In fact, they can be solved instantly through an intuitive knowledge capacity and also just occur on its own spontaneously as a movement of life; a life response movement.

Also, through an opening to this Divine Power everything that happens occurs at just the right moment. People appear on the scene just when they are needed. Needed and necessary resources come out of nowhere. Actions taken lead to startlingly creative and perfect outcomes. Life cooperates; people and things are in sync. There is a perfect rhythm to life around us; as well as inside in our own feelings, thoughts, and actions.

Essentially, the Force opens up the doors to infinite possibilities and potentials. Things that we perceived as limited in scope -- whether involving a mundane business transaction, a relatively innocuous scientific matter, or whatever -- now blossoms in directions one could not have imagined. The scope moves from the current finite to an unexpected Infinite.

As a result of the Force's ability to bring out the infinite from the finite, all notions of possibility are changed; of limits of quantity and quality are altered. Also as a result of the "instantaneous miraculousness" of the Force, of the action of the supramental power, our perceptions of how space and time operate are turned on their head; and our perceptions of the nature of cause and effect are completely altered, as the old models of what can logically happen, and in what sequence things can unfold are completely thrown overboard. And so on and so forth.

It kind of takes your breath away!

Yes it does.

(pause) Such an altered, infinite-like unfolding of life must obviously have an effect on how much we can accomplish in life?

Yes, to say the least!

Through the causal action of the spiritual Force we can accomplish not at twice our current level, but many more times; actually dozens, or hundreds, thousands, infinitely times greater.

The Force forces the Infinite to emerge from the Finite.

Just as the Force was there in Creation, enabling an Infinite-like universe to emerge from Its own Consciousness, so to it can act to create infinite like possibilities to emerge from the current finites -- whether material, sensational, vital, or mental.

(pause) Actually in every finite lies the potential of the Infinite; just an enormous redwood huge tree can emerge from a tiny seed. That potential in there, hidden, involved in every aspect of life -- from matter to animated life to life forms, to plants, animals, and humans; in our actions, feelings, and thoughts.

Across the spectrum of existence, on any plane -- whether in terms of thought or action or physical manifestation -- the infinite can emerge. Thus, from out a small truth can burst a plethora

of truths related to that matter that one does not perceive at first. Or from the smallest life movement, lies the opportunity for vast results we would never have imagined.

We all are aware of how a vast amount of energy can be released from the bombardment of infinitely small particles. In the same way, the smallest act can be an opening to the greatest possibility; especially when done through the highest consciousness, or when we open to this spiritual Force before engaging in it. The infinite potentials of life suddenly spring forward. Life responds positively out of all proportion.

That same infinite potential is there in us; hidden, involved, ready to come out. In that way, anyone can become a genius; anyone in the right spirit can have a major impact on society; anyone can rise above his current status and evolve and transform the mental, vital, and physical aspects of his nature.

But what makes that possible?

It's because the Infinite Consciousness and Force, that is the source of all, has buried Itself in all things, has plunged Itself into an unconsciousness, and yet can be released in any form it inhabits.

We are capable of making contact with that Essence and bringing out that hidden potential within us and with the life around us. It requires us to know the laws of consciousness and make use of the methods that evoke the infinite from that finite; that turn facts into an idea of genius; that turns a small insignificant act into a startling result. When I change a wanting attitude; when I apply the right personal value; when I take the right action based on life conditions, the world around us suddenly cooperates. The small thought turns into a Big Idea. The routine act turns into a major benefit. The acute problem quickly resolved. The pain suddenly ceases to ache; and so forth for every aspect of life.

(pause) Fortunately, we do not have to do it all on our own. We can make use of the descending Supramental Power to bring out that Infinite. Thus, when we offer any circumstances to the spiritual Force, life responds with astounding positive results, essentially replacing the current finite condition with something so much greater.

Solutions to problems arrive from out of nowhere. Limits of success are turned into limitless outcomes. Small mental perceptions turned into vast lights of integral knowledge of Truth. And so forth

In essence, what Sri Aurobindo called the Truth Consciousness -- the Supramental power -- releases the infinite possibilities from the current finite. It brings forth the hidden, involved as potential Conscious Force in a thing or matter; the seed I spoke of earlier; and brings it to the surface of life so that things manifest a much wider potential.

This staggering, infinite-like Power that overcomes space, time, cause, effect, and possibility, and evokes the infinite involved in the finite, is what Sri Aurobindo uncovered for the world. He came

to perceive this Force and dedicated himself to bringing it into life so individuals would have access to it.

He came in contact with that Knowledge and Power, and worked to bring it down into life. In 1956, through the startling inner efforts of the Mother, that Truth Consciousness and Power descended fully into the earth's atmosphere. Ever since, the world has subtly been under Its influence. And ever since that Force is readily available to anyone who opens to It and calls It into his or her life.

Many I know have been opening to that spiritual Force on a regular basis, and are evoking astonishing "life response" results. Thousands of tiny or large miracles are occurring in every facet of life: enabling vast accomplishment, quickly overcoming huge challenges and problems; evoking stunning insights about existence; resolving impossible conundrums; overcoming illness and disease; and even solving huge problems for society.

I understand that the Mother plays a significant role here.

Yes, she is the channel by which followers of the Force open to it. I.e. these spiritual devotees open to the Mother and let Her be the conduit for the Force to enter their lives. Invariably, a series of wonderful outcomes follow.

Opening to the Divine Mother is the most direct and concentrated way to gain access to this ultimate, Causal Power of the universe.

(pause) So this completely changes the equation of life. This ultimate plane and power of Supramental Force is what Sri Aurobindo discovered and worked on his entire life to call down into the earth's atmosphere.

So that's where we begin; by opening to this spiritual power?

(pause) Actually, he asks us first to Aspire for something higher in our life; for a new consciousness, for ourselves and the world.

He also asks us to make a sincere effort to overcome parts of our limited nature: our current mental, vital, and physical deficiencies. That is what we might call "personal growth" today. He asked us to strive to overcome our wanting attitudes, our fixed habits, our narrow beliefs, our movements of ego and desire, and so forth. That is, recognize the deficiencies in ourselves, and wherever we can, make the effort to overcome them. That is a personal effort to bring about higher consciousness in our being, which will in turn enable us to have a more positive relation with life. Through our efforts of control and overcome our deficiencies, we take the first steps away from the normal human nature of ignorance, suffering, incapacity, and failure, and move to a higher status, consciousness, and being.

And the spiritual power?

Yes, and finally he asks those who were sincere in their aspiration for a higher life, make the effort to open themselves to the Supramental force and power, and use it in their everyday lives: for any act they are going to engage in, into the details of their work and businesses, for problems they are having, for opportunities that have come their way, and so forth.

For example, if one opens to it just before an important meeting, everything starts working right, people are friendly and cooperative, new opportunities seem to arrive out of nowhere. It is too incredible to believe, but that is precisely what happens when you open to the Mother's Force before engaging in any activity.

And you have had this experience?

Yes, dozens if not hundreds of times.

(pause) What is interesting is then when we utilize this power the world becomes completely different. We are instantly freed from the barriers of life that Satprem railed against. By opening to that power, we attract the infinite into the current finite, while changing the rules of space and time. Life cooperates from all quarters due to the consciousness and power we have evoked.

(pause) Actually he asks us not just to open to this Power, but to Surrender our very being to it. In other words, one level is to open to the spiritual Force to bring us benefit or alleviate a problem; but a further stage is to simply to Surrender to It, to the Divine Mother, so that we are guided by Its Purpose and Intent. In that way, we become instruments of the Divine Purpose. We sense what the Divine is asking of us, and we are fully determined to act that way, do that work, and move along that Path on Its behalf.

So this force can help us in our own personal development, and even in society's as well?

Yes, exactly.

And there's more.

While I have spoken of this power to evoke startling infinite-like results in the world -- infinitely more accomplishment, success, happiness, and so forth, for ourselves, for society -- there is also an even deeper purpose that It serves for us. It helps us realize our destiny and purpose in relation to the destiny and purpose of the cosmos itself.

What Do You Mean?

Well, according to Sri Aurobindo this universe emerged from a Divine Source so that the forms, including us could have the Joy of discovery of our true nature. That is precisely why the cosmos was created by the Infinite consciousness in the first place: so that a multiplicity and diversity of forces and forms, including we humans, could experience the Delight and Bliss experienced by the Creator.

So when we open to this Supramental Truth Consciousness and the world is dramatically altered around us, we feel an intense Delight and Joy of being alive. That in turn fulfills the very reason and purpose the Infinite Divine evolved a universe of forms from out of Itself: Delight.

Through the Supramental power we also become instruments of progress and evolution. We fulfill the Intent of the Infinite Divine to have all of Its Divine Aspects -- Peace, Oneness, Truth, Knowledge, Goodness, Creativity, Beauty, Delight, Love, Timelessness, Infinity, etc. -- manifest in the details of life. By opening to that Power, we not only become human instruments that realize that Divine Intent, but we discover our own Destiny and Purpose in life.

(pause) That is a very powerful conception of life. But where would we begin?

(pause) I think first we have to ask ourselves if we want to participate in this journey; if we want to collaborate in this cosmic, yet very personal process.

And if we did, what would we do next?

I think the first step is to have the aspiration to grow, develop, and evolve as an individual. That is the minimum. It is what we normally call "personal growth." We can even aspire for its more dramatic form -- personal evolution and transformation, for ourselves and the collectives we are part of.

We can also collaborate in this Divine process by opening to and bringing down this higher power, this Truth Consciousness, into the details of our lives so that we can evoke good fortune for ourselves and life around us.

Better yet, we can call in that Power to change our wanting nature -- our limited attitudes, opinions, actions, and beliefs; uplifting all aspects of our being; and all limitations of consciousness around us. In that way we can change our current limited nature into a new Supernature, filled with the Light and Truth and Love of the Infinite Divine.

If a number of individuals collaborate in this endeavor, embark on this divine path, we might see the emergence of a new humanity; one that is filled with the light and powers of the Infinite Divine.

In the final analysis, it is Divine Life on earth that Sri Aurobindo has offered humanity. It is a stunning yet infinitely practical Vision he has offered the world.

"I saw them cross the twilight of an age,
The sun-eyed children of the marvelous dawn,
The great creators with wide brows of calm,
The massive barrier-breakers of the world
And wrestlers with destiny in her lists of will,
The laborers in the quarries of the gods,

The messengers of the Incommunicable,
The architects of immortality.
Into the fallen human sphere they came,
Faces that wore the Immortal's glory still,
Voices that communed still with the thoughts of God,
Bodies made beautiful by the Spirit's light,
Carrying the magic word, the mystic fire,
Carrying the Dionysian cup of joy,
Approaching eyes of a diviner man,
Lips chanting an unknown anthem of the soul,
Feet echoing in the corridors of Time."

(from the canto 'The Vision and the Boon,' from the 24,000-line epic poem *Savitri* by Sri Aurobindo)

PART III: Making it Practical

So how do we start? How can an individual practically apply himself to begin to achieve these results?

To answer this let me begin with a story. I was working as a salesperson in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles in the mid-70s. I was involved with a company called "Mere Cie" that was selling products from India, particularly from organizations dedicated to Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Interestingly, the people at Mere Cie had dedicated themselves to applying Sri Aurobindo's ideas in the details of their daily work.

I remember one time I sat in front of the owner of Mere Cie (Gary Jacobs, a friend of mine now for over 35 years) and he asked me to sell the one product that I most disliked to sell; a beautiful but expensive line of marbled scarves. Startled by his remark, I told him that nobody wanted to buy these things. At one level, he agreed, but he then added a remark that struck me to the very core of my being. He said that if I were to open myself to the Mother, to the spiritual Force before I entered the store or spoke with the buyer, I would open up the doors to sudden, unexpected success.

To be honest I did not follow his advice very well. I remained pretty much unwilling to sell what I perceived to be hard-to-sell products, and more importantly I only rarely took up his advice about opening to this Higher Power before commencing a sale.

Twenty-five years later I use this technique often, and as a result continuously experience positive, even overwhelming results. For example, if before I lead a training session, I open to this Higher Power, at the end of the day I realize how smoothly things went; that life seemed to cooperate at every turn; that people seemed happier; that the atmosphere was buoyant and positive; that my students were stimulated and energized.

So I practiced this technique of "consecration," i.e. opening to the spiritual Force before commencing any major activity, with startling life response results.

By the way, this is a spiritual technique that anyone one can practice to evoke enormously positive outcomes. We can call in the spiritual Force before major activity, when a problem arises, when an opportunity presents itself, when we want to change some wanting aspect of our nature, or just to experience the calm and delight that invariably follows.

If you experience the powerful results even once, you are likely hooked for life. You sense that there is more to life than what you may have come to believe. You feel a sense of deep gladness inside, even as you realize that you have the potential to harness an infinite-like power. Ultimately, you realize that from within you can become the Master of all Life.

That is very encouraging. It would seem that we are not helpless victims of fate, but can be spiritual like beings who can control the outcomes of life!

Exactly!

(Pause) In any case, our ability to open to this power, which he referred to as the "Supramental Force" or "Mother's Force" is one of Sri Aurobindo's great revelations to the world. He showed us that through this Cosmic Power we could shape the world in our highest image, and bring about a more harmonious, perfect, and divine life on earth.

(pause) So Sri Aurobindo mostly worked at the level of future possibility; of what we could create from a higher view using this cosmic power. It seems like he didn't like to focus much on the past, or what we humans are going through now.

Well, though Sri Aurobindo wrote in great detail about this power and a future humanity that would evolve into something greater in the light of this power, he also wrote extensively on how humans are currently evolving -- even if they never come in contact with spiritual powers, or are being part of some kind of future spiritual destiny.

In books such as *The Synthesis of Yoga* and in his thousands of letters to his followers he mapped out what human beings basically are made up of, what our positive and negative qualities were within that makeup, and how we can learn to shed those negative qualities, and learn to open to the spiritual realm, the Force, so that we can grow and evolve, which makes us far more healthy, productive, happy people. I think for most people that is enough! Being an instrument of universal creation and the cosmos is beyond the purview of most!



Fully accepting the majority of the tenets of Darwin and his evolutionary scientific view, Sri Aurobindo was able to clearly show how matter, life, and mind evolved on earth (and perhaps elsewhere) through the mineral, plant, animal, and human form. What made his thinking unique in this area is that he went a step further back to trace the *causes* of our limited nature, and the evolution it necessitates.

E.g. he explains why there are both positive and negative in the world, and how these dualities manifest in our bodies, our emotions, and our thoughts, producing our current limited human condition. He indicates it can be traced back to the creation itself, to an Involutionary process in which all consciousness was left behind, even though forms of Force were enabled.

For example, humans get sick, have illness, and ultimately die. This is because of the limitations of our original nature; in particular, the limits of unconsciousness of matter that is the basis of our *physical* makeup. Likewise, the body is also filled with inertia and "tamas," an Indian term related to inertia and immovability. The body does not want to change and move out of its fixed habits and what is familiar. Again, this can be traced back to the original inconscience of matter that we humans emerged out of.

The same is true for the *vital* realm of being that evolved out of the physical. Although the vital is filled with energy and sensation that the purely physical plane lacks, it is also filled with its own limitations -- of desire, want, need, pain, limited attitudes, etc. Because it evolved out of the ignorant, unconscious physical plane, it shares some of those same qualities. Like the physical body which is separated from other bodies, our feelings and emotions are divided between pleasure and pain, mostly due to the separative nature of the Ego.

Then out of the vital capacities evolved further powers of consciousness, particularly in Man, in the form of Mind - that is, our ability to think. The mental plane, i.e. the brain and our thought processes also has the foundation of the Inconscience of the physical and the weaknesses of the vital, carries forth their falsehoods, and manifests new falsehoods within the thinking process and functioning. For example, Sri Aurobindo states that the mind is an exclusionary organ. It accepts one thing over another thing. That is it sees one truth and not the whole truth. Or, it is attached to one idea over another because it is the slave of the passions, needs, and desires of the lower vital nature.

That doesn't sound very good.

Well, I have put this all in a negative context to show the weakness and limits of our nature. The positive side of our nature is also present. E.g. the abundant energy and dexterous movement of the physical body; the higher emotions and sentiments of the vital nature; the deepest and widest understandings and perceptions of the mental realm. Together they fill life with joy of being.

So there is this mixture of the positive and negative that Sri Aurobindo has identified and traced back to the process of creation itself.

(pause) So to get back to your point, what is most useful for most of us is that Sri Aurobindo concluded that if we want to be better, more conscious humans, we need to change our ignorant, false nature; our incapacities at the mental, vital, and physical levels, so that our truer, higher nature can emerge. If we made this effort, then surely we would find greater fulfillment and joy in our lives - in work, through our families, in our creative capacity, tin connection to the Spirit; in sum, in every aspect and plane of our existence.

This is in essence why we created Growth Online: to provide a vision of what we humans could become at a practical level if we overcame our limited nature, and discovered a new, higher superconsciousness and nature.

Thus, we developed a series of practical articles that can help any individual overcome particular limitations in their nature, but also powerful insights into a new supernature that they could grow into. This would result not only in greater achievement and success, better relations with others, but deep psychological and spiritual fulfillment in life.

So there is a path to move forward from where we are.

Yes. At the very least we can make the effort to "upgrade" ourselves, to use the computer software vernacular. We can overcome our mental, vital, physical limitations in many ways: By overcoming our negative attitudes and habits, by organizing ourselves better, by increasing our knowledge and improving our skills, by applying personal values to our work and other facets our lives, by developing inner strength, by targeting our intention and goals, by overcoming our selfishness and ego-sense and turn it into self-givingness, and so forth. These approaches have the net effect of helping us become more integrated individuals; capable of accomplishing at infinitely higher levels; and experiencing deep, inner fulfillment and joy that we would never have known before.

But how does Sri Aurobindo relate to this?

Sri Aurobindo often spoke of the integration of the parts of our being so that we could live more productive and fulfilled lives. Why he has so much credibility in this area is that he was able to trace the cause of our incapacities and capacities to the source of creation; to the involutory and evolutionary processes that lead we humans to what we have now become.

He indicated that out of an Infinite Consciousness came a world of ignorant, inconscient, divided beings. He traced these limits in the three major planes of our being -- physical, vital/emotional, and mental. From this analysis, he showed a way out to a higher nature. That through a conscious effort we could overcome our limitations -- mentally, vitally, and physically -- and develop a *supernature* in which we would embrace and embody spiritual-like aspects of peace, light, harmony, oneness, truth, knowledge, goodness, beauty, delight, and love.

This we have presented at Growth Online through dozens of articles.

(pause) And yet there is something more. It is that we can garner a Power over life, and do so from within. We can learn the deepest principles of existence, and utilize that knowledge to take certain inner and outer actions that bring life to our doorstep. As a result, from within we are able to become the Masters of the outer life.

Again, at Growth Online we talk about this connection between the outer events in life and our inner perceptions. We indicate that if we change certain key negative perceptions, attitudes, reluctances, habits in our being, then life instantly responds in kind with good fortune. We call this phenomenon a "Life Response," and is an astonishing thing to experience. E.g. you change an attitude from reluctance to acceptance, and someone suddenly calls you from out of the blue with a big opportunity. There are endless examples of this extraordinary phenomenon, and Growth Online is filled with hundreds of true-life experiences and explanations that will take one's breath away.

And Life Response is but one of the hidden pattern of life that we reveal at the sight. And it too defies our normal perceptions of how the world operates. In fact, this is an area where The Mother's Service Society ("MSS") has done tremendous research, uncovering so many of the hidden principals underlying existence. Here at Growth Online you can find an astonishing array of articles and insights describing these principles, how individuals have used them to attract startling results, and as a result, how individuals are literally able to become the Master of life from within.

The result of applying this knowledge is not only startling life response results, but deep insight into the nature of existence, tremendous accomplishment, boundless energy, and deep inner joy and fulfillment.

So there seems to be a number of ways people can learn to improve themselves and understand and master life.

Yes. An individual can at the highest level participate in the unfolding of the spiritual destiny of the universe, or, if a little less ambitious(!), can simply learn to make his being more whole by learning the fundamental techniques of personal growth -- including higher attitudes, more skills, greater and more integral knowledge, more energy, more organization, and other capacities to make them an a more integral person.

One can also learn the inner functionings of life, including the subtle principles and powers of Life Response and Consecration, i.e. opening to the spiritual Force when engaging in life. These will attract extraordinary results, and if taken up in full, with sincerity, enables one to become the Master of Life.

One can also learn, if so inclined, to understand how the universe came to be from a divine source. Such principles of creation as Satchitananda, and the nature of the Truth Consciousness (Supermind) that Sri Aurobindo has so magnificently identified and brought into the world.

One can also embark on a journey of spiritual transformation, including the discovery of one's personal evolving soul, as well as opening to the descending spiritual Force and Light that enables us to transform our physical, vital, and mental nature, thus evolving into a new spiritual-oriented being. That can culminate in an ultimate change, a supramental transformation, where we develop a Supernature, and become harbingers of a new type of spirit-oriented individual on earth.

(pause) So which path should one take? It depends on what we are ready for. What we aspire for, what motivates us, what we hunger for, looking for, are seeking in life.

What were you looking for?

For me as a young man, when I felt the possibility of a new type of humanity, a new type of future, based on the spiritual change, it touched on my idealism. But then seeing it in action in my life, experiencing it, when I saw these magical powers at work in everyday life, it stimulated the emotions and also made me comprehend the great possibilities of how these forces can be used in one's work, in business, in society.

And yet, interestingly enough, it was not until I made the more practical decision to change my negative attitudes and habits and opinions, overcome my limitations of will and by own personal physical and vital inertia; that is, only when I made the effort to make myself a more dynamic, energetic, and integrated personality, was I able to fully utilize this higher knowledge and powers in my everyday life.

Any final thoughts?

Yes. In the end Sri Aurobindo helped us understand our limitations, mapped out a way to become more integrated individuals, revealed to us the unseen forces at work in life, uncovered a Force and consciousness that enabled infinite possibilities, and ultimately revealed the source of creation and the destiny of humanity and the universe.

Ultimately therefore, it is up to us to decide what we want, and if we are moved to do so, how we can collaborate with the astonishing realities and possibilities that Sri Aurobindo has laid out before us.

Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us. It certainly gives us a lot to think about!

It was a total pleasure!