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The Gnostic Future: Sri Aurobindo's Supramental Consciousness and its Contemporary Relevance

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Abstract: The triad of soul, divinity and faith had been applauded and adhered since ages. The world needs more of the ideologies like Supramental consciousness where the growth and development are not counted just by calculating the GDP of any nation but by the headcounts who embrace the idea of peace; choosing harmony and humanity over the contemporary chaos. The idea of the philanthropists such as Sri Aurobindo of mingling western practicality with that of eastern believes had originated as theory of Supramental consciousness; which if followed can lead the mindset of the mass towards shattering the realm of egoistic veil to collaborating with the divine and transforming into a man of unshakable zeal to practice spirituality. His essays written in numerous numbers deal with the idea of attaining *apara vidya* which ignites the flame of self-realization evoking it to become a better individual in today's contemporary era. The man who chooses wisdom over worldly pleasures can gain the same. He urged the mass to walk on the pavement of spiritual practice what he intends to call as practical spirituality. One's mind starts enacting towards spiritualism only when the course of action changes as per the evoked consciousness. To escape away from the bondage of worldliness, it is necessary to absorb in divinity so as to realize the power of *Shakti*. On the basis of his written works; it is easily understood what he wants is to ignite humanity which is loosening its spirit and also to experience the true knowledge. As soon as the soul underwent the journey dipping itself deep into the cosmos rays it gains complete transformation from knowing nothing to absorbing everything into itself.

Keywords: Liberation of the Spirit, Supramental consciousness, Evoking Consciousness, quest for real *Ananda*, zeal to hunt real happiness and shatter the Garb of *Tamas*.

Liberation of the Spirit- For the complete transformation of the spirit it is highly important to understand the cosmos. Cosmos has nothing to do with a tangible idea but it is an abstract notion which when comprehended by the mass has the power to shatter all the darkest veils and upthrust the mass to the pinnacle of the divinity. Sri Aurobindo emphasises on the concept of higher knowledge that is, *apara vidya*. It is one of the pre-requisites towards the liberation of one's soul. Our body knows nothing except for what our senses identifies but when the soul dips into the whirlpool of *apara vidya*, it begins to perceive every single action and then our mind starts controlling the contrivance. The awakening of the soul is the initial step towards acquiring Supramental Vision. This has not only got the power to elate the mind but also it excavates the deepest vision and thrives to open our sixth sense. We were born to follow the rat race and we indeed are doing so in this contemporary era but we need to stop our souls to follow the bodily actions rather pervade it to expand its dimension in realizing the true self. Sri Aurobindo has tried to portray the same in his essay *Supermind and Humanity*.

It is about the transformation and its impact on the human mind and then reflects it into the soul. For our human race it becomes essential to understand that what worldly knowledge we are consuming is taking us to the downfall and darkest pits of ignorance. Higher evolution of the human creed is only possible when we start enjoying the bliss of Supermind. Once when we arrive to our destination our soul reflects the entire journey through our changed course of actions. We start applauding and living every bliss of nature. The loophole of the mankind is to follow the monotonous routine of daily life. He is not against productiveness but what he means is the freedom of the soul; which has lost its rhythm, its essence of learning and empowering the actions of the body accordingly.

Supramental consciousness- Any biotic component born on this Earth is full of liveliness at first but eventually it degrades. The reason is not that complicated to understand. It has always been this hoarding of materialism, the more your bodily needs increase the more it grips itself in every kind of evil activities. The evolution of humans was necessary but not at the cost of discarding harmony and humanity. To reach the ecstasy of this divine it is essential to first free the soul and mind from every kind of slavery chains that are an obstacle for the spiritual growth and then dive itself deep into the crust of *shakti* that is, the light. The light of the divine enacts as the torch bearer for the soul throughout the transformation journey. And the faith is the

key to open the closed door which will lead you to divine. There may rise several doubts and distrusts but one needs to hold its firm and unshakable faith over the divinity. Sri Aurobindo has proclaimed about this in the splendid essay he wrote on Supermind by giving the notion of the concept of Supramental Consciousness.

Supermind is the ultimate reality. The soul perceives the divine and wants to attain the same through practicing spiritual in day-to-day life. It expands our realm and we start differentiating between materialism and true bliss to live a life which is contended with solace and power of true knowledge. As we know that the Supermind is itself divine it expands the realm of our thoughts by conceiving the true notions by embracing the real *ananda*. When this state of mind mingles with that of earthly body; the human creed experiences the vibrant frequency of godliness and rejoices the attained consciousness. Once this garb of ignorance is completely thrown away by the soul after gaining the truest knowledge it starts manifesting. The manifestation of a divine life where there is no monotony of performing forceable actions, where the mind is inculcating the divine and growing as a Supermind. Reaching the eternal truth and empowering the mindset with this concrete vision had always been the sole purpose of our life. Identifying the only purpose and living for the same expands the realm of living. The Supermind perceives the higher truth and it identifies the darkness revolving around the mind which can hamper the settled pool of self-reliance and consciousness.

When the mind excogitates and gains the stage of highest order of knowledge that is, *apara vidya* it becomes the potent of knowing the true divine and results to evoke Supramental Consciousness recognising the momentary pleasure and permanent ecstasy. The divine life makes you enter into the world where the mind and body treat everything indifferently. Sri Aurobindo has known this strident truth since ages that how these handful of British men tempted our senses and then enslaved us for more than two centuries. Little did the mass knew that how these worldly temptations are going to make us slaves forth them, we would have never paved way for their pleasurable guilty gifts. The commodification is eventually binding us in chains. Sri Aurobindo has proclaimed that the world needs more of the people who are real *purusha*. And with this he is not stating about biological aspects of being a man but a soul who is never chained by these trivial means and measures.

A person can never live his life span if he has never identified divine in his complete life time. There lies this one infinite person that is *purusha*. The one who is self-reliant and has experienced infinite presence of heavenly sublime. An individual when attains the real knowledge can enforce the mind to evoke

consciousness and become an infinite body that is, *the purusha*. What is temporary when the mind and soul of an individual attains it then it can easily break the chains of materialism and achieve the bliss of godliness.

Evoking Consciousness- The enactment of this brings forth the truest phase of an individual's soul. When the consciousness awakes the soul is set free forth embracing the divine and *shakti*. And once the soul gets into the pool of divinity it blends the surrounding in the notion of harmonious humanity. The light which our soul was searching for lies already within us. Experiencing the very ecstasy of this will lead him to an eternal bliss. Our mind and body which never knew about this and had never experienced this transformation which was earlier loitering around but now when the abstract notions had become a concrete vision it knows the difference between momentary fantasy and permanency of true knowledge. Now, the soul will rise towards the zeal to practice spiritualism. Although the humans are imperfect yet they are not ignorant. What Sri Aurobindo had always pleaded the mass is for amalgamation of *apara vidya* with that of *shakti*. To develop the power of perfection and truest means to live a life; the man must evoke the consciousness within himself by manifesting the bliss and acknowledging the beauty of divine truth; the soul sets for the journey towards complete transformation.

Consciousness is not something which is related to bodily practice of yoga rather it is about the transmogrifying the soul through immersing deep into the world of true knowledge. The nature has created man and it becomes essential to understand the one who has created us. Sri Aurobindo has exemplified that how the contemporary world is going in the darkest pits of *Tamas*. The need of an hour is to find the solace and this can only be achieved through enlarging the dimensions of knowing the truth. In the past the man had always been a spiritual seeker and was a curious and had been a phrenic soul but the modernization has brought a shift of change of ideas that is from, being a philanthropist to becoming a philistine.

Sri Aurobindo had been the spiritual seekers and he exclaims beautifully in the essays written by him about the ultimate goal of a soul. Sri Aurobindo even states that the spiritual seekers have tried to evolve in the process while gaining the knowledge that everything emerges out from the soul. The soul perceives the ultimate reality and then follows the light which leads it to the ultimate path of seclusion from temporary pleasurable commodities. The human body had always been an obstacle for the soul when it starts the journey of timeless actions and perceives the real notions of sublime. The senses never allow the human body to evoke the sixth sense of the soul which will take him through an eternal knowledge and ecstasy. The body lurks for

the pitiable pleasures and gets distracted by the same. The body starts following the wrong tendencies making the soul weaker and fragile. Sri Aurobindo has clearly portrayed about the real situation of contemporary men and the level of trivial actions they are going through but he also provides the solution for the microgeneration chaos.

The Quest for the Real *Ananda*- The real zest of living one's life is not in the materialistic accumulation or how much luxurious life someone is leading, instead, it is about the gain of self- reliance and the knowledge one has absorbed one's soul through the entire journey of self-transformation. The most essential postulates for building a Supermind are the truth and the development of consciousness. While the mind had been tossing over the fact that our body needs material consumption; once when attains spirituality pursues towards the *apara vidya*. This elates the thought process bringing out the idea that 'Nothing is Permanent.' Real *Ananda* or what we can say that the real happiness of the soul lies in the idea of harmony where the soul starts cherishing everything it perceives. It starts moving forth with the concept of practical spirituality. The soul is the ultimate reality and when it combines with that of shakti it churns itself to become the *shakti*; the one which it was lurking for. The intellectual notions of our nation had always been appreciated by the world. Our country has always proven that the western ideology if worked along with the ethos of the eastern will surely bring a better change in the society. Sri Aurobindo states that there lies no problem if the life is observed and enjoyed minutely every second. The consciousness has created the life and its surroundings and the ultimate consciousness has got the power to wipe away every chaos. Then what for is the human creed worried about? In order to master the consciousness, one needs to enjoy the bliss of the nature. The notion is very clear that; when the man experiences the *apara vidya* it achieves the state of Supermind and that mind can easily bifurcate between good and bad, between momentary and permanency.

The wholeness can never be attained if we have never gained the complete knowledge. Man cannot get to know the complete self until he starts acknowledging the power of sublime. In today's world the humans need to understand that we can perceive the real truth only when we recognise the exquisite bliss. Unlike animals, one can never lead a life where he is only looking for the basic needs of body. Instead, he must gain mastery over the power of divine knowledge. Man must seek for Supermind where he can experience the *trans* and dip itself to the pool of harmonising the divine knowledge. Sri Aurobindo had never been in a

favour of fragmented pieces of worldly education what he really urged the clan was towards the process of knowing seamless reality.

Shatter the Garb of *Tamas*- while we interpret what the *Tamas* is, one must also need to identify that what is light? *Tamas* has nothing to do with the physiological process rather it is about the darkness of human minds. The pitiable ignorant beings who know the concrete nutshell and rote learned values but do not imply the abstract and intellectual notions in living their lives. For them it has always been to understand the outline of it. Sri Aurobindo therefore have talked more about idea of embracing the Supramental consciousness. The Practical Spirituality that is, practicing the course of actions in such a way that we every day help the needy and any action done by us indirectly or directly upthrusts the dimension of the humanity. The first foundation of any character is to build it with the crux idea of Supermind. Sri Aurobindo has stated in his essay that it is the journey from Overmind to Supermind which brings out the best from an individual and he recognises his progressive evolution which earlier was being obstructed by the hindrances of illusionary veil. The reality lies opaque but yet unknown. The ignorant world is trying to lucre the materialistic pleasure which is the sparkling veil of momentary fun. These mystics and writers have brought out the ways through which one can be self-determined and can procure the idea of simultaneous growth and practical spirituality hand in hand.

The contemporary world today is detreating the means and resources. Sustainability has lost its way and humanity has lost its zeal. Sri Aurobindo in his complete volumes of essays has discussed about the truth of this microgeneration. His premonition for the world makes him an eminent visionary. In his works he has tried to envisage the future and provided the solutions by enhancing the vision of the mass. The change is essential in the world but humanity should not be put at stake.

Gnosis refers to the complete forms of consciousness where the false knowledge and ill practices are banned and the living being are trying to elate towards the path of Supramental consciousness. The several stages the soul goes through the entire journey of transformation he eventually gets a step closer to perceive true ideologies. The stages which Sri Aurobindo has proclaimed in his works uplifts the mankind towards the pinnacle of growth and self-development. For him all the living beings are already liberated to follow the voice of the divine. Once the mind understands the reality it comes one step closer to spiritual life. When human attains the Supermond he dwells into the felicity of endless joy. The delight never comes from the

commodity consumption instead it is the journey, the soul experiences and mind undergoes while performing spirituality.

Conclusion- In today's world where the people are running towards the commodification, Sri Aurobindo has urged the mass to live for the real *Ananda*, where productiveness should be kept at priority but not at the cost of ruining intellectualism. The contemporary world needs the real *purusha* who should seek for quenching the solace for his soul and should not be controlled by the materialistic pleasures which his senses are lurking for.

Sri Aurobindo has a farsightedness vision for building a nation where the mass embraces the notion of Supramental consciousness and elates their mindset by overcoming these hindrances. He is appealing the mass to shatter the garb of ignorance and *Tamas* by clutching the power of real knowledge. He had emphasised and urged the mass to cherish the ultimate goal to become the Gnostic Being (*Chaitanya Purusha*) who can have self-control in this very life and can escalate himself towards spiritual realization.

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