

*All India Magazine*  
*August 2024*

The Mother  
on  
INDIA





*(About "the Mother's flag", which contains her symbol  
in gold centred on a silver-blue background)*

It is the flag of India's spiritual mission. And in the accomplishment of this mission will India's unity be accomplished.

*CWM 13: 352, 15 August 1947*

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## **ALL INDIA MAGAZINE**

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# THE MOTHER ON INDIA

*Matter shall reveal the Spirit's face. — Sri Aurobindo*

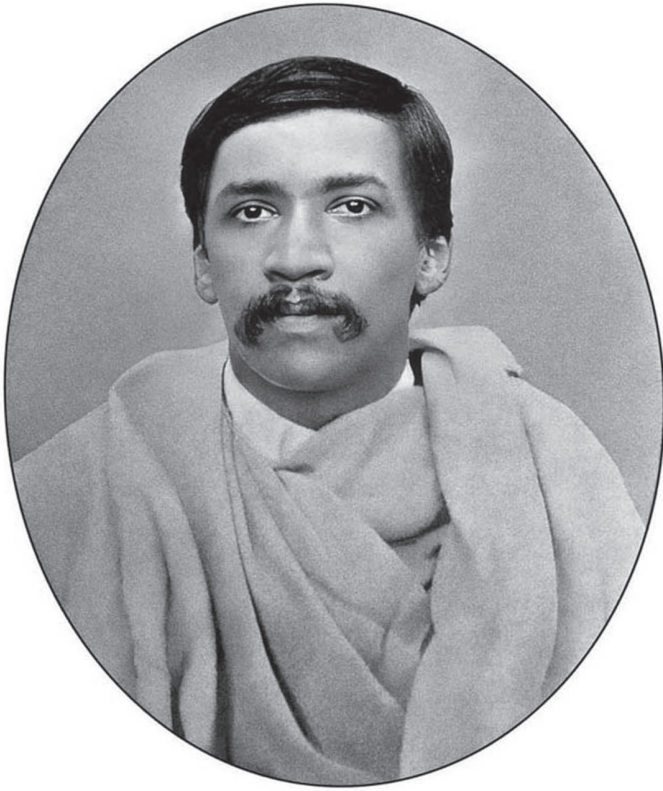
## CONTENTS

The Soul of India	...	6
Notes and comments on India	...	11
Messages on India	...	25
The Unity of India	...	33

*Let the soul of India live forever!*  
**The Mother**



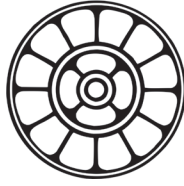
*Editorial note: The Mother and Sri Aurobindo saw India as having an important and central role to play in the Divine scheme of things. But for this to happen India had to recover and reclaim her lost wisdom, glory and power. Accordingly, they gave many important hints and clues besides choosing India as the central place of their work and mission. This issue is dedicated to the Mother's vision of India and her destiny.*



Sri Aurobindo always loved deeply his Motherland. But he wished her to be great, noble, pure and worthy of her big mission in the world. He refused to let her sink to the sordid and vulgar level of blind self-interests and ignorant prejudices. This is why, in full conformity to his will, we lift high the standard of truth, progress and transformation of mankind, without caring for those who, through ignorance, stupidity, envy or bad will, seek to soil it and drag it down into the mud. We carry it very high so that all who have a soul may see it and gather round it.

CWM 13: 123

**The Mother**



*Let India work for the future and set the example. Thus she will recover her true place in the world.*

*Since long it was the habit to govern through division and opposition.*

*The time has come to govern through union, mutual understanding and collaboration.*

*To choose a collaborator, the value of the man is more important than the party to which he belongs.*

*The greatness of a country does not depend on the victory of a party but on the union of all the parties.*

*Blessings*

# The Soul of India

The Soul of India is one and indivisible. India is conscious of her mission in the world. She is waiting for the exterior means of manifestation.

*CWM 13: 351*

O soul of India, hide thyself no longer with the darkened Pandits of the Kaliyuga in the kitchen and the chapel, veil not thyself with the soulless rite, the obsolete law and the unblessed money of the Dakshina; but seek in thy soul, ask of God and recover thy true Brahminhood and Kshatriyahood with the eternal Veda; restore the hidden truth of the Vedic sacrifice, return to the fulfilment of an older and mightier Vedanta.

This is to free us from so-called religious conventions which tell us what to do and what not to do. We must recover the true wisdom and receive directly from the Divine the precise indications for living in and for the Truth.

*CWM 13: 314-15*

## INVOCATION

**15 August 1947**

O our Mother, O Soul of India, Mother who hast never forsaken thy children even in the days of darkest depression, even when they turned away from thy voice, served other masters and denied thee, now when they have arisen and the light is on thy face in this dawn of thy liberation, in this great hour we salute thee. Guide us so that the horizon of freedom opening before us may be also a horizon of true greatness and of thy true life in the community of the nations. Guide us so that we may be always on the side of great ideals and show to men thy true visage, as a leader in the ways of the spirit and a friend and helper of all the peoples.

*CWM 13: 314-15*

## Mother India

Just as each individual has a psychic being which is his true self and which governs his destiny more or less overtly, so too each nation has a psychic being which is its true being and moulds its destiny from behind the veil: it is the soul of the country, the national genius, the spirit of the people, the centre of national aspiration, the fountainhead of all that is beautiful, noble, great and generous in the life of the country. True patriots feel its presence as a tangible reality. In India it has been made into an almost divine entity, and all who truly love their country call it "Mother India" (Bharat Mata) and offer her a daily prayer for the welfare of their country. It is she who symbolises and embodies the true ideal of the country, its true mission in the world.

The thinking elite in India even identifies her with one of the aspects of the universal Mother, as the following extract from the *Hymn to Durga* illustrates:

"Mother Durga! Rider on the lion, giver of all strength,... we, born from thy parts of Power, we the youth of India, are seated here in thy temple. Listen, O Mother, descend upon earth, make thyself manifest in this land of India.

"Mother Durga! Giver of force and love and knowledge, terrible art thou in thy own self of might, Mother beautiful and fierce. In the battle of life, in India's battle, we are warriors commissioned by thee; Mother, give to our heart and mind a titan's energy, to our soul and intelligence a god's character and knowledge.

"Mother Durga! India, world's noblest race, lay whelmed in darkness. Mother, thou risest on the eastern horizon, the dawn comes with the glow of thy divine limbs scattering the darkness. Spread thy light, Mother, destroy the darkness.

"Mother Durga! We are thy children, through thy grace, by thy influence may we become fit for the great work, for the great Ideal. Mother, destroy our smallness, our selfishness, our fear.

"Mother Durga! Thou art Kali... sword in hand, thou slayest

the Asura. Goddess, do thou slay with thy pitiless cry the enemies who dwell within us, may none remain alive there, not one. May we become pure and spotless, this is our prayer, O Mother, make thyself manifest.

"Mother Durga! India lies low in selfishness and fearfulness and littleness. Make us great, make our efforts great, our hearts vast, make us true to our resolve. May we no longer desire the small, void of energy, given to laziness, stricken with fear.

"Mother Durga! Extend wide the power of Yoga. We are thy Aryan children, develop in us again the lost teaching, character, strength of intelligence, faith and devotion, force of austerity, power of chastity and true knowledge, bestow all that upon the world. To help mankind, appear, O Mother of the world, dispel all ills.

"Mother Durga! Slay the enemy within, then root out all obstacles abroad. May the noble heroic mighty Indian race, supreme in love and unity, truth and strength, arts and letters, force and knowledge, ever dwell in its holy woodlands, its fertile fields, under its sky-scraping hills, along the banks of its pure streaming rivers. This is our prayer at the feet of the Mother. Make thyself manifest.

"Mother Durga! Enter our bodies in thy Yogic strength. We shall become thy instruments, thy sword slaying all evil, thy lamp dispelling all ignorance. Fulfil this yearning of thy young children, O Mother. Be the master and drive thy instrument, wield thy sword and slay the evil, hold up the lamp and spread the light of knowledge. Make thyself manifest."

One would like to see in all countries the same veneration for the national soul, the same aspiration to become fit instruments for the manifestation of its highest ideal, the same ardour for progress and self-perfection enabling each people to identify itself with its national soul and thus find its true nature and role, which makes each one a living and immortal entity regardless of all the accidents of history.

*CWM 12: 42-44*



## What is India

*What is India?*

India is not the earth, rivers and mountains of this land, neither is it a collective name for the inhabitants of this country. India is a living being, as much living as, say, Shiva. India is a goddess as Shiva is a god. If she likes, she can manifest in human form.

\*

From time immemorial (some scholars say 8000 years before the Christian era) India has been the land of spiritual knowledge and practice, of the discovery of the Supreme Reality and union with it. It is the country that has practised concentration most and best. The methods, called Yoga in Sanskrit, that are taught and used in this country are countless. Some are merely material, others purely intellectual, others religious and devotional; lastly, some of them combine these various processes in order to achieve a more integral result.

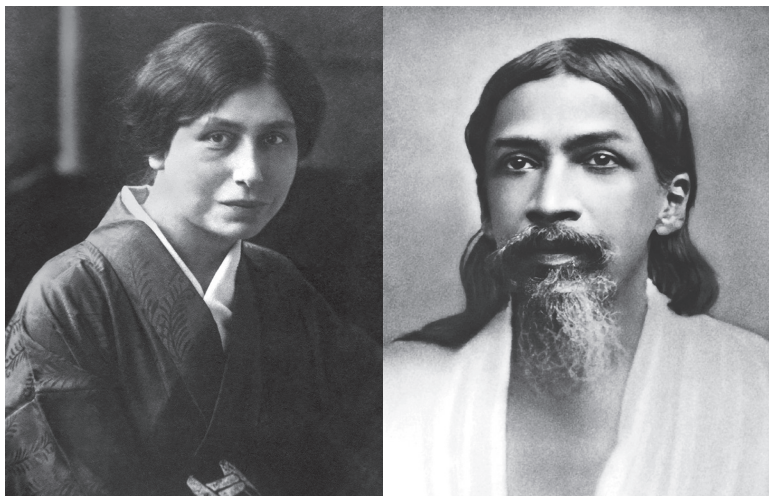
*CWM 12: 42-44*

**The Mother**

**I**t is one of the greatest weapons of the Asura at work when you are taught to shun beauty. It has been the ruin of India. The Divine manifests in the psychic as love, in the mind as knowledge, in the vital as power and in the physical as beauty. If you discard beauty it means that you are depriving the Divine of this manifestation in the material and you hand over that part to the Asura.

*CWM 13: 373-73*

**The Mother**



*Mother, In 1919 Sri Aurobindo wrote that the chaos and the calamities were perhaps the pangs of the birth of a new creation. How long are these pangs going to continue — in the Ashram, in India and eventually in the world?*

It will continue until the world is ready and willing to receive the new creation; the consciousness of this new creation is already at work upon earth since the beginning of this year.

If, instead of resisting, the people were collaborating, it would go quicker.

But stupidity and ignorance are very obstinate.

Love and blessings.

CWM 17: 322

**The Mother**

## Notes and comments on India

*Sweet Mother, One sees that the world as a whole is presently in a sort of disequilibrium and chaos. Does this mean that it is preparing for the manifestation of a new force, for the descent of the Truth, or is it the result of the action of hostile forces in revolt against this descent? And what place does India occupy in all this?*

It is both at the same time — a chaotic means of preparation. India ought to be the spiritual guide who explains what is happening and helps to hasten the movement. But unfortunately, in her blind ambition to imitate the West, she has become materialistic and neglectful of her soul.

CWM 16:326-27

*Sweet Mother, Sri Aurobindo says that five thousand years have passed since the great battle of Kurukshetra was fought. But the benign influence of Sri Krishna's political genius ended only yesterday with Rani Lakshmbai. After that, to protect India and the world anew, there had to be a Purna Avatar.<sup>2</sup> This Avatar will awaken the Brahmatej<sup>3</sup>, which is dormant. Sri Aurobindo also says that it is only in the Kaliyuga<sup>4</sup> that the Divine manifests fully because man is in great danger in this age. And here he is! He himself reveals the great secret: the Divine has fully manifested in India. But he has the modesty not to say that he himself is this manifestation!*

Those who accomplish the work are not in the habit of boasting. They keep their energy for the task and leave the glory of the results to the Eternal Lord.

CWM 16: 269-70

## Sri Aurobindo and India

*Mother, has this day, the fifteenth of August, an occult or a simple significance? For, in history, important events occurred on this day.*

*What exactly do you mean? The fifteenth of August is Sri Aurobindo's birthday. Therefore, it is a date which has a capital importance in the life of the earth, from the physical point of view. So?*

*On August fifteenth other important events took place?...*

What, the liberation of India? Is it because the liberation of India came about on the fifteenth of August? And so, it is necessary to tell you why it happened, you can't find it out by yourself, can you? It needs to be said, does it? I think Sri Aurobindo has written it also, hasn't he, in the message he gave? Hasn't he said it?

*(Silence)*

Yes, it is exactly that....

Today, there came into my hands one of those greeting cards which people send on puja days or for the new year or other such festivals; and on this card was written something like this — I don't recall the exact words — but anyway they were, "Greetings on the occasion of this memorable day of the birth of our nation." It is sent by someone who, I think, proclaimed himself a disciple of Sri Aurobindo quite a long time ago.... That seemed to me one of those enormities which human stupidity alone can commit. If he had said: "On this memorable day of the birth of Sri Aurobindo and its natural consequence, the birth of the nation", it would have been quite all right. But still, the important point was left out and the other mentioned, which is quite simply a consequence, a natural result: it had to be like that, it could not be otherwise.

But people always think like that, the wrong way up. Always. They take the effect for the cause, they glorify the effect and forget the cause.

And that is why the world walks on its head with its feet in the air. Quite simply, there is no other reason.

*CWM 8: 264-65*

### **Understanding India**

*("Ah! Since India is the cradle of religion and since so many gods preside over her destiny, who among them will accomplish the miracle of resuscitating the city?")*

A. Choumel (in an article on Pondicherry in 1928)

Blinded by false appearances, deceived by calumnies, held back by fear and prejudice, he has passed by the side of the god whose intervention he implores and saw him not; he has walked near to the forces which will accomplish the miracle he demands and had no will to recognise them. Thus has he lost the greatest opportunity of his life — a unique opportunity of entering into contact with the mysteries and marvels whose existence his brain has divined and to which his heart obscurely aspires.

In all times the aspirant, before receiving initiation, had to pass through tests. In the schools of antiquity these tests were artificial and by that they lost the greater part of their value. But it is no longer so now. The test hides behind some very ordinary every-day circumstance and wears an innocent air of coincidence and chance which makes it still more difficult and dangerous.

It is only to those who can conquer the mind's preferences and prejudices of race and education that India reveals the mystery of her treasures. Others depart disappointed, failing to find what they seek; for they have sought it in the wrong way and would not agree to pay the price of the Divine Discovery.

*CWM 13: 373-74*

## A vision of India

1. *If you were asked to sum up, just in one sentence, your vision of India, what would be your answer?*

India's true destiny is to be the Guru of the world.

2. *Similarly, if you were asked to comment on the reality as you see it, how would you do so in one sentence?*

The present reality is a big falsehood — hiding an eternal truth.

3. *What, according to you, are the three main barriers that stand between the vision and the reality?*

(a) Ignorance; (b) fear; (c) falsehood.

4. *Are you satisfied with the over-all progress India has made since Independence?*

No.

5. *What is our most outstanding achievement in recent times? Why do you consider it so important?*

Waking up of the yearning for Truth. Because without Truth there is no reality.

6. *Likewise, can you name our saddest failure? On what grounds do you regard it as so tragic?*

Insincerity. Because insincerity leads to ruin.

CWM 13: 358-59

**The Mother**

## The Indian Genius

I have also received the Grande Revue and I read the article you mention. I found it rather dull, but apart from that not too bad. But the Mukerjee quoted there must have lived for many years

outside India (in America, I believe) and has become completely westernised; otherwise he would not give Gandhi and Tagore as the two most popular figures in India. On the contrary it is outside India that they are most popular; and for foreigners these two men seem to be the only ones who represent Indian genius. This is very far from the truth, and if they are so well known in Western countries, it is probably because their stature does not go beyond the understanding of the Western mind.

India has far greater geniuses than these and in the most varied fields, scientific, literary, philosophic, spiritual. It is true that the young people from Shantiniketan come out refined, but without any force or energy for realisation. As for Gandhi's young people, they may have more energy and power of action, but they are imprisoned within the four walls of a few narrow ideas and a limited mind.

I repeat, there is better, far better in India, but this India does not care for international glory.

*CWM 16: 5-6*

## OM

In India's languages, they have this OM... which is a marvel. You know what they say? That OM is the totality of the sounds of the creation perceived by the Supreme; He hears OM as a call to Him — as an idea, it's magnificent! As a symbol, as a... Only...

*And as a power! Not only as a symbol, but as a power.*

Oh, a tremendous power — tremendous. The first time I heard it... The first time I heard it... There was a certain Bernard who had spent a year in India, in the Himalayas, and he was visited by yogis whom he didn't know (he lived in a hut in the Himalayas, all alone). One yogi came to see him; he didn't say anything, he just sat by his side and then left. And that yogi simply told him, "OM..." Then he came back to France, recounted his experiences in India, and he said that. Me, I knew absolutely nothing of India at the time,

and when he uttered the word OM... (Mother brings her arms down), it came: a Force like this, my whole, entire body, everything vibrated in an extraordinary way! It was like a revelation — everything, but everything started vibrating. Then I said, "At last, here's the true sound!" Yet I knew nothing, absolutely nothing, neither what it meant nor anything.

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, December 24, 1969*

## **India and Auroville**

From a spiritual point of view, India is the foremost country in the world. Its mission is to give the example of spirituality. Sri Aurobindo came on earth to teach this to the world.

This fact is so obvious, that even a simple, ignorant farmer here is in his heart closer to the Divine than all the intellectuals of Europe.

All those who want to become Aurovilians must know that and behave accordingly, otherwise they are unworthy of being Aurovilians.

\*

"India has become...

It was the vision of the thing, and it instantly translated into French words.

"India has become the symbolic representation of all the difficulties of modern mankind.

"India will be the land of its resurrection—the resurrection to a higher and truer life."

And the clear vision: the same thing which in the history of the universe made the earth the symbolic representation of the universe so as to concentrate the work on one point, the same phenomenon is now taking place: India is the representation of all human difficulties on earth, and it is in India that the... cure will be found. And then, that is why — that is why I was made to start



Auroville.

It came and it was so clear, so tremendously powerful!

So I wrote it down. I didn't tell them how or why, I told them, "Put this at the beginning of your paper, whatever it is; you can say whatever you like, but put this first."

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, February 8, 1972*

## **Gandhian Non-violence**

Violence is necessary as long as men are ruled by their ego and its desires. But violence must be used only as a means of defense when you are attacked. The ideal towards which humanity is moving and which we want to realize is a state of luminous understanding in which each person's needs as well as the harmony of the whole are taken into account.

The future will have no need of violence because it will be governed by the Divine Consciousness, in which all things are harmonized and complement each other.

For the moment, we are still in a stage where weapons are necessary. But it should be understood that this is a transitory stage, not a permanent one, and we must strive for the other one.

Peace... peace and harmony will be a natural outcome of the change of consciousness.

You see, in India there reigns the Gandhian concept of non-violence which has replaced physical violence with moral violence, but it's far worse!

But if you dare speak against Gandhi, everyone will immediately... oh!

You don't need to mention his name, you can explain to the children that replacing physical violence with moral violence is no better. Lying down in front of a train to stop it running is a moral violence that can ultimately cause more disorder than physical violence.

There would be a lot to say.... It depends on each case. I myself very much encouraged the practice of fencing because it gives you skill, control over your movements and discipline in violence—I very much encouraged fencing at one time. I learned how to shoot; I used to shoot with a rifle, because it gives you steadiness and skill and a very good eye; and it forces you to remain calm in the midst of danger. All these things are.... I don't see why one should be hopelessly nonviolent, it only makes a spineless character.

Turn it into an art! An art for cultivating calm, skill and self-control. There's no need to cry out indignantly as Gandhi would. It's useless, useless, absolutely useless—I am not at all in favor of it! One should master the means of self-defense, and one should cultivate them in order to do so.

Above all, make them understand that moral violence is just as bad as physical violence. It can even be worse, that is, at least physical violence forces you to become strong and control yourself, whereas moral violence is.... You may be like this [apparently quiet] and harbor the worst moral violence in yourself.

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, February 18, 1973*

## **Krishna and the Gita**

There are four very great events in history, the siege of Troy, the life and crucifixion of Christ, the exile of Krishna in Brindavan and the colloquy with Arjuna on the field of Kurukshetra. The siege of Troy created Hellas, the exile in Brindavan<sup>1</sup> created devotional religion (for before there was only meditation and worship), Christ from his cross humanised Europe, the colloquy at Kurukshetra will yet liberate humanity. Yet it is said that none of these four events ever happened.

*(1) Were the meditation and worship of former times the same as those of today?*

(2) *What does this mean: "the colloquy at Kurukshetra will yet liberate humanity"?*

(1) In ancient times, as in our own day, each religion had its own particular kind of meditation and worship. And yet everywhere, always, meditation is a special mode of mental activity and concentration, only the details of the practice vary. Worship is a series of ceremonies and rites that are scrupulously and exactly performed in honour of a deity.

Here Sri Aurobindo refers to the worship and meditation of ancient India, in Vedic and Vedantic times.

(2) The colloquy at Kurukshetra is the Bhagavad Gita.

Sri Aurobindo considers the message of the Gita to be the basis of the great spiritual movement which has led and will lead humanity more and more to its liberation, that is to say, to its escape from falsehood and ignorance, towards the truth.

From the time of its first appearance, the Gita has had an immense spiritual action; but with the new interpretation that Sri Aurobindo has given to it, its influence has increased considerably and has become decisive.

*CWM 10: 62-63*

## **Yoga and Patriotism**

Patriotic sentiments are not incompatible with our yoga — far from it — to will for the strength and the integrity of one's Motherland is a quite legitimate sentiment, the will that she may make progress and that more and more she may manifest, in full freedom, the truth of her being, is a fine and noble will which cannot be harmful for our yoga.

But one must not get excited, one must not plunge prematurely into action. One can and should pray, aspire and will for the

victory of the truth and, at the same time, continue to discharge one's daily duties and wait quietly for the unmistakable sign to come, indicating the action to be done.

With my blessings.

CWM 10: 356

## India and the World

*One sees that the world in general is at present in a sort of disequilibrium and chaos. Does this mean that it is preparing itself for the manifestation of a new force, for the descent of the Truth? Or is this the result of the action of hostile forces in revolt against this descent? And what place does India occupy in all this?*

It is both at the same time. It is a chaotic means of preparation. India should be the spiritual guide explaining what is happening and helping to shorten the movement. But, unfortunately, in her blind ambition to imitate the West, she has become materialistic and neglectful of her soul.

\*

*I hope the trouble in Kashmir is the first step towards the unity of India and Pakistan.*

The Supreme Wisdom is seeing to it.

\*

*India is supposed to be the Guru of the world in order to establish the spiritual life on earth. But, Mother, in order to occupy this high position she must be worthy politically, morally and physically, must she not?*

Without any doubt — and for the present, there is much to be done!

\*

*Why this chaotic condition in our present government? Is it the sign of the change for the good, for the reign of Truth?*

It is the pressure upon the entire earth of the force of Truth which causes disorder, confusion and falsehood to spring up everywhere in a refusal to be transformed.

The way of the Truth is certain, but it is difficult to say when and how it will come about.

\*

India has become the symbolic representation of all the difficulties of modern mankind.

India will be the land of its resurrection — the resurrection to a higher and truer life.

\*

In the whole creation the earth has a place of distinction, because unlike any other planet it is evolutionary with a psychic entity at its centre. In it, India, in particular, is a divinely chosen country.

*CWM 13: 368*

### **Government and Polity**

Let India work for the future and set the example. Thus she will recover her true place in the world. Since long it was the habit to govern through division and opposition.

The time has come to govern through union, mutual understanding and collaboration. To choose a collaborator, the value of the man is more important than the party to which he belongs. The greatness of a country does not depend on the victory of a party but on the union of all the parties.

*CWM 13: 365-69*

### **One man is needed**

There is a group in the new Indian parliament, a group of people dissatisfied with the position taken by India, who have declared their wish to act according to Sri Aurobindo's ideal and instructions. And they've asked if we could send someone from here to hold conferences in Delhi.... It's a "group" — naturally not

the whole parliament.

It's something to be envisaged.

But the difficulty is to find the "someone," because it should be a man who knows Sri Aurobindo thoroughly to begin with, who is capable of receiving his inspirations directly (a very difficult condition), and has at the same time a very strong character with a power – a contagious power – and a force that can arouse the inert masses.... For years I have been looking for that man, without finding him.

There was a man who would have done – not fully well, not with enough breadth of mind to fully understand Sri Aurobindo, but very straight and strong – he was assassinated in Kashmir.

*Assassinated?*

He is the one who came here when we wanted to have a conference for the opening of the University, he presided over it. A rather tall man, and strong. I forget his name. But it was in Kashmir that he was assassinated (not officially, of course: he "fell ill.") It wasn't perfect, it was a stopgap, but anyway he would have done. But now ... Among the young people whom I don't know?... What is needed is power combined with that breadth of mind capable of understanding Sri Aurobindo's inspiration and transmitting it; and along with that, vital power. The two things together.

And it's not something for tomorrow: it's for right now, that's the problem, because the danger is now.

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, June 7, 1967*

*Our aim is not a national system of education for India,  
but an education for the world at large.*

*CWM 12: 249*

*The Mother*

## Women and India's role

For one dreams of a world in which all these oppositions will at last disappear and where a being will be able to live and prosper who will be the harmonious synthesis of all that is best in the human race, uniting conception and execution, vision and creation in one single consciousness and action.

Until such a happy and radical solution is reached, India remains, on this point as on many others, the land of violent and conflicting contrasts, which can nevertheless be resolved by a very wide and comprehensive synthesis.

Indeed, is it not in India that we find the most intense adoration, the most complete veneration of the Supreme Mother, creatrix of the universe, conqueror of all enemies, mother of all the gods and all the worlds, dispenser of all boons?

And is it not in India too that we find the most radical condemnation, the uttermost contempt for the feminine principle, Prakriti, Maya, corrupting illusion, cause of every fall and every misery, Nature that deceives and defiles and lures away from the Divine?

The whole life of India is shot through with this contradiction; she suffers from it in both mind and heart. Everywhere feminine deities are erected on her altars; the children of India await salvation and liberation from their Mother Durga. And yet is it not one of her children who said that the Avatar would never incarnate in the body of a woman, because no right-minded Hindu would recognise him! Fortunately, the Divine is not affected by such a narrow sectarian spirit or moved by such petty considerations. And when it pleases him to manifest in a terrestrial body, he cares very little whether or not he is recognised by men. Besides, in all his incarnations, he seems always to have preferred children and simple hearts to the learned.

In any case, until the manifestation of a new conception and consciousness compels Nature to create a new species which

would no longer have to yield to the necessity of animal procreation and thus be under the obligation of dividing into two complementary sexes, the best that can be done for the progress of the present human race is to treat both sexes on a footing of perfect equality, to give them the same education and training and to teach them to find, through a constant contact with a Divine Reality that is above all sexual differentiation, the source of all possibilities and harmonies.

And it may be that India, the land of contrasts, will also be the land of new realisations, even as she was the cradle of their conception.

CWM 12: 105-06

**The Mother**

*"The scientific, rationalistic, industrial, pseudo-democratic civilisation of the West is now in process of dissolution and it would be a lunatic absurdity for us at this moment to build blindly on that sinking foundation. When the most advanced minds of the occident are beginning to turn in this red evening of the West for the hope of a new and more spiritual civilisation to the genius of Asia, it would be strange if we could think of nothing better than to cast away our own self and potentialities and put our trust in the dissolving and moribund past of Europe."*

*I didn't know he had said that....*

*I don't know if it's very wise to say it.... But it's very true.*

*We should send it to the government of India.*

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, July 27, 1968*



## Messages on India

25 September 1967

Message for the inauguration of  
All India Radio, Pondicherry,

“O India, land of light and spiritual knowledge!  
Wake up to your true mission in the world,  
show the way to union and harmony.”

CWM 13: 367

### Messages for Bharat

It is by being sincere, courageous, enduring and honest that you can best serve your country, make it one and great in the world.

*(Message for the Society for the Spiritual and Cultural  
Renaissance of Bharat)*

India must be saved for the good of the world since India alone can lead the world to peace and a new world order.

\*

Divine Power alone can help India. If you can build faith and cohesion in the country it is much more powerful than any man-made power.

\*

There must be a group forming a strong body of cohesive will with the spiritual knowledge to save India and the world. It is India that can bring Truth in the world. By manifestation of the Divine Will and Power alone, India can preach her message to the world and not by imitating the materialism of the West. By following the Divine Will India shall shine at the top of the spiritual mountain and

show the way of Truth and organise world unity.

CWM 13: 352-53

India ought to be the spiritual leader of the world. Inside she has the capacity, but outside... for the moment there is still much to do for her to become actually the spiritual leader of the world.

There is such a wonderful opportunity just now! but...

CWM 13: 352-53

India has or rather had the knowledge of the Spirit, but she neglected matter and suffered for it.

The West has the knowledge of matter but rejected the Spirit and suffers badly for it.

An integral education which could, with some variations, be adapted to all the nations of the world, must bring back the legitimate authority of the Spirit over a matter fully developed and utilised.

This is in short what I wanted to say.

With blessings.

CWM 13: 361

India must find back and manifest her soul.

\*

You have said in one of Your messages

*"The number one problem for India is to find back and manifest her soul."*

*How to find back India's soul?*

Become conscious of your psychic being. Let your psychic being become intensely interested in India's Soul and aspire towards it, with an attitude of service; and if you are sincere you will succeed.

\*

India is the country where the psychic law can and must rule and the time has come for that here. Besides, it is the only possible salvation for this country whose consciousness has unfortunately been distorted by the influence and domination of a foreign nation, but which, in spite of everything, possesses a unique spiritual heritage.

Blessings.

*(Message for broadcast by All India Radio, Pondicherry)*

We want to be messengers of light and truth. At once a future of harmony offers itself to be proclaimed to the world.

The time has come for the old habit of governing by fear to be replaced by the government of love.

\*

*(Message for broadcast by All India Radio, Pondicherry, on Mother's birthday, 21 February 1971)*

True liberty is an ascending movement, not yielding to the lower instincts.

True liberty is a divine manifestation.

We want the true liberty for India so that she may be the right example for the world as the demonstration of what humanity must become.

*CWM 13: 369-70*

It is for the sake and the triumph of Truth that India is fighting and must fight until India and Pakistan have once more become One because that is the truth of their being.

*CWM 17: 262*

*Mother, The political and economic situation in India is becoming more and more ridiculous. Please save India from the Indians and make us worthy of your grace.*

The Divine's Grace is wonderful and almighty.

And the ways of working of the Lord are full of a delightful sense of humour...

Love and blessings.

CWM 17: 278

India is the custodian of yogic knowledge, but this knowledge had been veiled by materialism. Sri Aurobindo has awakened it; now it has only to be spread.

\*

*(During the Bangladesh crisis, Mother made the following four statements.)*

The situation is serious. It is only a strong and enlightened action that can pull the country out of it.

Blessings.

India shall take her true place in the world only when she will become integrally the messenger of the Divine Life.

CWM 13: 372

*(Message for an education commission of the Government of India which visited the Ashram)*

For the Government of India, one thing is to be known — does it want to live for the future, or does it desperately stick to the past?

CWM 13: 367

**The Mother**



*(On 1 November 1954 Pondicherry and the other French settlements in India were transferred to the Indian Union. To celebrate the occasion the flag with Mother's symbol at its centre was hoisted at the Ashram at 6.20 a.m., when Mother read out the following message.)*

For us the 1st November has a deep significance. We have a flag which Sri Aurobindo called the Spiritual Flag of United India. Its square form, its colour and every detail of its design have a symbolic meaning. It was hoisted on the 15th August 1947 when India became free. It will now be hoisted on the 1st November 1954 when these settlements get united with India and it will be hoisted in the future whenever India recovers other parts of herself. United India has a special mission to fulfil in the world. Sri Aurobindo laid down his life for it and we are prepared to do the same.

CWM 13: 354

**The Mother**

*(The message below was distributed at the Ashram with the introduction: "A mantra given by the Mother for all people in the country for the present crisis.")*

Supreme Lord, Eternal Truth  
Let us obey Thee alone  
and live according to Truth.

CWM 13: 372

**The Mother**

*(Message for Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India,  
who visited the Ashram)*

India must rise to the height of her mission and proclaim the Truth to the world.

\*

I pray to you to save India from the Indians.

Yes, it seems rather necessary.

\*

The future of India is luminous in spite of its present gloom.

\*

*What is the duty of every Indian today in the present emergency?*

Overgrow your small egoistic personality and become a worthy child of our Mother India, fulfil your duties with honesty and rectitude, and always keep cheerful and confident, with a steady trust in the Divine's Grace.

\*

India has or rather had the knowledge of the Spirit, but she neglected matter and suffered for it.

The West has the knowledge of matter but rejected the Spirit and suffers badly for it.

An integral education which could, with some variations, be adapted to all the nations of the world, must bring back the legitimate authority of the Spirit over a matter fully developed and utilised.

CWM 12: 249

It is for the sake and triumph of Truth that India is fighting and must fight until India and Pakistan have once more become One because that is the truth of their being.

CWM 13: 364

The Mother

***The future of India is very clear. India is the Guru of the world. The future structure of the world depends on India. India is the living soul. India is incarnating the spiritual knowledge in the world. The Government of India ought to recognise the significance of India in this sphere and plan their action accordingly.***

***When India, emerging victorious from a deadly combat, regains her territorial integrity; when, emerging triumphant from a moral crisis that is more deadly still — since instead of killing the body it destroys the soul-contact, a much greater tragedy — India resumes her true place and mission in the world, these petty quarrels over governmental and political rivalries, which consist entirely of personal interests and ambitions, will be automatically resolved in a just and enlightened accord.***

CWM 13: 372

The Mother



*(About "the Mother's map of India", which includes Pakistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka. The "partition" mentioned in the first sentence below is that of Pakistan and India.)*

The map was made after the partition.

It is the map of the true India in spite of all passing appearances, and it will always remain the map of the true India, whatever people may think about it.

*CWM 13: 360*

**The Mother**



# The Unity of India

## On Partition of India

*On 2 June 1947 Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, delivered a radio speech proposing the partition of Pakistan from India, and of certain other parts of India into Hindu and Muslim states. After hearing the broadcast, Mother issued the following statement.)*

A proposal has been made for the solution of our difficulties in organising Indian independence and it is being accepted with whatever bitterness of regret and searchings of the heart by Indian leaders.

But do you know why this proposal has been made to us? It is to prove to us the absurdity of our quarrels.

And do you know why we have to accept these proposals? It is to prove to ourselves the absurdity of our quarrels.

Clearly, this is not a solution; it is a test, an ordeal which, if we live it out in all sincerity, will prove to us that it is not by cutting a country into small bits that we shall bring about its unity and its greatness; it is not by opposing interests against each other that we can win for it prosperity; it is not by setting one dogma against another that we can serve the spirit of Truth. In spite of all, India has a single soul and while we have to wait till we can speak of an India one and indivisible, our cry must be:

\*

## India and the World

*Mother, I have the feeling India is the symbol of the world's battle and the new Consciousness cannot be established in the world so long as India has not regained her unity.*

Yes.

It's obvious that India is the symbol of the New World in formation, so India must be "one," symbolically, in order for the New World to see the light of day....

Yes.

Consequently Pakistan has to disappear.

But of course!

There's no doubt about that. So this must be the time.

*But they've already missed one chance.*

Yes, they've already missed one chance. But now... they shouldn't miss this one.

*(silence)*

But India herself is divided.

*Divided?*

Yes, in Orissa, for example. A large part of Orissa is entirely under Sri Aurobindo's influence, and another part is in revolt.... N.S. has relentless enemies there. She was elected there, but she has relentless enemies — India herself is divided.

*(silence)*

It's serious.

Such an ardent faith would be needed... but... *(gesture of something crumbling into dust between her fingers)*.

You see, the Force is so active.... Lies that have gone on for years are becoming visible here too — the mixture is everywhere.

Such a... such a force of truth would be needed, you know, a force that would be great enough to overcome all that.

*(silence)*

For me, Victory is certain, but I don't know if it's tomorrow or... *(gesture into the distance)*.

I don't know what road we will take to get there.

*Victory is certain, that's obvious, but what road are we going to take to get there?*

And it very much depends on our individual position; that's what they don't understand. We must cling, cling so tightly to the Truth that nothing can touch us.

*(silence)*

It always comes back to the same thing: "What You will, Lord, what You will."

But that has become formidable.

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, April 7, 1971*

## **Unity of India**

It is only India's soul who can unify the country.

Externally the provinces of India are very different in character, tendencies, culture, as well as in language, and any attempt to unify them artificially could only have disastrous results.

But her soul is one, intense in her aspiration towards the spiritual truth, the essential unity of the creation and the divine origin of life, and by uniting with this aspiration the whole country can recover a unity that has never ceased to exist for the superior mentality.

*CWM 13: 368*

## **Unification of India**

It won't be done that way. I've seen how. It won't be done through a battle: the different parts of Pakistan will demand separation. There are five of them. And by separating, they'll join India — to form a sort of confederation. That's how it will be done.

It will break up from within, yes, I see.

That's right. That's how it will be done.

I saw it, I don't remember what day (recently), all of a sudden, for several hours there was a contact with the Divine Power and Vision — it was... it was magnificent, things became extraordinary;

then, immediately the next day, all the news changed. Really extraordinary. What actually took place isn't what I saw, for it was seen years ahead.... But that doesn't matter, it's all right.

\*

### Things in the offing

We're always in a hurry, because life on earth is short, but when you see what is in the offing... (*vast, circular gesture*). Really beautiful, much better! It takes more time, but it's much better. One of the things in the offing is the conversion of America, the United States, but it will take time.

\*

### The conversion of the United States.

So, the things in the offing are a federation of all the states of India, and another one in the offing is the conversion of the United States. A federation of the states of India along the lines of The Ideal of Human Unity, as conceived and explained by Sri Aurobindo. And the conversion of the United States is in the same idea, just according to Sri Aurobindo's revelation. But that will take time.

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, December 18, 1971*

*In any country the best education that can be given to children consists in teaching them what the true nature of their country is and its own qualities, the mission their nation has to fulfil in the world and its true place in the terrestrial concert. To that should These four questions, asked by a teacher, are based upon the Mother's replies to the series of questions in the previous letter be added a wide understanding of the role of other nations, but without the spirit of imitation and without ever losing sight of the genius of one's own country.*

CWM 13: 387

**The Mother**

*Dearest Mother, Kindly look at what follows. I shall be very thankful if you permit me to publish it in the Mother India of August 15. It will be most appropriate.*

You can publish both after corrections. These corrections are important and must not be forgotten.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SRI AUROBINDO'S BIRTH SOME WORDS OF THE MOTHER

Till the birth of Sri Aurobindo, religions and spiritualities were always centred on past figures, and they were showing as “the goal” the negation of life upon earth. So, you had a choice between two alternatives: either — a life in this world with its round of petty pleasures and pains, joys and sufferings, threatened by hell if you were not behaving properly, or — an escape into another world, heaven or paradise.<sup>1</sup>

Between these two there is nothing much to choose.<sup>2</sup>

Sri Aurobindo has told us that this was a fundamental mistake which accounts for the weakness and degradation of India. It was sufficient<sup>3</sup> to sap all energy out of the country.

True, India is the only place in the world which is still aware that something else than matter exists. The other countries have quite forgotten it: Europe, America and elsewhere . . . That is why she still has a message to preserve and deliver to the world. But at present she is splashing and floundering in the muddle.

Sri Aurobindo has shown that the truth does not lie in running away from earthly life but in remaining in it, to transform it, divinise it so that the Divine can manifest here, in this physical world.

*The Mother: Conversation with a disciple: 3 August 1967*

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The Mother corrected “heaven, nirvana, moksha” to “heaven or paradise”. 1

The Mother omitted “— they are equally bad.” after “choose”. 2

The Mother corrected “Buddhism, Jainism, Illusionism were sufficient” to “It was sufficient”. 3

**15 August 1954**

## **A DECLARATION**

I want to mark this day by the expression of a long cherished wish; that of becoming an Indian citizen. From the first time I came to India — in 1914 — I felt that India is my true country, the country of my soul and spirit. I had decided to realise this wish as soon as India would be free. But I had to wait still longer because of my heavy responsibilities for the Ashram here in Pondicherry. Now the time has come when I can declare myself.

But, in accordance with Sri Aurobindo's ideal, my purpose is to show that truth lies in union rather than in division. To reject one nationality in order to obtain another is not an ideal solution. So I hope I shall be allowed to adopt a double nationality, that is to say, to remain French while I become an Indian.

I am French by birth and early education, I am Indian by choice and predilection. In my consciousness there is no antagonism between the two, on the contrary, they combine very well and complete one another. I know also that I can be of service to both equally, for my only aim in life is to give a concrete form to Sri Aurobindo's great teaching and in his teaching he reveals that all the nations are essentially one and meant to express the Divine Unity upon earth through an organised and harmonious diversity.

**12 April 1955**

*Divine Mother, The officer who is preparing the electoral rolls wants the name of the Mother included in the lists. If the Mother permits, I shall give the name.*

Yes.

If they ask nationality, you put *Indian*.

CWM 13: 43-44

**The Mother**

*There aren't two like this one; it is true that there aren't two countries alike, but the others are all sorts of different things on the same plane, while this is found only here.*

*It's something you breathe in with the country's atmosphere. I had this experience very, very strongly. When I left here [in 1915], as I got farther away, I felt as if emptied of something, and once in the Mediterranean, I wasn't able to bear it any longer: I fell ill. And even in Japan, which outwardly is a marvelous country – marvelously beautiful and harmonious (it WAS, I don't know what it is nowadays), and outwardly it was a joy every minute, a breathtaking joy, so strong was the expression of beauty – yet I felt empty, empty, empty, I absolutely lacked ... (Mother opens her mouth as though suffocating) ... I lacked the important Thing. And I found it again only when I came back here.*

*The Mother: Conversation with a Disciple, Sept, 29, 1965*



## **Study Camp on The Life Divine**

### **Chapter wise summary**

**By Dr. Alok Pandey**

**Venue : Beach Office**

**Dates: 16th August to 22nd August**

**Timings: 5.15 pm to 6 pm and 6.15 to 7 pm**

## A Reminiscence

India became free in 1947. All around the country there was celebration: fireworks, illuminations, singing processions in the morning, parades, etc.

During this time I spoke to Mother about the national flag and the national anthem. I told her that even though Vande Mataram was the national hymn, Jana Gana Mana had to be played by the band as the national anthem. Mother said that Vande Mataram was not merely a song, it was a mantra. We played to her a record of Rabindranath's musical rendering of Vande Mataram and jana Gana Mana. Then I played to her Timirbaran's rendering of Vande Mataram. Mother preferred Timirbaran's rendering. It was also more suitable for the band. But we did not have its musical notation for the band. At first we tried to get our Hiru Ganguly to contact Timirbaran but we could not. Sahana-di wrote down a notation thanks to which we could at least sing Timirbaran's Vande Mataram to Mother in the Playground and she really liked it.

In the meantime, I found out that an English music conductor named Simpson had prepared a musical notation for a brass band. That tune was much better than jana Gana Mana. It was almost like a mantra and most appropriate for a national anthem.

And so, before starting any programme in the Ashram, we always begin with that piece played by our brass band. And for those programmes that are also attended by people from outside the Ashram and from the government, we play Vande Mataram at the beginning and jana Gana Mana at the conclusion of the programme.

I also spoke to Mother about the national flag at that time. The Indian government had asked many people and organisations just before our Independence about the design of the Indian flag. From the Ashram Jayantilal-da sent the Mother's flag. Finally the Indian government chose the tricoloured Congress flag to repre-



sent the country. The central "charkha" was replaced by the "Ashoka-chakra". The tricoloured flag was orange on top, white in the centre and green below. The three colours symbolised freedom, peace and progress. The dharmachakra at the centre symbolised movement and union.

After seeing the national flag Mother told us that the chakra was there only on the white band in the centre and since it did not cover all the three colours the total life of all the communities of India, their movement and union were not symbolically highlighted. She thought that this would not help in making India's unity and oneness symbolically stable. On seeing this flag, one gets the impression that India's unity is slightly disturbed. If the chakra in the centre had covered all the three colours then it would have been much better.

Incidentally, in 1947, while the whole country was celebrating our Independence Day, Mother came out of Sri Aurobindo's room and she seemed to be in a trance. I was standing under the covered verandah in front of her room. She came out and told me with a lot of intensity that in forty years from then India would go through a very bad time.

Now when we think about it we realise that she had spoken truly. However, Mother has also repeated constantly that with her spiritual force India will become great again. And one day it will show the path to the earth's future. India will be the guru of the world.

The partition of India prior to Independence had pained Mother very much. But she said: "Sri Aurobindo has said that India will become one again." About India Mother said:

"India is like a big pot in which ingredients have been brought from everywhere to cook a fine dinner."

*Pranab Da: I Remember: 212 - Page - 214*



*Be courageous, enduring, vigilant; above all, be  
sincere, with perfect honesty.  
Then you will be able to face all difficulties.  
And victory will be yours.*

*The Mother*



*Our Gratitude and consecration to the  
Mother and Sri Aurobindo*

**Sri Aurobindo Society, Nairobi Centre, Kenya**

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~Sri Aurobindo

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