

Series Eleven

Letters to a Sadhak

To a sadhak of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

How can my effort to serve the Divine become more perfect?

By wanting Him more and more in every part of your being — integrally.

11 October 1966

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In 1958 the Mother said, “If things go on advancing at this speed, it seems more than possible, almost evident, that what Sri Aurobindo wrote in a letter is a prophetic announcement: The supramental consciousness will enter a phase of realising power in 1967.”¹

Have things advanced at the required speed?

Yes.

2 January 1967

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May I try to make my nights conscious? I pray for guidance.

1) A short concentration before going to sleep, with an aspiration to remember the activities of the night when you wake up.

¹ *Questions and Answers 1957–1958*, CWM, Vol. 9, p. 315.

Some Answers from the Mother

2) *When you wake up, do not make any sudden movement of the head and keep still for a few minutes, with a concentration to remember what happened during your sleep.*

3) *Repeat these exercises every day until you begin to perceive a result.*

18 January 1967

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In the human being, is the psychic being the entire soul or do both the soul (in its essence as a divine spark in all creatures) and the psychic being exist together?

The soul is the eternal essence at the centre of the psychic being. The soul is in fact like a divine spark which puts on many states of being of increasing density, down to the most material; it is inside the body, within the solar plexus, so to say.² These states of being take form and develop, progress, become individualised and perfected in the course of many earthly lives and form the psychic being. When the psychic being is fully formed, it is aware of the consciousness of the soul and manifests it perfectly.

1 February 1967

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As soon as I meet or see certain people, certain lower and wrong vibrations arise in me. This is an invariable habit, in spite of the fact that I want to get rid of these reactions. What should I do?

The radical method is to cut off all mental and vital connection with these people; but until you know how to do this, you

² By “solar plexus”, the Mother is referring to the heart (not the navel) region; this is clear from statements she has made elsewhere; see, for example, in Series Thirteen of this volume, the last paragraph of her reply of 20 September 1969.

must persistently eliminate from your consciousness the effect produced by their influence.

18 February 1967

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You have said: “The Divine is with you according to your aspirations. Naturally, this does not mean that he gives way to the fancies of your outer nature — I am speaking here of the truth of your being. Moreover, he sometimes moulds himself according to your outer aspirations, and if you live like the devotees who alternate between periods of estrangement and embrace, of ecstasy and despair, the Divine too will be farther from you or nearer, depending on what you believe. The attitude is therefore very important, even the outer attitude.”

What is the meaning of “outer aspiration” and “outer attitude”? What is the best outer attitude?

Unless one practises yoga in the physical being (outer being), it remains ignorant — even its aspiration is ignorant and so is its goodwill; all its movements are ignorant and so they distort and disfigure the Divine Presence.

That is why the yoga of the body-cells is indispensable.

25 February 1967

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“The Dawn that does not pass away”³ — what spiritual state does this marvellous dawn represent?

Perpetual renewal.

6 March 1967

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³ The Mother, *Prayers and Meditations*, 24 August 1914.

Some Answers from the Mother

This is how I understand the Purusha:

The Lord is the Supreme Purusha, the Purushotama.

The Atman is the universal Purusha.

The Jivatman is the individual Purusha, and the physical Purusha, the vital Purusha, the mental Purusha and the secret Purusha in the heart are projections of it.

The soul is the Purusha that enters into the evolution.

Is my understanding correct?

This is one way of putting it. Mental definitions are never more than approximations, ways of speaking.

10 March 1967

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My body is very weak and full of unconsciousness and tamas. How can this body become Your good instrument?

At the centre of each cell lies the Divine Consciousness. By aspiration and repeated self-giving, the cells must be made transparent.

18 March 1967

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“To be aware of the consciousness of the soul” — is this the same thing as uniting with the Divine?

To become aware of the consciousness of the soul is the surest and easiest way of uniting with the Divine.

25 March 1967

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Series Eleven – To a Sadhak

You give everything we need, but my capacity to receive is very limited since it takes me a long time to assimilate even the little I am able to receive. Untroubled, I pray: How can the situation be improved?

This difficulty usually comes from a lack of unification of the being. Certain parts are recalcitrant and refuse to receive. They have to be educated little by little, just as one educates a child — and little by little too the situation will improve.

7 April 1967

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Looking at the present state of the world, we can say that the worst has already happened. We await the day when the Lord will take the earth into His arms and “the earth will be transformed”. Is that day drawing near?

It may very well be that this is what is happening now — but it is not on the human scale.

One moment of the Lord probably means many years for us!

12 April 1967

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Although there is a certain charm and poetry in the fact that there is no formal date for the creation of our Ashram, could it be said from the true occult point of view that the Ashram was born with the Mother’s arrival?

The Ashram was born a few years after my return from Japan, in 1926.

17 April 1967

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Some Answers from the Mother

The Lord told You: "One day thou wilt be my head but for the moment turn thy gaze towards the earth."⁴

Sweet Mother, what does "thou wilt be my head" mean?

The head is the original conceiving Consciousness.

22 April 1967

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When I want to be closer to You, I see that I must overcome my ego. But when I think of overcoming my ego, I see that I must be closer to You. How can I solve this problem?

The Grace is there to solve it.

1 May 1967

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How can I be Your good child?

By being yourself, quite simply, very simply.

5 May 1967

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When I am able to offer You money or some object, it brings me great joy, and when some part of my being offers itself to You the joy I feel is greater still. But in spite of this experience my whole being is not offered to You. What stupidity! How can I change this?

We are made up of many different parts which have to be unified around the psychic being, if we are conscious of it or at least around the central aspiration. If this unification is not done, we carry this division within us.

⁴ The Mother, *Prayers and Meditations*, 17 May 1914.

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To do this, each thought, each feeling, each sensation, each impulse, each reaction, as it manifests, must be presented in the consciousness to the central being or its aspiration. What is in accord is accepted; what is not in accord is refused, rejected or transformed.

It is a long endeavour which may take many years — but once it is done, the unification is achieved and the path becomes easy and swift.

10 May 1967

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How can I get rid of the habit of feeling that I own the material things that belong to me?

If you belong entirely and totally to the Divine, then all that belongs to you, all that forms part of your material being, belongs to the Divine.

16 May 1967

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Sometimes I think that the Agni You have kindled in me is going to burn up everything that separates me from You. What should I do to contribute to its fulfilment?

Each time that you discover in yourself something that denies or resists, throw it into the flame of Agni, which is the fire of aspiration.

19 May 1967

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Is it possible to make my hands conscious so that they do nothing imperfect, incorrect or wrong? What is the way to do it, Divine Mother?

It is quite possible, by concentrating on the hands when they are doing something.

Some Answers from the Mother

The hands of painters, sculptors, musicians (especially pianists) are usually very conscious and always are skilful. It is a question of training.

29 May 1967

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I want to overcome a difficulty: it is that when I perceive faults or weaknesses in myself, something tries to justify them or to prevent me from attending to them.

This “something” is the insincerity of an ignorant self-esteem which has not yet understood that it is nobler and loftier to recognise one’s faults in order to correct them, than to conceal them in the hope that they will not be noticed.

As for all psychological problems, here too sincerity, a total and uncompromising sincerity, is the true remedy.

1 June 1967

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Please tell me how I can get rid of the past, which clings so heavily.

To get rid of the past is something so difficult that it seems almost impossible.

But if you *give* yourself entirely and without reserve to the future, and if this giving is constantly renewed, the past will *fall away by itself* and no longer encumber you.

14 June 1967

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One morning as I was reading Your book Prayers and Meditations, I wished to know which movement comes first, “to live in Thee” or “to live for Thee”. Before the mind could set to work to find the answer, the reply that

came to me spontaneously was this: “The two states are complementary to each other.”

Yes, the two states are complementary, but that does not necessarily mean that they are simultaneous. Most often, “to live for Thee” comes first and if the being is unified and sincere, “to live in Thee” soon follows.

But of course, for the first to be perfect, the second must be present.

24 June 1967

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Your hands are open to give everything, but I can only receive a small part of it because I am not receptive enough.

This is the exact image of the state of the world which suffers because it is not receptive, when it could live in beatitude if it would open to the Divine Love.

But there is a remedy:
Sincere and constant aspiration.

6 July 1967

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I have begun to see that both the personal effort of the sadhak and its result depend on the Divine Grace.

About this, one could say humorously that we are all divine, but we are hardly even aware of it, and what we call “ourselves” is that in us which is unaware that it is divine.

13 July 1967

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To establish the reign of the Divine on earth, who is slower — man or the Divine Himself?

Some Answers from the Mother

To man the Divine seems slow.

In the eyes of the Divine man is slow indeed!

But perhaps in these two cases, the slowness is not the same.

20 July 1967

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May I know whether it is true that after death a dead man very often returns in his daughter's child?

First the dead man must have a daughter in order to be reborn in her child.

It is not an absolute rule — far from it — but the case is quite frequent in India where the belief in frequent reincarnations is still quite common.

30 July 1967

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I asked myself, "How can one express the inexpressible?" The reply came, "By living it, by becoming it, by being it." What does the Mother say?

That is correct.

7 August 1967

*

One thing escapes my understanding: how can You find time to do all that You do? Perhaps physical time does not exist for You!

The body is able to bear the pressure of time because it knows and feels quite concretely that it does not itself live and act, but that only the Supreme Lord exists and that He alone lives and acts.

This, moreover, is the secret of all endurance.

12 August 1967

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*Here is an amusing phrase from an anonymous author:
“Thank God, I am an atheist.”*

The phrase would be even more amusing if he had written:
“Thank God for making me an atheist.”

22 August 1967

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*From what I understand, You said that the psychic beings
of the disciples of the Ashram all belong to the same fam-
ily. In spite of this, there is often a lack of collaboration
among us. Why is that, Mother?*

If I did say this (probably not quite in these words), it could only refer to a universal family open to all differences and even all divergences.

But in any case, mutual misunderstanding and lack of collaboration can only come from the outer physical and vital being which is formed in this life and is not yet under the rule and influence of the psychic. As soon as one is united with one's psychic, all the conflicts due to clashing bad wills can no longer exist.

24 August 1967

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How can one use shadow to realise the Light?

Painters use shadow to bring out the light.

Shadow is the symbol of the inconscient. This is where men rest at night from the effort of the day to become conscious. When consciousness becomes all-powerful, shadow will no longer be necessary and will disappear.

4 September 1967

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Some Answers from the Mother

It is said that there are certain methods in the Tantras to open the chakras from below, whereas in the integral yoga the chakras open from above by the descent of the Mother's force.

What is the difference between the results of the opening of the chakras in these two systems?

In Sri Aurobindo's integral yoga, there are no such rigid rules and distinctions. Each one follows his own path and has his own experiences. Nevertheless, Sri Aurobindo has often said and written that his yoga begins where the others leave off.

This is to say that yoga ordinarily consists in awakening the physical consciousness and making it rise gradually towards the Divine. Whereas Sri Aurobindo has said that to do his yoga, one must already have found the Divine and united with Him — then the consciousness descends through all the states of being down to the most material, bringing the Divine Force with it so that the Force can transform the whole being and finally divinise the physical body.

20 September 1967

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In the message for the radio You substituted the word "union" for the word "unity".⁵ May I know, Sweet Mother, why this change was made?

Because most people, when they hear the word "unity", understand *uniformity* and nothing can be further from the truth.

25 September 1967

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⁵ "O India, land of light and spiritual knowledge! Wake up to your true mission in the world, show the way to union and harmony." — Message for the inauguration of All India Radio, Pondicherry, 23 September 1967. *Words of the Mother—I*, CWM, Vol. 13, p. 367.

Does spontaneity come spontaneously or does one have to follow a discipline to obtain it?

Spontaneity in feelings and action comes from a permanent contact with the psychic, which brings order into the thoughts and automatically controls the vital impulses.

30 September 1967

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You have taught me the importance of awakening the divine consciousness in the body, and now I pray to You to awaken my body's aspiration towards You.

The cells of the body thirst for the Divine Consciousness and when they are brought into contact with It their aspiration becomes very intense.

21 October 1967

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I have heard about the aspiration to be simply what You want.

That is the best state for advancing swiftly on the path.

26 October 1967

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Two extremely rich men who claim to be very religious and virtuous, are not paying what they owe according to their accounts. One of them refuses to speak to me about it and the other says, "Have trust in God, you will not lose your money."

If the Mother could make these two men honest (even temporarily, long enough for them to settle this affair)...

It is said that Christ healed the sick and even raised the dead. One day an idiot was brought to him to be cured. But Christ

Some Answers from the Mother

slipped away, saying that to make a stupid man intelligent is an impossibility.

To make a dishonest man honest is an even more impossible miracle.

8 November 1967

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Which is swifter for transformation: Divine Love or Mahakali's force?

Kali's force is necessary only for those who are not yet open to Divine Love. For one who is open to Divine Love, nothing more is needed.

11 November 1967

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By Your Grace, my body is now collaborating to get rid of its laziness. That even the body has a will of its own is a new experience for me.

When the body is converted, it knows how to collaborate.

29 November 1967

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Which came first in the manifestation, the god or the Asura?

The oldest tradition says that the first four emanations of the Mahashakti — Consciousness, Love, Truth and Life — cut themselves off (separated themselves) from their Supreme Origin and became Unconsciousness, Suffering, Falsehood and Death.

Then a second emanation was made to repair the damage. They are the Gods.

Naturally, this is a way of speaking which corresponds to a Reality that is difficult to put into words.

2 December 1967

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Transformation demands a very high degree of aspiration, surrender and receptivity, doesn't it?

Transformation demands a total and integral consecration. But isn't that the aspiration of every sincere sadhak?

Total means vertically in all the states of being, from the most material to the most subtle.

Integral means horizontally in all the different and often contradictory parts which make up the outer being (physical, vital and mental).

4 December 1967

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The fragrance of the flowers given by the Mother is often something extraordinary.

Flowers are very receptive and they are happy when they are loved.

15 December 1967

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I have forgotten the Divine for so long in this life and in former lives. But a drop of Your Grace can enable me to make up for all the lost time.

Whatever the past may have been, it is not time that is needed to establish contact with the Divine, but sincerity of aspiration.

19 December 1967

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Can one's aspiration for the Divine have the required intensity and sincerity without the tears and anguish that are mentioned in nearly all the old legends of the saints?

Tears and anguish indicate the presence of a weak and paltry nature which is still unable to receive the Divine in all his power

Some Answers from the Mother

and glory. Not only are they unnecessary, they are useless and an obstacle to realisation.

23 December 1967

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You put something into Your words which enables us to see the Truth that words cannot convey. What is it that accompanies Your words?

Consciousness.

27 December 1967

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I think that always, at every moment, someone or other is calling You, and You answer. Doesn't this disturb Your sleep or Your rest?

Day and night hundreds of calls are coming — but the Consciousness is always alert and it answers.

One is limited only materially by time and space.

3 January 1968

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How is it that ordinarily the richer one is (materially), the more dishonest one is?

It is because material wealth is controlled by the adverse forces — and because they have not yet been converted to the Divine Influence, though the work has begun.

That victory will form part of the triumph of Truth.

Wealth should not be a personal property and should be at the disposal of the Divine for the welfare of all.

4 January 1968

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Series Eleven – To a Sadhak

When Mother says that wealth should not be a personal property, I understand that what should come is more a change of psychological attitude on the part of those who own money than any change in the law of property.

Undoubtedly.

Only the psychological change can be a solution.

6 January 1968

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The disciples of the Ashram have a sure and easy way to put their money at the disposal of the Divine: they offer it to the Mother.

But how can others do it? Can it be said that each one should get rid of the sense of property and spend his money according to the Divine command within, from time to time?

I am sure that if someone is advanced enough on the path to receive the knowledge that money is an impersonal power and should be used for the progress of the earth, this person will be developed enough inwardly to receive the knowledge of how best to make use of the money.

8 January 1968

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The day before yesterday, as I was arranging my vase for You, I said to a flower, “Oh, you are going to Mother!” and it really smiled. The same thing happened again yesterday and today.

That is very interesting indeed. Was it a rose or a hibiscus?

27 January 1968

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Some Answers from the Mother

A hibiscus gave me this experience.

Yes, it is a very conscious flower — I have had many proofs of it.

27 January 1968

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Is constant remembrance of the Divine the beginning of union?

A beginning of union comes even before constant remembrance. When the remembrance is constant, one often feels a Presence that imposes itself on the remembrance.

29 January 1968

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While speaking about the “Transcendent Mother” (and the upper petal of the Transformation flower), You said, “The Transcendent is both one and two (or dual) at the same time.” What does this mean?

Beyond the creation lies the perfect Oneness, but potentially it contains duality since the Mahashakti will manifest for the needs of the creation.

5 February 1968

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Last Monday You spoke to me about the Transcendent which is both one and two at the same time. Naturally, I shall wait for the true consciousness to come in order to have this knowledge. But yesterday I tried to note down what You had said:

“The mind thinks about things in succession. But beyond and above, everything exists at the same time. The One is both one and two; the manifested and the unmanifested, everything exists at the same time. When

It is objectified in the creation, in the manifestation, there is a succession: one, two... But this is only a way of speaking. There is no succession, no beginning. Beyond, in the perfect Oneness, everything exists at the same time, simultaneously. This cannot be understood, it must be experienced; one can have the experience of it.”

Please correct these lines.

They are correct.

9 February 1968

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What is the difference between an emanation and a formation?

These words do not apply to the physical world as it is at present.

The explanation is only an approximation. Still, one can say that the emanation is made up of the very substance of the emanator, whereas the formation is made up of a substance external to the formator.

To make a comparison, one could say that the emanation is like a child made from the substance of its mother and that the formation is like a living statue made out of a material external to the sculptor.

But naturally this is only a very approximate explanation.

11 March 1968

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The path is long, very long, almost interminable.

It is true that the path is very long, but for one who follows it with *sincerity*, it is *really very interesting*, and at every step one is rewarded for one's trouble.

16 March 1968

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Some Answers from the Mother

It seems to me that the very land of Auroville aspires. Is it true, Sweet Mother?

Yes, the land itself has a consciousness, even though this consciousness is not intellectualised and cannot express itself.

21 March 1968

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Today You have shown me the basic incompatibility between human law and the Truth. But this is a problem that confronts me very often.

Politics and so-called justice are still, in humanity, what is most closed to the Truth. But their turn for conversion will also come, perhaps sooner than we think.

28 March 1968

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Can one say that all waste reflects a waste of consciousness?

Waste of any kind is the result of unconsciousness.

Consciousness in its purity is perfect and infallible.

2 April 1968

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The Upanishad says that when one sleeps, one reaches pure Being. Does this apply only to the Yogi or to everyone?

In theory, it applies to everyone. But the vast majority of human beings fall into unconsciousness, and if there is a contact with pure Being it is quite unconscious. Very few persons are conscious of this relation. It is usually the result of Yoga.

8 April 1968

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(Concerning unconsciousness during sleep)

During sleep the inner beings become consciously active. When one wakes up, it is the waking being that *is not conscious* of the activities of the night.

16 April 1968

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In the quotation chosen for tomorrow⁶ Sri Aurobindo speaks of “the Truth that seeks to descend upon us” and “is already there within us”. Please explain this paradox which, as I can feel, is only apparent.

It is not a paradox.

It is the same phenomenon as for the Divine who is at the centre of our being, etc. and at the same time is beyond the creation, the Divine towards whom the whole creation is moving, but whom it could never reach if it did not carry him in itself.

One must go beyond notions of space and Matter to be able to understand.

23 April 1968

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When I thought of writing to You this morning about the night of bonds and attachments that have enveloped me for the last three weeks, I felt that all these things have actually been there for a long time and that now Your Grace has brought them to my notice so that the next step may be taken.

Mother, the night has already been very long for me. But it matters little, so long as I can continue to hold myself at Your feet.

⁶ “In the spiritual order of things, the higher we project our view and our aspiration, the greater the Truth that seeks to descend upon us, because it is already there within us and calls for its release from the covering that conceals it in manifested Nature.”

Sri Aurobindo

Some Answers from the Mother

According to my experience, one should not try to destroy or to eliminate. One should concentrate all one's effort on building up and strengthening the *true consciousness*, which will automatically do the work of unifying the being.

In this way, everything that has to be transformed will be transformed quite naturally, without clash or damage.

13 May 1968

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How can one hasten the day when the whole being will be able to say, "I am Yours — Yours alone"?

There are two actions which in practice merge into one.

(1) *Never forget* the goal that one wants to attain.

(2) Never allow any part of the being or any of its movements to contradict one's aspiration.

This also makes it necessary to become conscious of one's nights, because the activities of the night often contradict the aspiration of the day and undo its work.

Vigilance, sincerity, continuity of effort, and the Grace will do the rest.

20 May 1968

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Even "good and innocent movements" are said to take on different colours in the light of the psychic flame.

The very notion of good and bad is completely changed.

One can say very simply that all that leads to the Divine is good, and all that leads away from the Divine is bad.

Many virtues lead away from the Divine by making men satisfied with what they are.

22 May 1968

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Sri Aurobindo has written in Savitri:

*“Yes, there are happy ways near to God’s sun;
But few are they who tread the sunlit path;
Only the pure in soul can walk in light.”⁷*

What a joy it would be to possess the required purity!

When one is living among men with all their miseries, it is only the Grace that can bestow this state — even in those who by Tapasya have abolished their ego.

It is beyond all personal effort.

27 May 1968

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What is the most effective way to overcome the ego?

The simplest and most effective way is *to offer it to the Divine*; the more sincere and radical this offering is, the more quickly the result will come.

28 May 1968

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To remain turned upwards and to live in the true consciousness — the two seem complementary to each other.

Are they not two ways of saying the same thing? — certainly two ways of doing the same thing.

3 June 1968

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Who should be put on guard to give the alert: “Be careful! Look upwards”?

It is what is usually called conscience, but in fact it is the psychic being. And one can hear it only if one is very attentive, because it does not make any clamour.

5 June 1968

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⁷ *Savitri*, Book VI, Canto 2.

Some Answers from the Mother

Is transparent sincerity a more effective, indispensable means, or is it a realisation in itself?

Without sincerity nothing can be done. With total sincerity everything is possible.

12 June 1968

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What is the origin of man's love for his own ignorance?

It is inconscience.

Inconscience is the negation of all effort. Ignorance (that is, the acknowledgement that there is something to be known which we do not know) is the first effect of the divine influence on the inconscient.

15 June 1968

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Sri Aurobindo speaks of Savitri's firmness of purpose in the following line:

"Immutable like a fixed eternal star."⁸

Can one say that such determination is demanded of the sadhak who aspires for transformation?

This is the great mystery of creation: immutable and yet eternally renewed.

17 June 1968

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Savitri says:

*"Not only is there hope for godheads pure;
The violent and darkened deities
Leaped down from the one breast in rage to find
What the white gods had missed: they too are safe;*

⁸ *Savitri*, Book X, Canto 1.

*A Mother's eyes are on them and her arms
Stretched out in love desire her rebel sons.”⁹
What had the white gods missed?*

The conversion of the Asuras.

24 June 1968

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*Isn't the power of the Asuras as boundless as the power
of the gods?*

The vibrations of evil are in truth less powerful than the vibrations of good.

26 June 1968

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*Can one say that total sincerity and the abolition of the
ego are closely interdependent?*

Only the Supreme Lord is perfectly sincere.

And when the ego is abolished, only the Supreme Lord exists.

28 June 1968

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In spiritual life, even to sit down is to fall back.

This is so true that one could rightly say: even while sleeping one must move forward.

But there comes a time when the ascent becomes a perfect repose.

2 July 1968

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⁹ *Savitri*, Book X, Canto 2.

Some Answers from the Mother

Once Mother spoke to me about total sincerity. What does transparent sincerity mean?

Sincerity is compared to an atmosphere or a sheet of glass. If the one or the other is completely transparent, it lets light through without distorting it.

Similarly, a sincere consciousness lets divine vibrations through without distorting them.

8 July 1968

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Can an individual achieve transformation even if the universe continues to be such as it is?

In the evolution, the individual is far ahead of the earth, but as long as he lives on earth there is a certain interdependence. But the condition of the earth is sure to become such that a supramental being will soon be able to live on it.

9 July 1968

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The Buddha said that Nirvana results in the cessation of rebirth. But isn't the Divine always free to send back into the manifestation the spark that extinguishes itself in Him?

Naturally, each time that one makes a rule one makes a mistake.

Besides, although he has not taken up another physical body, the Buddha himself has returned to work in the earth-atmosphere.

26 July 1968

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Series Eleven – To a Sadhak

If the universe is one, shouldn't the liberation of one single person on earth have the power to liberate everyone?

Oneness means identity in origin; but in the manifestation each entity follows its own path of conscious return to the Oneness.

28 September 1968

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In 1953 Mother said: "Whatever the way one follows, whether it be the religious way, the philosophical way, the yogic way, the mystic way, no one has realised transformation."¹⁰

Can one hope that the sadhaks have now made good progress towards this goal?

Now the conditions are such that every sincere effort must necessarily tend towards this goal.

30 September 1968

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How can one collaborate in the transformation?

Things are now arranged in such a way that as soon as one collaborates for the Divine Dawn in any form, one necessarily collaborates in the transformation.

7 October 1968

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The Divine is the goal, the path and the one who treads the path. But isn't a person who is not advancing towards the Divine also the Divine?

All are the Divine, but very few are those who know it and fewer still are those who want to realise it consciously. This explains

¹⁰ *Questions and Answers 1953*, CWM, Vol. 5, p. 82.

Some Answers from the Mother

the long duration and difficulty of the creation if its goal is that all and everything should once more become *consciously* divine.

14 October 1968

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One would like to have the fundamental realisation that the Divine is all and everything.

For that one must identify oneself with the Supreme Divine.

Once one is identified, when one turns towards the creation, one sees and knows that the Divine alone exists both in the Essence and in the manifestation.

16 October 1968

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Is immunity to the attack of adverse forces possible without transformation?

Immunity does not come automatically from transformation.

One has to cut off all connection with the manifested world in order to be immune.

But in any case, transformation gives the power of victory.

18 October 1968

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Is the Divine Love equal for all even in the manifestation?

Yes, equal and immutable.

But the capacity to perceive and receive it and the habit of distorting it differ with each one.

22 October 1968

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“The ideal Sadhaka should be able to say in the Biblical phrase: ‘My zeal for the Lord has eaten me up.’”¹¹

Does this mean an intense, constant and integral aspiration?

Yes, it means that the entire being is absorbed in its consecration.

24 October 1968

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Does the subconscious go on recording during sleep?

For most people, in their sleep, it is precisely what has been recorded in the subconscious during the day or previously which becomes active again and constitutes their dreams.

26 October 1968

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*Aswapathy was very fortunate. For him,
“Each day was a spiritual romance,...
Each happening was a deep experience.”¹²*

This possibility is open to all whose aspiration is fervent.

1 November 1968

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How can one keep what You give?

It does not go away, but enters the subconscious and continues to act.

To remain conscious of it, one must reduce the range of the subconscious in oneself and thus increase the consciousness.

3 November 1968

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¹¹ Sri Aurobindo, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, SABCL, Vol. 20, p. 52.

¹² Sri Aurobindo, *Savitri*, Book I, Canto 3.

Some Answers from the Mother

What should one do to reduce the range of the subconscious?

To grow in consciousness is the very aim of life on earth. It is through the experience of successive lives that the range of the subconscious is gradually reduced.

By yoga and the effort to find the Divine in oneself and in life, one hastens the work considerably and it can be done in a few years.

5 November 1968

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*“A knowledge which became what it perceived,
Replaced the separated sense and heart
And drew all Nature into its embrace.”¹³*

Is Sri Aurobindo referring here to knowledge by identity?

Yes, it is a very exact description.

7 November 1968

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*“A greater force than the earthly held his limbs,...
Unwound the triple cord of mind and freed
The heavenly wideness of a Godhead’s gaze.”¹⁴
What does “the triple cord of mind” mean?*

The cords symbolise the limitations of the mind; and there are three of them because there is a physical mind, a vital mind and a mental mind.

9 November 1968

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¹³ *Savitri*, Book I, Canto 3.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Book I, Canto 5.

*“The days were travellers on a destined road,
The nights companions of his musing spirit.”¹⁵*

Yes, there comes a time when nothing, absolutely nothing is outside the yoga and the Divine’s Presence is felt and found in all things and all circumstances.

11 November 1968

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*“A last high world was seen where all worlds meet;
In its summit gleam where Night is not nor Sleep,
The light began of the Trinity supreme.”¹⁶
Is the “Trinity supreme” Sachchidananda?*

Yes.

15 November 1968

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*Through Krishna’s Grace, Arjuna realised the cosmic
Divine and Virat in the twinkling of an eye. What a
good Guru and what a good disciple!*

Speed is not necessarily a sign of superiority.

These “instantaneous” conversions are most often the result of many lives of preparation.

17 November 1968

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*“Our body’s cells must hold the Immortal’s flame.”¹⁷
Is this the secret of the luminous body?*

It is a poetic way of expressing the transformation which is going to take place and which is more complicated than that.

19 November 1968

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¹⁵ *Savitri*, Book I, Canto 3.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Book I, Canto 5.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Book I Canto 3.

Some Answers from the Mother

It seems to me, Mother, that when man does not accept the Divine, it is more out of ignorance than out of wickedness. Isn't it so?

It is undoubtedly out of ignorance and fear of what he doesn't know.

It is only the Asuras and a few great hostile beings who refuse and oppose the Divine even though they know who He is.

21 November 1968

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It seems to me, Mother, that the flame that calls and the flame that responds are one and the same.

Essentially they are the same; but the plenitude of the response far exceeds the intensity of the call. The response always exceeds our receptivity by far.

25 November 1968

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Can one say, Mother, that perfect receptivity comes only with constant union with the Divine?

If we call "perfect receptivity" the receptivity that receives only the Divine Influence and no other, it is certain — and at the same time it is perfect purity.

This is what we should strive for.

27 November 1968

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"None can reach heaven who has not passed through hell."¹⁸

But still, Mother, doesn't the soul chosen by the Divine go through hell in a different way than others?

¹⁸ *Savitri*, Book II, Canto 8.

The quotation means that in order to reach the divine regions one must, while on earth, pass through the vital, which in some of its parts is a veritable hell. But those who have surrendered to the Divine and been adopted by Him are surrounded by the divine protection and for them the passage is not difficult.

29 November 1968

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*“His failure is not failure whom God leads”¹⁹
Because it is part of the play?*

It is the human mind that has the conception of success and failure. It is the human mind that wants one thing and does not want another. In the divine plan each thing has its place and its importance. So it is not success that matters. What matters is to be a docile and if possible a *conscious* instrument of the Divine Will.

To be and to do what the Divine wants, this is the truly important thing.

3 December 1968

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“The one original transcendent Shakti, the Mother stands above all the worlds and bears in her eternal consciousness the Supreme Divine.”²⁰

Similarly, can one say that the Supreme Divine carries the Mother in his eternal consciousness?

Beyond all question.

They are ONE in essence and manifestation.

5 December 1968

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¹⁹ *Savitri*, Book III, Canto 4.

²⁰ Sri Aurobindo, *The Mother*, SABCL, Vol. 25, p. 20.

Some Answers from the Mother

Cannot the ego consent to its own abolition?

The ego was created for the work of individualisation; when the work is achieved, it is not unusual for the ego to accept its own dissolution .

7 December 1968

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The human pleasure of possessing is a perversion of what, Mother?

All pleasure is a perversion, by egoistic limitation, of the Ananda which is the purpose of the universal manifestation.

11 December 1968

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“When we eat, we should be conscious that we are giving our food to that Presence in us....”²¹

When I try to take this attitude, the food tastes better and the atmosphere becomes quieter.

The Presence is always there whatever we do, and it is because of ignorance, negligence or absent-mindedness that we do not feel it. But each time that we are attentive and concentrated, we become aware of a wonderful transformation in all things.

13 December 1968

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In order to be conscious of the constant Presence, is memory a good aid?

Memory is a mental faculty and helps the mental consciousness. But feeling and sensation must also participate.

17 December 1968

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²¹ Sri Aurobindo, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, SABCL, Vol. 20, p. 103.

When the Presence becomes concrete, does this indicate the participation of feeling and sensation?

To have the perception of the Presence, the participation of feeling is indispensable, and when sensation collaborates, then the perception becomes concrete and tangible.

19 December 1968

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*“All things shall change in God’s transfiguring hour.”²²
Can man delay or hasten the coming of this hour?*

Neither the one nor the other in their apparent contradiction created by the separative consciousness, but something else that our words cannot express.

In the present state of human consciousness, it is good for it to think that aspiration and human effort can hasten the advent of the divine transformation, because effort and aspiration are needed for the transformation to take place.

21 December 1968

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The Upanishad says: “When That is known, all is known.” All is known in its essential truth or also in detail?

In its essential truth, but one usually keeps the perception of the illusory appearance at the same time.

23 December 1968

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²² *Savitri*, Book III, Canto 4.

Some Answers from the Mother

It seems to me that to know things in detail, the ordinary instrumentation is necessary for the yogi too, but that the yogi puts this knowledge to the test of the essential truth.

Yes, one can put it that way. But above all, it is the attitude towards the outward appearance that changes completely.

25 December 1968

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In fact, Mother, what is the yogi's attitude towards the outward appearance?

The usefulness of seeing clearly instead of being blind.

The usefulness of no longer being deceived by outward appearances.

The usefulness of knowing the true purpose of life instead of living in ignorance and falsehood.

27 December 1968

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Is the perception of the illusory appearance automatic for the yogi?

That probably depends on the yogi and his condition.

But when one is united with the Supreme Consciousness and when the body is undergoing transformation, the body keeps its automatic perception of the outer world; but this perception is more complete than the ordinary one, as if it revealed something of its content.

29 December 1968

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Therefore, Mother, the transformation of the body is necessary even to live in the Integral Knowledge!

Certainly.

Series Eleven – To a Sadhak

In Sri Aurobindo's yoga, the transformation of the body is indispensable so far as it can be done. Because the aim of this yoga is not an escape from the physical consciousness but a divinisation of that consciousness.

31 December 1968