



गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः।  
गुरुः साक्षात् परंब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः॥

**Guru is Brahma (the Creator), Guru is Vishnu (the Preserver), and Guru is the god Maheshwara (the Destroyer). Unto that Guru who is truly the manifest Parabrahman, I bow down with reverence.**

# Realization

Vol. 13, No. 1

January 2024

An e-magazine of Sri Aurobindo Ashram (Delhi Branch)

यो देवानां प्रभवश्चोद्भवश्च विश्वाधिपो रुद्रो महर्षिः ।

हिरण्यगर्भं पश्यत जायमानं स नो बुध्वा शुभया संयुनक्तु ॥१२॥

He who is the coming to birth of the gods and the arising of their being, the master of the universe, the Violent One, the Great Seer and beheld Hiranyagarbha born,— may he yoke us with a bright and good understanding.

– Svetasvatara Upanishad 4-12

**Sri Aurobindo Ashram (Delhi Branch)**

Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 016

011-2656 7863; [www.sriaurobindoashram.net](http://www.sriaurobindoashram.net)

# Ongoing & Forthcoming Events

## January 2024

### Meditation & Satsang venue : Meditation Hall

Monday – Saturday

7 – 7:30 pm

Collective Meditation

### Sunday Meditation & Discourses 10:00 – 11:30 am

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| Jan 07 | <i>Sri Ma ka Rupantarkari Yog</i> (The Mother's Transformative Yoga)<br>Musical offering  | Dr. Aparna Roy<br>Dr. Maitreyee Karak    |
| Jan 14 | Attitude to Family Relationship in Integral Yoga<br>Musical offering  | Dr. Srividya<br>Ms. Preamsheela          |
| Jan 21 | The Past Was Useful in Its Own Time<br>(Based on Mother's prayer dated 1 April 1914 in <i>Prayers and Meditations</i> )<br>Musical offering | Dr. Mithu Pal<br>Ms. Monidipa Ghosh      |
| Jan 28 | Renunciation<br>(Based on Sri Aurobindo's <i>The Synthesis of Yoga</i> , Pt 2, Ch 5)<br>Musical offering                                    | Dr. Mankul Goyal<br>Ms. Sowmya Narayanan |

### CLASSES by Shri Prashant Khanna

|                         |          |                             |                     |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesdays: 05,12,19,26   | 11:30 am | Room for SAAM – 'Knowledge' | Nourishing the Soul |
| Thursdays: 07,14,21,28  | 5:00 pm  | Room for SAAM – 'Knowledge' | Savitri             |
| Fridays: 01,08,15,22,29 | 11:30 am | Room for SAAM – 'Knowledge' | Bhagvad Gita        |

All classes ONLINE also. Please contact Amit Arora (+91 95600 88456)

### CLASS by Dr. Aparna Roy

|                       |         |                             |                           |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tuesdays: 05,12,19,26 | 5:30 pm | Room for SAAM – 'Knowledge' | Looking Within (in Hindi) |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|

### Ashram Library (Knowledge)

Tuesday to Sunday Timings : 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

(Monday closed)

Contact : 011 2656 7863

## श्रीस्मृति Sri Smriti

(Memorabilia of the Mother)

OPEN

Tue, Thu: 10am-12noon, 2-4pm

Wed, Fri: 10am-12noon

Sat : 2-4pm

Sun : 11am-1pm

Darshan Days: 10am-3pm

(Monday Closed)

Contact : 91-11-2656 7863



## Youth Day, 12 January 2024, 4:30 pm

**Epecially designed events for students (class 9 & above) including inspirational songs**  
**For details, please contact : Dr. Bijlani on <rambijwork@gmail.com>**

## ART FOR ASHRAM, 2023 – EXHIBITIONS

| <u>Theme</u>                               | <u>Timing</u> | <u>Venue</u>               |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| 'All Life is Yoga'                         | 10 am–4 pm    | Prasad Block, Ground Floor |
| 'Divine Signature' (Life of Sri Aurobindo) | 10 am–4 pm    | Prasad Block, First Floor  |
| 'The World Stair'                          | 10 am–4 pm    | Prasad Block, First Floor  |

Contact 011-2656 7863

## Sri Aurobindo Ashram (Delhi Branch)'S SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| YouTube   | : | <a href="https://youtube.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch">https://youtube.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch</a>             |
| Facebook  | : | <a href="http://facebook.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch">http://facebook.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch</a>             |
| Instagram | : | <a href="https://www.instagram.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch">https://www.instagram.com/sriurobindoashramdelhibranch</a> |
| Twitter   | : | <a href="https://twitter.com/sadelhibranch">https://twitter.com/sadelhibranch</a>   |
| Website   | : | <a href="http://sriurobindoashram.net/">http://sriurobindoashram.net/</a>   |

## The Mother's Integral Health Centre Activities

Phone 88005 52685, <tmihc2000@gmail.com>

### Speciality Clinics – By Appointment Only

|                  |   |                         |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Mon-Sat (6 days) | Allopathy- Integral Health                  | (10:00 am–12:00 noon)   |
| Mon-Sat (6 days) | Physiotherapy                               | (10:30 am–12:30 pm)     |
| Wednesday        | Dermatology                                 | (2:30– 03:30 pm)        |
| Thursday         | Ophthalmology                               | (11:00 am–12:00 noon)   |
| Friday           | Psychiatry                                  | (1:00 pm–03:00 pm)      |
| Tuesday          | Gynaecology                                 | (10:30 am–11:30 am)     |
| Wednesday        | Surgery                                     | (10:00 am–12:00 noon)   |
| Mon, Wed, Fri    | Homoeopathy (Online only; Call 88005 52685) | (11:00 am–01:00 pm)     |
| Tue, Sat         | Ayurveda Consultation                       | (12:00 noon–03:00 pm)   |
| Mon-Sat (6 days) | Ayurveda Treatment                          | (10:00 am–4:00 pm) Tue- |
| Wed, Sat         | Accupressure                                | (10:30 am–01:00 pm)     |

## Physical Practices of Yoga

|             |               |                     |                   |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mon/Wed/Fri | 11 am–12 noon | Yogasana class      | Ms. Vidya Mundhra |
| Mon/Wed/Fri | 10 am–12 noon | Individual sessions | Shri Deepak Jhamb |

Get the psychic being in front and keep it there, putting its power on the mind, vital and physical, so that it shall communicate to them its force of single-minded aspiration, trust, faith, surrender, direct and immediate detection of whatever is wrong in the nature and turned towards ego and error, away from Light and Truth.

Eliminate egoism in all its forms; eliminate it from every movement of your consciousness.

Develop the cosmic consciousness – let the ego-centric outlook disappear in wideness, impersonality, the sense of the Cosmic Divine, the perception of universal forces, the realisation and understanding of the cosmic manifestation, the play.

Find in place of ego the true being – a portion of the Divine, issued from the World-Mother and an instrument of the manifestation. This sense of being a portion of the Divine and an instrument should be free from all pride, sense or claim of ego or assertion of superiority, demand or desire. For if these elements are there, then it is not the true thing.

Most in doing yoga live in the mind, vital, physical, lit up occasionally or to some extent by the higher mind and by the illumined mind; but to prepare for the supramental change it is necessary (as soon as, personally, the time has come) to open up to the Intuition and the overmind, so that these may make the whole being and the whole nature ready for the supramental change. Allow the consciousness quietly to develop and widen and the knowledge of these things will progressively come.

Calm, discrimination, detachment (but not indifference) are all very important, for their opposites impede very much the transforming action. Intensity of aspiration should be there, but it must go along with these. No hurry, no inertia, neither rajasic over-eagerness nor tamasic discouragement – a steady and persistent but quiet call and working. No snatching or clutching at realisation, but allowing realisation to come from within and above and observing accurately its field, its nature, its limits. Let the power of the Mother work in you, but be careful to avoid any mixture or substitution, in its place, of either a magnified ego-working or a force of Ignorance presenting itself as Truth. Aspire especially for the elimination of all obscurity and unconsciousness in the nature.

These are the main conditions of preparation for the supramental change; but none of them is easy, and they must be complete before the nature can be said to be ready. If the true attitude (psychic, unegoistic, open only to the Divine Force) can be established, then the process can go on much more quickly. To take and keep the true attitude, to further the change in oneself, is the help that can be given, the one thing asked to assist the general change.

– *Sri Aurobindo*

## Activities during November 16 – December 15, 2023

### THE MOTHER'S MAHASAMADHI DAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2023

The Mother's Mahasamadhi Day was observed as a day of silence and a conscious effort was made to keep conversation to the level of necessity. An effort was also made to foster inner silence. In the evening, lamps of aspiration were kindled near the Shrine, followed by silent meditation in the Meditation Hall. All attendees received *Prasad* and a card with the following message on exiting the Meditation Hall:



Do not allow any outward circumstance to shake the faith in you; for nothing gives greater strength than this faith to go through and arrive at the goal. Knowledge and tapasya, whatever their force, have a less sustaining power — faith is the strongest staff for the journey.

The protection is there over you and the watchful love of the Mother. Rely upon it and let your being open more and more to it — then it will repel attacks and always uphold you.

CWSA 32:308 Sri Aurobindo

(Message given by Sri Aurobindo on 8 October 1936)

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(Message given by Sri Aurobindo on 8 October 1936)

बिम्बी भी बाहरी परिस्थिति को अपने भीतर की आस्था को हिलाटोल करने का अस्मर नर नो; क्योंकि लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए आस्था के बलकर शक्ति और बिम्बी सुखी भीतर से नहीं मिलती है। श्रम और तपस्या, चाहे बिम्बी भी उनकी शक्ति हो, उनकी शक्ति कम रखायी होती है – अंतर्भाव के लिए आस्था ही सबसे प्रबल कार्य है।  
सुखारे लिए सुरक्षा भी है और श्रमी का सज्ज प्रेम भी। इस सुरक्षा पर भरोसा रखो और अपने आत्म को अधिक से अधिक इस सुरक्षा के प्रति खोलो – तब वह सुरक्षा सभी आक्रमणों को खदेड़ देगी और सदैव तुम्हें समर्थ रखेगी।

— श्रीअरुबिन्द

(8 अक्टूबर 1936 का श्रीअरुबिन्द का संदेश)



17 November 2023

### INTEGRAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS WORKSHOP, 21-27 NOVEMBER 2023

Sri Aurobindo Ashram (Delhi Branch) conducted a 7-day workshop on Integral Education and Physical Fitness for 53 teachers from schools located in underprivileged regions of India. Regional breakdown of participants is as follows – Ladhak: school 1, teachers 2; Uttarakhand: school 1, teachers 2; Chhattisgarh: school 1, teacher 1; Odisha: schools 6, teachers 11; Karnataka: schools 3, teachers 6; Rajasthan: school 1, teachers 5; West Bengal: schools 8,





teachers 13; Telangana: school 1, teacher 1; Uttar Pradesh: school 1, teachers 2; Delhi: schools 3, teachers 5; Gujarat: school 1, teachers 2 and Haryana: school 1, teachers 2. The workshop was inaugurated by Sulochana Didi

and Dr. Ramesh Bijlani by kindling diyas before the images of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Subsequently Sulochana Didi in a brief talk exhorted the participants to appreciate the significance of incorporating increas-



ing discipline in life.

The workshop consisted of theory sessions on the life of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother by Dr. Ramesh Bijlani, Integral Education by Anupama Roy-Jarrisse, Inner Work and Emotional Healing by Puneeta Puri, First-Aid by Sanjeeb Giri, Integral Health and Well Being by Dr Surinder Katoch. Additional sessions included mantra chanting led by Ms. Preamsheela, Theater in Education by Manish Kumar, Creative Sports and Physical Demonstration by Hira Das, Rappelling by Akansha, Yogasanas by Priya Gupta, Reflective sessions by Baren Raul and Novelty game sessions were led by Vocational and Teacher Trainees. Shramdaan in the forenoon and meditation in the evening *satsang* was a daily feature of the program,



and the participants also joined in the Darshan Day programs of the anniversary of Siddhi Day on 24 November 2023 which included a March-Past in the evening.

A sightseeing tour of Delhi enabled participants to visit the Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple, India Gate, Red Fort and Akshar Dham Temple. At culmination of the workshop, all received a Certifi-





cate of Participation, and books & sports equipment. Organizers gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Boston Consulting Group of Mumbai, which made the accomplishment of this program possible.

**SIDDHI DAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2023**

On Siddhi Day 24 November 2023, one of the four *Darshan* Days celebrated in the Ashram, Km. Srila Basu led an invocation for divine Presence in the Meditation Hall early in the morning. Later in the day, Art for Ashram 2023 exhibitions on *All Life Is Yoga*, *The Divine Signature*, and *The World Stair* were kept open for devotees. In the evening the traditional march-past took



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| <p>—<br/>         ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥<br/>         ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥<br/>         ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥ श्री अरविन्दो नमो ॥</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">24 November 2023</p> | <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><small>Sri Aurobindo (flower name given by the Mother)</small></p> <p>Sri Aurobindo has revealed to us<br/> a few of the marvels that the future will<br/> bring to the earth and has encouraged us<br/> to prepare ourselves for it.<br/> The Mother</p> <p><small>Message given by the Mother in 27 November 1971</small></p> </div> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sri Aurobindo has revealed to us<br/> a few of the marvels that the future will<br/> bring to the earth and has encouraged us<br/> to prepare ourselves for it.<br/> The Mother</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Message given by the Mother in 27 November 1971</p> |
|--|---|---|

place to the accompaniment of a marching song and *Vande Mataram*. Subsequently, the lamps of aspiration were kindled through creative movements with the song *Sri Aurobindo Yoga Purusha* at the Shrine and in the Samadhi Lawn.

After that, Km. Minati Pradhan and Mrs. Premsheela made a musical offering in the Meditation Hall and Tara Didi read passages about the significance of Siddhi Day and events related to Siddhi Day. At the end, *Prasad* and a message card was distributed to all participants.

### **SIDDHI DAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2023, AT MADHUBAN, TALLA RAMGARH**

The Siddhi Day anniversary program began with chanting of Sri Aurobindo's Gayatri Mantra in the forenoon, followed by meditation in *Prabhu Sthal* with the Mother's Music in the background and attended by sadhaks, Ashram guests



and women from the Khushali Livelihoods programme. A mini-exhibition of Khushali Livelihood products was held later in the day. In the evening sadhaks and guests kindled Lights of Aspiration and paid their respects at Prashanti while Mother's Music was broad-

cast over the premises. Thirty six teachers of Vidya School, Gurgaon were introduced to the Importance of Siddhi Day and the significance of Krishna consciousness. Darshan Day's events culminated with distribution of *Prasad*.



### **SRI AUROBINDO'S MAHASAMADHI DAY**

Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's *mahasamadhi* Day in the Ashram was observed on 5 December, 2023, beginning by invocation for the divine Presence in the morning in the Meditation Hall by Km. Srila Basu.

In the forenoon students & staff of The Mother's International School (MIS) along with the Ashram community, and visitor-devotees gathered on the *Samadhi Lawn* to pay homage to Sri Aurobindo. As the host of stu-





dents, teachers and devotees sat in meditative silence, the serene verdure of the Ashram resonated with the strains of melodious shlokas and bhajans sung by the MIS Choir,



interspersed with commentaries and passages from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's works. The program began with the bhajan with *Nikhil Jyoti... Sri Arvindah Mam Sharanam*. Sri Aurobindo's divine calling was to realise the manifestation of the supramental world and He embodied in part, the supramental force. His consciousness was greater than his material sheath and to his spirit, both life and death were small masks in the limitless being of the Divine and the Eternal.

“I have become what before Time I was.

A secret touch has quieted thought and sense:

All things by the agent Mind created pass

Into a void and mute magnificence...

A momentless immensity pure and bare,

I stretch to an eternal everywhere.” [*The Self's Infinity* by Sri Aurobindo]

The events that followed the Mahasamadhi of the Master in Pondicherry were recalled by reading of an excerpt from Nirodbaran's recollections:

“The sadhaks came one by one and saw the Marvel and the Mystery, the body of the Golden Purusha in eternal sleep... The entire body was suffused with a golden crimson hue, so fresh, so magnificent.



It seemed to have lifted my pall of gloom...” [*Twelve Years with Sri Aurobindo* by Nirodbaran]

And recitation of lines from Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri*:

“The Absolute, the Perfect, the Alone

Has entered with his silence into space;

He has fashioned these countless persons of one self;

He has built a million figures of his power;

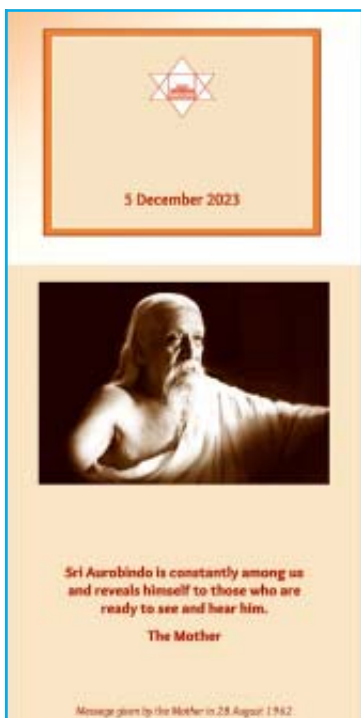
He lives in all, who lived in his Vast alone,

Space is himself and Time is only He.”

A calmness engulfed the premises as leaves gently rustled in the winter breeze. The program ended with reverent homage to Sri Aurobindo with the singing of *Hey Chiro Diner Shurjo, Tomay Pronam Kori*.

In the evening, after the devotees had kindled lamps of aspiration near the

Shrine, a musical offering was made in the Meditation Hall by the Ashram choir led by Premsheela, Srila and Jayanthy, and reading by Tara Didi of the events around 5 December 1950 as recorded by Nirodbaran. As the devotees exited the Meditation Hall, they received Prasad and a message card.



**Sri Aurobindo is constantly among us  
and reveals himself to those who are  
ready to see and hear him.  
The Mother**

*Message given by the Mother in 28 August 1962*

# THE MARVELLOUSLY INSPIRING LIFE OF SRI AUROBINDO

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE (1)

[Excerpted from published material]

"I know I have the strength to deliver this fallen race. It is not physical strength,— I am not going to fight with sword or gun,— but the strength of knowledge... God sent me to earth to accomplish this great mission. The seed began to sprout when I was fourteen; by the time I was eighteen the roots of the resolution had grown firm and unshakable."

Sri Aurobindo's 30 August 1905 letter to his wife, Mrinalini Devi

So, the question that arises in our minds is "Where was Sri Aurobindo when he was eighteen?" He was at Cambridge, actually...

The University of Cambridge was founded in 1209, and along with Oxford, is the oldest in the world... its very name is synonymous with excellence... The University includes 31 colleges which are more or less independent financially and administratively. An indication of how high its standards are can be judged from the fact that 81 people who have been awarded the Nobel Prize since it was started in 1901 had studied at Cambridge... These eminent minds have contributed much to the progress of the world as a whole, going beyond the confines of Britain, the "sceptred isle". Newton, Darwin and William Harvey studied here, but also Wordsworth, Byron and Milton...

We enter the college campus through the elaborately decorated gateway. Before us is a large square lawn, to our left is a massive two-storied building which we later learn is the Dining Hall. Across the lawn is another similar building and is the area of the lecture halls and to our right is the famous chapel whose entire length we can see now. Beyond all this is the river Cam which gives its name to the town...

[In] those two years, 1890 to 1892, which Sri Aurobindo spent here... it was still only a university town. The population of this town was made up almost entirely of those who had come to study and all those who were a part of the colleges in one way or another. The traders and merchants who lived there were only there to serve this university population.

Although the University of Cambridge dates back to 1209, King's College itself was founded in 1441 by King Henry VI of the Tudor dynasty and that is how it gets its name... At first the college was meant only for boys from Eton [Eton College, public school founded, 1440] but in 1865 it was opened to others as well... In those days the young men... who had scholarships were given accommodation in a house which was separated from the college campus by a narrow lane. In order to get this scholarship one had to pass an examination and Sri Aurobindo passed this examination with the highest marks. This scholarship entitled him to £80 a year, which, considering his financial difficulties, was at least a sum of money he could count on...

One of the most important features of King's College is the library. Apparently it has been there, and in constant use, since the founding of the College in 1441... Inside the library... The librarian, to whom I have explained the purpose of my visit, calls his assistant and asks her to show us around... The assistant leads me to the English section and shows me where they have kept the entire set of the centenary volumes of the Master's works... [The assistant] shows me the different sections of their collection. "What exactly did Sri Aurobindo study at King's? What were the subjects of the Tripos?" I enquire. "The only subjects were Greek and Latin," the assistant tells me to my surprise, "and the main work was to translate from Greek and Latin into English and vice versa." Then she patiently explains to me that even Greek philosophy wasn't a part of the Tripos. If texts were chosen from the Greek philosophers it was more for the style than for the content. Even Greek and Roman history were sometimes alluded to but only to better understand the literature of the period rather than for teaching history... the assistant takes me to the section where they preserve the

question-papers of over a hundred years. There I see the examination paper that Sri Aurobindo had to answer in 1892. There are passages from Greek poetry and prose to be translated into English and again short passages in Latin prose and poetry to be translated into English. Then there is the exercise in reverse... The last exercise is an essay to be composed in English, imagining a typical day in the life of a character in Latin literature, a normal day in ancient Rome...

These two years at Cambridge were linked to all the three aspects of Sri Aurobindo's personality: the poet, the patriot and the philosopher. His first collection of poems was published from Baroda but actually [most of] these poems had been written in Cambridge. His first contact with the Freedom Movement came when he joined the Indian Majlis and became its secretary. His writings in Pondicherry on philosophical subjects have the stamp and the style of a scholar. Perhaps it is his high style that has kept the common man from understanding him. But, on the other hand, can we expect less from someone who was a first class scholar from Cambridge?...

It is important to note that at the end of the 19th century studying the classics was a normal thing for people of the upper class to do... In those days higher studies were meant more for training the mind to think rather than to acquire a job skill.

This study of Greek literature has contributed much to Sri Aurobindo's poetry... The story of the Trojan War forms the backdrop of *Illion*. The lines are written in Quantitative Hexametre and although the language is English, the thoughts and feelings come out of the complex tales of Greek mythology and legends. And even though *Illion* is incomplete, it still remains an epic poem. It is not only in *Perseus [the deliverer]* and *Illion* that we see the Greek influence but in *Love and Death* too. The story very closely resembles the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice. Sri Aurobindo has himself, when in Baroda, written in a letter to his brother Manmohan, how his mind was still tuned to Greek mythology, even though he had been living in India for 6 years. His Yama in *Love and Death* bears a greater resemblance to Pluto than to the Death of Indian mythology and even the portrait of Madana is more like Eros or Cupid...

Sri Aurobindo has said that he considered himself first a poet. This aspect of his personality is somehow eclipsed by the more prominent ones. If you turn the pages of *The Collected Poems* you will notice that the earliest poems are dated 1890-92. This period corresponds to his Cambridge days. These poems are a clear indication of what was passing through his mind. There are poems written during that period which are full of allusions to Greek and Roman myth, the language is flowery and decorative, intertwined with emotions. But if you continue to look more closely you will come across two poems which have nothing to do with roses and sunlight or spring and stars. These poems are written on Charles Stuart Parnell, the Irish nationalist leader. The revolt of Ireland brings to Sri Aurobindo's mind the images of his own motherland, India, which is still in bondage. His sympathy for the Irish patriots and the outbursts of praise for them show the first signs of what will grow and one day become the fiery articles in the Indian papers...

It is not a coincidence that both the Mother and Sri Aurobindo spent their formative years in the West but carried out their work, of manifesting the higher truth, in India. It was all a part of the global vision of things that they have given us. Cambridge has played an important role in Sri Aurobindo's life, in the preparation of "the strength of knowledge". And even though more than a century has passed since he was there, when you stand in the grounds of King's College you know that you are in a very special place on this earth. Even Time seems to be holding its breath in awe.

– From *Sri Aurobindo at Cambridge* [published in *Golden Chain*, 2007] by Sunayana Panda

*To be contd.*

A secret air of pure felicity  
Deep like a sapphire heaven our spirits breathe;  
Our hearts and bodies feel its obscure call,  
Our senses grope for it and touch and lose.  
If this withdrew, the world would sink in the Void;  
If this were not, nothing could move or live.  
A hidden Bliss is at the root of things.  
A mute Delight regards Time's countless works:  
To house God's joy in things Space gave wide room,  
To house God's joy in self our souls were born.  
This universe an old enchantment guards;  
Its objects are carved cups of World-Delight  
Whose charmed wine is some deep soul's rapture-drink:  
The All-Wonderful has packed heaven with his dreams,  
He has made blank ancient Space his marvel-house;  
He spilled his spirit into Matter's signs:  
His fires of grandeur burn in the great sun,  
He glides through heaven shimmering in the moon;  
He is beauty carolling in the fields of sound;  
He chants the stanzas of the odes of Wind;  
He is silence watching in the stars at night;  
He wakes at dawn and calls from every bough,  
Lies stunned in the stone and dreams in flower and tree.

– From *Savitri* by Sri Aurobindo

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