

The Wisdom of India

by

Shyam Sunder Jhunjhunwala

Sri Aurobindo's Action
Pondicherry 605002

Compiled by
Shyam Sunder Jhunjunwala
Sri Aurobindo Ashram
Pondicherry - 605 005



Library

114S. Shri la



G5414

Th
with acknowledgements of gratitude
to publishers of the source-material.

Sri Aurobindo Ashram is the publisher and
copyright-holder
of the writings of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother

First Printed in 1999

Typeset and printed at
ALL INDIA PRESS, Kennedy Nagar
Pondicherry — 605001, India.

Foreword

It was evening time. In the course of a chat the idea came forth for an anthology titled 'The Wisdom of India'. I felt tempted to make a try; the contents unfolded themselves, and here is the result, *swantahsukhaya*.

The compilation is from the Vedas, Upanishads, Gita, Dhammapada and the classics, as well as from the mediaevals and the moderns.

The sage Yajñayavalkya, when he wanted to retire from the life of a householder and live the life of a forest recluse, said to his wife Maitreyi, "Maitreyi, I am forsaking all and leaving home. If you so wish, I can make separate provision for you." Maitreyi answered: "If all my possessions were to fill the whole earth, would they bring me immortality, my lord?" Yajñayavalkya explained that in that case she could have a life of enjoyments, like other people of wealth, but of immortality there would be no hope. Thereupon Maitreyi exclaimed: "What then am I to do with that which does not make me immortal?"

Man is mortal, the things and creatures around him are transient and mortal. But he seeks immortality, he seeks the Eternal, he seeks God.

Man discovers the supreme Reality; one of the names he has given to the Supreme Reality is God. There are other names, Brahman, Ishwara, Allah, The Absolute, and many others. The discovery of the Reality is justly considered his supreme discovery.

What is that Reality and what is its relationship with the creation? What is God's relationship with man?

There is an Upanishadic parable about this query.

One evening the Rishi Uddalaka Aruni gave some salt to his son Shwetaketu and said:

"Place this salt in water, and then wait on me in the morning."

The son did so. Next morning the Rishi said:

"Bring me the salt which you placed in the water last night."

The son looked for it but found it not, for, of course, it was dissolved and not seen anymore.

"Taste it from the surface of the water, my son. How is it?"

"Salt."

"Taste it from the middle. How is it?"

"Salt."

"Taste it from the bottom. How is it?"

"Salt."

"Throw it away, then wait on me."

The son did so, saying: "It is always the same."

The salt was always there, though unseen.

Then the father concluded that morning:

"Here also, in this body, you do not perceive the Reality, my son; but there indeed it is. That which is the subtle essence, in it all that exists has its soul. It is the Reality. It is the Soul. And Shwetaketu, thou art That."

And there have been men, in all ages and climes, well-known, less known, even unknown, who have realized That, the Reality. They are the men of God. "How can they be recognized? By what signs?" We ask as Arjuna asked Krishna.

The characteristics of a God-realised person are inner attainments, soul-achievements. In his outer acts there is no apparent difference; yet, there is a difference, that of a soul-vibration which can be perceived by a sensitive intelligence and heart. Equality in all happenings, equality

Foreword

amidst friends and foes, total detachment, purity, fearlessness. A steadfastness in Truth, love of all beings, fixity in the soul, these are among the universal qualities of God-realisation.

How to attain to God? Many are the paths, many more the bypaths. Each person goes the way of his nature and his choice.

On the path of knowledge the seeker arrives at the knowledge of the Reality. He arrives at the knowledge of That by identity with That. As he is a creation of that Reality, when he inquires 'Who am I?', his self-inquiry leads him to that very Reality which he is. Meditation and awareness are helpers on the way, as are love of God, devotion to God and Truth, strict truthfulness in speech and action, and a steady aspiration to know the Truth. The Truth that cannot be reached by the intellect, but is unveiled by progressive revelations.

The way of bhakti, of devotion, is the heart's path to God. It is one of the three ageless paths of man to reach God. Numerous have been the devotees of God on earth in all ages. Devotional poetry is marked by the agony of separation and the joy of union.

Now, as for action, works: so long as a man lives he cannot renounce all action. Not only that, a God-realised person participates in the creation of God by doing God-directed works without any desire of his own, either for the work or for its result. This comprises the Yoga of works as King Janaka discharged his kingly duties while remaining in union with God, abiding in the Self.

Knowledge of the Spirit is the goal of the path of knowledge and once it is attained, it has to be lived. The will to live simultaneously in God and in life is the will for the divine life. Divine life is the goal dreamed of by the earliest Rishis; it is the goal towards which the river of evolution flows.

Evolution has been a long and tardy process. Divine life is a distant goal. How many centuries will pass in the journey.

who can say? At present mankind has not even accepted it as the true goal.

The upward path of the individual to the God-heights is sharp as a razor's edge. The collective attainment is a yet more difficult and arduous endeavour. But, for both the individual and the colectivity, this is the way, and in God's company all is possible; this is India's word of wisdom.

It is a Soul-voyage.

—*Shyam Sunder Jhunhunwala*

Contents

1. The Supreme Discovery	1
2. God-Men	7
3. Truth	10
4. Who Am I? – Meditation – Awareness	13
5. The Yoga of Knowledge	19
6. The Yoga of Devotion and Love	21
7. The Yoga of Works	26
8. Vedanta Lived	29
9. The Mystics Sang ...	33
10. On the Razor's Edge	40
11. Lights on the Way	46
12. Aphorisms and Maxims	66
13. Evolution And Progress	72
14. Divine Life	75
15. The Next Future	78
16. Individual and Society	83
17. A New World Order	86
18. God-Touch	88

THE SUPREME DISCOVERY

God, Universe And Man

All this is the Brahman;
this Self is the Brahman.

Mandukya Up.

Thou art That.

Chhandogya Up.

He am I.

Isha Up.

The Supreme is Om.

Prashna Up.

That moves and That moves not;
That is far and the same is near;
That is within all this and
That also is outside all this.

Isha Up.

Two are the forms of Brahman,
Time and the Timeless.

Maitrayani Up.

The One was without form and hue;
and He, by Yoga of His own might,
became manifold.
He weareth many forms and hues,

but hath no object nor interest therein;
 God into whom all the universe
 breaketh up and departeth,
 He alone was in the beginning.

Shwetashwatara Up.

God is fire that burneth
 and the Sun in heaven
 and the Wind that bloweth:
 He too is the moon.
 His is the seed
 and he the Brahman and the waters
 and He is Prajapati, the Father of his peoples.
ibid

That which one thinks not with the mind,
 that by which the mind is thought,
 know That to be the Brahman
 and not this which men follow after here.
Kena Up.

This secret Self in all beings is not apparent,
 but it is seen
 by means of the supreme reason, the subtle,
 by those who have the subtle vision.
Katha Up.

Three powers of Light
 uphold three luminous worlds divine.
Rig Veda

One seated in the sleep of Superconscience,
 a massed Intelligence,

blissful and the enjoyer of Bliss ...
This is the omniscient,
this is the inner control,
this is the source of all.

Mandukya Up.

There is a self
that is of the essence of Matter —
there is another inner self of Life
that fills the other —
there is another inner self of Mind —
there is another inner self of Truth-
Knowledge —
there is another inner self of Bliss.

Taittiriya Up.

The Purusha, the inner Self,
no larger than the size of a man's thumb.

Katha Up. & anr

This Self is to be won by the Truth
and by an integral knowledge.

Mundaka Up.

The Masters of Maya shaped all by His Maya;
the Fathers who have divine vision
set Him within as a child that is to be born.

Rig Veda

The Seer, the Thinker,
the Self-existent who becomes everywhere
has ordered perfectly all things
from years sempiternal.

Isha Up.

Two are joined together,
 powers of Truth, powers of Maya, —
 they have built the Child and given him birth
 and they nourish his growth.

Rig Veda

All this is for habitation by the Lord,
 whatsoever is individual universe of
 movement

in the universal motion.

By that renounced thou shouldst enjoy;

lust not after any man's possession.

Isha Up.

By the Ignorance they cross beyond Death
 and by the Knowledge enjoy Immortality..
 By the Non-Birth they cross beyond Death
 and by the Birth enjoy Immortality.

ibid

That which sees all
 but which none can see;
 That which illumines the intellect etc,
 but which they cannot illumine;
 That is "This".

Shankara

Neither It is born nor does It die;
 neither does It grow nor does It decay;
 being eternal, It is unchanging.

ibid

Even when the body is destroyed,
 It does not cease to exist.

It is like space in the jar that is broken —
It is independent of the jar.

ibid

The living being is none else than the
Brahman,
the whole world is the Brahman.

ibid

In the heart of all beings
the Lord is stationed, and He turns them all,
round and round, mounted on a machine by
his Maya.

Gita

... Who could live or breathe
if there were not this delight of existence
as the ether in which we dwell?

From Delight all these beings are born,
by Delight they exist and grow,
to Delight they return.

Taittiriya Up.

All things are self-deployings
of the Divine Knowledge.

Vishnupurana

Energism of consciousness is Brahman.

Taittiriya Up.

To dwell in our true being is liberation;
the sense of ego is a fall
from the truth of our being.

Mahopanishad

He is not established,
nor is He created;
He the immaculate one,
is self-existent.

Japji

Only the Creator himself knows
when he did create the world.

ibid

We are children of the Almighty,
we are sparks of the infinite, divine fire.

Vivekananda

We are sons of God and must be even as he:
His human portion, we must grow divine.
Our life is a paradox with God for key.

Sri Aurobindo

GOD-MEN

Theirs is the heaven of the Spirit,
the world all spotless,
in whom there is neither crookedness
nor lying nor any illusion.

Prashna Up.

They see the Self
in the Self
by the Self.

Gita

Those who know the true to be true
and the false to be false,
they attain the supreme goal,
for they pursue right desires and correct
views.

Buddha

One whose mind is well established
in all the degrees of knowledge,
who, detached from all things,
delights in his renunciation,
and who has mastered his appetites,
he is resplendent, and even in this world
he attains Nirvana.

ibid

No more than a mighty rock
can be shaken by the wind,
can the sage be moved by praise or blame.

The sage who has steeped himself in the
Teaching,
becomes perfectly peaceful
like a deep lake, calm and clear.

ibid

One who possesses the truth,
virtue, non-violence and self-mastery,
who is free from all impurity,
who is wise, is indeed a Thera.

ibid

Even the gods envy the sages given to
meditation,
the Awakened Ones, the Vigilant,
who live with delight in renunciation and
solitude.

ibid

He who has seen the Lord
is a changed being.
His steps falter not,
who has taken refuge in Him.

Ramakrishna

The wind carries the fragrance of the sandal-
wood
and also the smell of the rotten carcass,
but it doesn't get mixed with any of these.

So does the emancipated soul live in the
world
without getting mixed with it.

ibid

As a jar kept in water
is full of water inside and outside,
so the soul immersed in God
sees the all-pervading Spirit
within and without.

ibid

Above the parting of the roads of Time,
Above the Silence and its thousandfold
Word,
In the immutable and inviolate Truth
For ever united and inseparable,
The radiant children of Eternity dwell
On the wide spirit height where all are one.

Sri Aurobindo

Opened to a breath is the new diviner air,
Opened to man is a freer, happier world.

ibid

TRUTH

From the kindled fire of Energy of Consciousness,

Truth was born and the Law of Truth;
from that the Night,
from the Night the flowing ocean of being.

Rig Veda

The first and the highest are truth;
in the middle there is falsehood,
but it is taken between the truth on both sides
of it,
and it draws its being from the truth.

Brihadaranyaka Up.

All things have their origin in Truth;
there is nothing higher than Truth.

Valmiki

Truth is the greatest Dharma in the world.

ibid

Truth rules the world;
prosperity is established in Truth.

ibid

The gift of Truth excels all gifts;
the savour of Truth excels all savours;
delight in Truth excels all delights.

Buddha

Unless one always speaks the truth,
one cannot find God
who is the soul of Truth.

Ramakrishna

A single day spent in
the contemplation of the supreme Truth
is worth more than a hundred years
lived in ignorance of the supreme Truth.

Buddha

To see the Truth does not depend
on a big intellect or a small intellect.

Sri Aurobindo

Truth cannot be attained
by the Mind's thought
but only by identity and silent vision.

ibid

When mind is still,
then Truth gets the chance to be heard
in the purity of the silence.

ibid

The Divine Truth is greater than
any religion or creed or scripture
or idea or philosophy.

ibid

There, all the truths unite in a single truth,
and all ideas rejoin Reality.

ibid

His seeking mind ceased in the Truth that
knows.

ibid

Truth is supreme harmony
and supreme delight.

The Mother

Truth will conquer
in spite of the turmoil

ibid

Cling to Truth

ibid

WHO AM I ? — MEDITATION — AWARENESS

I am Brahman.

Brihadaranyaka Up.

Shiva am I.

Shankara

The great remedy for the long lasting disease
of the *samsara*, the worldly life, is the enquiry:
"Who am I ?"

Yoga Vashishtha Sara

You have to ask yourself the question:

'Who am I ?'

The mind will merge only by Self-inquiry:

'Who am I ?'

The thought 'Who am I ?'

will destroy all other thoughts
and finally kill itself also.

Ramana Maharshi

To the ignorant

the 'I' is the Self limited to the body;

to the wise the 'I' is the infinite Self.

ibid

The 'I' casts off the illusion of 'I'
and yet remains as 'I'.

ibid

To know all except the knower
is but ignorance.

ibid

Self-inquiry is alone true renunciation.

ibid

Learn first what you are.

ibid

An *atma-jnani* alone can be a good *karma-yogi*.

ibid

Pure consciousness,
wholly unrelated to the physical body
and transcending the mind,
is a matter of direct experience.

ibid

As a lamp brought into a room
that has been dark for a thousand years,
illuminates it immediately,
the light of knowledge illuminates the creature,
and dispels his age-long ignorance.

Ramakrishna

Meditation and contemplation
should be kept up always.

ibid

Deep meditation brings out
the real nature of the object of meditation,
and infuses it into the soul of the meditator.

ibid

From meditation wisdom springs,
without meditation wisdom declines.

Buddha

Meditation is a movement in stillness.
Silence of the mind is the way of action.

J. Krishnamurti

Meditation is the seeing of what is
and going beyond it.

ibid

Meditation is the freedom from Time.
To meditate is to transcend time.

ibid

Meditation is the awakening of bliss.

ibid

Meditation is the innocence of the present,
and therefore it is always alone.

ibid

Meditation is not an escape from the world;
it is not an isolating self-enclosing activity,
but rather the comprehension
of the world and its ways.

ibid

Meditation is wandering away from this
world;
one has to be a total outsider.

ibid

What is important in meditation is
the quality of the mind and the heart.

ibid

Meditation is hard work.

ibid

Thought has always a horizon.
The meditative mind has no horizon.

ibid

The understanding of what you are,
whatever it be —
ugly or beautiful, wicked or mischievous —
the understanding of what you are,
without distortion,
is the beginning of virtue.

ibid

Self-knowledge has no end —
you don't come to an achievement,
you don't come to a conclusion.
It is an endless river.

ibid

You and I are the problem, and not the world,
because the world is the projection of
ourselves
and to understand the world
we must understand ourselves.
The world is not separate from us;
we are the world,
and our problems are the world's problems.

ibid

The transformation of the world is brought
about
by the transformation of oneself,
because the self is the product and a part
of the total process of human existence.

ibid

To transform oneself, self-knowledge is
essential;
without knowing what you are,
there is no basis for right thought,
and without knowing yourself
there cannot be transformation.

ibid

Awareness is not a commitment to some-
thing.

Awareness is an observation,
both inner and outer,
in which direction has stopped.

ibid

Discipline means to learn, not to conform,
not to suppress, not to imitate the pattern
of what accepted authority considers noble.

ibid

Learning demands intelligence and sensi-
tivity.

ibid

One sees things in fragments
and thinks in fragments.
One must inquire into what it means
to see totally.

ibid

The knowledge of the contents is contained
in the knowledge of the continent.
It is really upon a self-awareness...
that the knowledge of the contents of our self
is based.

Sri Aurobindo

It is only when we have seen
both our self and our nature as a whole,
in the depths as well as on the surface,
that we can acquire a true basis of knowledge.

ibid

THE YOGA OF KNOWLEDGE

That known, all is known.

Shandilya Up.

Whose intelligence has unity attained,
he casts aside, even here,
both good doing and evil doing.

Gita

When from his mind one expels all desires.
and is content in the Self by the Self,
then is he stable in wisdom.

ibid

In that which is night to all creatures,
the self-mastering sage is awake.
That in which all creatures wake,
to the eyes of the seer is night.

ibid

The Light of lights He is,
and said to be beyond darkness.
Knowledge itself is He, He its object;
Knowledge is the way to Him.

ibid

An integral knowledge demands
an exploration, an unveiling
of all the possible domains
of consciousness and experience.

Sri Aurobindo

The object of spiritual knowledge is the
Supreme,
the Divine, the Infinite and the Absolute.

Self-knowledge and world-knowledge must
be made one
in the all-ensphering knowledge of the
Brahman.

ibid

To know the highest Truth
and to be in harmony with it
is the condition of right being,
to express it in all that we are, experience
and do
is the condition of right living.

Realising in ourselves the "I am He" of the
Vedanta,
we cannot but realise in looking upon all
around us
the essential knowledge on its other side,
"Thou art That".

ibid

THE YOGA OF DEVOTION AND LOVE

Among the means and conditions for *mukti*,
bhakti is supreme.

Shankara

Who expects nothing, initiates nothing,
pure, skilful, unattached, undisturbed,
he, my devotee, is dear to Me.

Gita

Who rejoices not nor hates,
desires not nor regrets,
renounces good and evil both,
he, full of devotion, is dear to Me.

ibid

And exceedingly dear to Me are those
devotees
who full of faith with Me as aim supreme,
tread along the Dharma immortal.

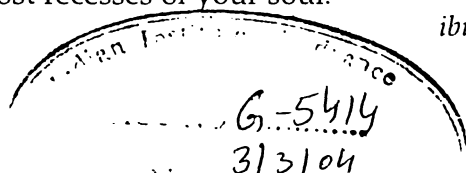
ibid

You cannot call this true devotion:
To wash one's forehead and apply the *tilak*,
without cleansing impurities of the heart.

Mirabai

You cannot deceive Him who knows
the inmost recesses of your soul.

ibid



What is to be must be,
worship the Lord.

Oh, make me serve Thee, O Lord,
in deep humility.

ibid

Some will revile me,
and some will praise,
but I shall follow
my unfathomable path.

ibid

Only He,
who else can give me strength to endure?

ibid

How can one come to meet the Lord ?
For fifteen hours one is busy,
and the remaining nine one sleeps.

ibid

So long as 'I' existed in me
the Master was not met.
Now the Master exists, 'I' is gone.
Narrow is the lane of Love,
it cannot contain both,
the ego and my Lord.

Kabir

There are some who cross the giant ocean of
birth,
but he shall not cross it
who has touched not the feet of the Godhead.

Tiruvalluvar

The Rain may forget the fields,
but the fields will ever be thirsting for its
coming.
O Lord of the City of the wise,
what care I whether Thou heal my wound or
no,
my heart shall ever be thine.

Kulashekhar Alwar

The rivers course down through many lands
but must yield themselves to the Sea,
they cannot flow back.
O sea-hued Lord of the City of the wise,
even so must I ever be drawn
to Thy resplendent glory.

ibid

Those who have meditated with devotion
on the Lord Creator and are able to fix Him
in their minds, attain quickly.

Bhaktisara Alwar

The materialists are those
who have not melted at the melody
of the flute of Krishna.

Tirumangai Alwar

Having seen Him unceasingly,
my eyes refuse to see anything else.

ibid

Let us ask ourselves every day:
do we want God ?

Vivekananda

He who desires God will get Love,
unto Him God gives Himself.

ibid

No one in this world
can really love anything but God.

ibid

My Lord has no night, no day.
He stands at the centre.

St. Ramalingam

You are my refuge,
Lord of immeasurable mercy.

ibid

How good it was to hear you say,
"Fear not, my son,
I am here to protect you."

ibid

My Lord comes, my sweet Lord
who delights the hearts of lovers
like nectar.

ibid

My Lord comes, my beloved Lord,
to sweeten my body
with everlasting bliss.

ibid

The Jew invented the God-fearing man;
India the God-knower and God-lover.

Sri Aurobindo

Canst thou see God
as the bodiless Infinite
and yet love Him
as a man loves his mistress ?

ibid

If the Bhakta seeks and yearns after
 Bhagavan,
Bhagavan also seeks and yearns after the
 Bhakta.

ibid

The Bhakta offers up his life
and all that he is and all that he has
and all that he does
to the Divine.

ibid

God's servant is something;
God's slave is greater.

ibid

THE YOGA OF WORKS

Doing verily works in this world
one should wish to live a hundred years.
Thus it is in thee and not otherwise than this;
action cleaves not to a man.

Isha Up.

He does works by Om who has the
knowledge,
and he also who has it not;
but these are diverse, the Knowledge and the
Ignorance.

Whatsoever work one does with knowledge,
with faith and with the secret of the Veda,
it becomes to him more virile and mighty.

Chhandogya Up.

He who does the work to be done
without resort to its fruits,
he is the Sannyasin,
and he the Yogin.

Gita

By actions of desire is understood
all ways and means by which we pursue
various kinds of happiness from Paradise
downward.

Vedantasara

By forbidden action is meant
all ways and means by which we compass
all our ills from the torments of Hell
downward.

ibid

By action the World of fathers is found
and the World of the Gods also.

ibid

Perform the four duties in the world,
but keep your mind always fixed on God.

Ramakrishna

If work is done unattached,
it will lead to God.
To work without attachment is to work
without expectation of any reward or fear
of punishment
in this world or the next.

ibid

Good and evil cannot bind him
who has realised the oneness
of Nature and his own Self with the Brahman.

ibid

The calmer we are
and the less disturbed our nerves,
the more shall we love
and the better will our work be.

Vivekananda

Be unattached;
let things work; ...
let not a ripple conquer the mind.
Work as if you were a stranger in this land,
a sojourner;
work incessantly, but do not bind yourselves.

ibid

Man thinks that he is the doer;
but it is a mistake.
It is the Higher Power that does everything
and he is the tool.

Ramana Maharshi

Work performed with attachment is a
shackle,
work performed with detachment does not
affect the doer.

ibid

The secret is not inaction
as soon as one turns towards the higher truth,
but desireless action
both before and after it is reached.

Sri Aurobindo

It is not so much the work that matters,
but the consciousness in which it is done.
whatever one does, it becomes useful
if one puts a spark of true consciousness
into it.

The Mother

VEDANTA LIVED

What is seen and what is not seen,
what is experienced and what is not ex-
perienced,
what is and what is not —
all it sees,
it is all and sees.

Prashna Up.

Brahman as Self is fourfold,
the Self is Brahman
and all that is is the Brahman,
but all that is is the Self
seen by the Self in four states of its being.

Mandukya Up.

See the Self in all existing things
and all existing things in the Self.

Isha Up.

Not for the sake of the wife
but for the sake of the self
is the wife dear to us.

Brihadaranyaka Up.

Each soul is potentially divine.

Vivekananda

The goal is to manifest this divine within
by controlling nature, external and internal.

ibid

Do this either by work or worship
or psychic control, or philosophy —
by one or more, or all of these —
and be free.

ibid

This is the whole of religion.
Doctrines or dogmas, or rituals or books,
or temples or forms, are but secondary detail.

ibid

It is struggle against nature
and not conformity to nature
that makes man what he is.

ibid

Never talk about the faults of others,
no matter how bad they may be.
You never help one by talking about his
faults,
but you do him an injury,
and injure yourself as well.

ibid

Non-injuring has to be attained
by him who would be free.
No one is more powerful than he
who has attained perfect non-injuring.

ibid

Vedanta recognises no sin,
it only recognises error.

ibid

All power is within you;
you can do anything and everything.

ibid

Truth, purity and unselfishness —
wherever these are present,
there is no power below or above the sun
to crush the possessor thereof.
Equipped with these,
one individual is able to face
the whole universe in opposition.

ibid

Faith, sympathy,
fiery faith and fiery sympathy !
Faith, faith, faith in ourselves,
faith, faith, in God —
this is the secret of greatness.

ibid

Stand up and
express the divinity within you.

ibid

Arise! Awake! and stop not
till the goal is reached !

ibid

In the Indian ascetic ideal the great Vedantic
formula,
"One without a second",
has not been read sufficiently

in the light of that other formula equally
imperative,
"All this is the Brahman".

Sri Aurobindo

The earliest formula of Wisdom
promises to be its last, —
God, Light, Freedom, Immortality.

ibid

THE MYSTICS SANG...

It does not become existence,
nor does it become non-existence.

Luipada

Of what use is trance,
if through grief and joy
you move to death.

ibid

Nor sound nor its fount
nor sun nor moon is there.

Sarahapada

The consciousness, a king, is free by nature.
ibid

Leaving the straightness of the straight
do not take to the crooked;
The Light is near, do not go far away.

The bangles are on your wrist,
do not take up a mirror.

ibid

You build up yourself your birth and death.
You create yourself your illusory bondage.
The body is the boat, the mind the oar
and the word of the Guru the helm upon the
seas;
Calm your mind and hold to the wheel:

There is no other way to cross over to the
other shore.

ibid

Do not fail to kill the five creatures.
Be single-minded as you enter the lotus
grove.

Bhusuku

How does the great Law arise? How is it
established?
The Lightning-centre alone can tell.

anon

When the mind and the sense-winds die
away,
I know not where my self enters and
disappears.

Ajdeb

The Void is my home
and Truth my striking sword.
I seized the whole treasure of illusion
and swallowed it.

Kanhu

All the three worlds I have moved through
at ease
And now I am fast asleep
revelling in the supreme happiness.

ibid

In this world none goes out, none comes in.

ibid

The boat of Grace is filled with gold,
There is no room for silver in it.

Kamali

O fool, move not from shore to shore,
there is a straight road in the world.

Close your eyes and go the way that has
no steps, nor shrubs nor herbs !

Shantipada

Do not wash your hands with salty water...
If you are in ignorance,
go and ask of a true Guru.

Raoutu

In true knowledge there is no taking sides.

Jayanandi.

Stand free, stand free, full square:
As you have been, so be for ever.

Taraka.

Moving into nothingness I abolished myself.

Shanti.

Where the void unites with the void,
There arises the All-Law.

Kankanapada.

The roar of the truth disintegrates the
universe.

ibid.

Once on the bridge look not to the right
nor to the left.

The awakening is near, do not wander far.

Chatila.

Countless are the Gods who die and pass !
But You have no beginning nor end:
All are born in You and die again in You,
Even as waves upon the seas.

Vidyapati

Love dwells upon Love
And upon Love again dwells the Spirit.
Upon the Spirit dwells the Spirit
And upon the Spirit dwells the Bliss.

Chandidas

One who has the secret has taught me the
secret.

I have found a man who comes from a land
where there is no night.

I am awake through all the ages.
I have sent sleep to sleep.

Ramprasad

In the middle of the night,
on the bank of the river of Love,
the Lord appears.

Mirabai

Withdraw thy veil
and ye then shall meet the Beloved.

Behold but One in all things;
it is the second that leads you astray.

Kabir

Engrossed in the Essence,
move about thy work.

ibid

Who dived in deep waters, found Him;
the foolish one feared getting drowned,
and remained seated on the banks.

ibid

The clay says to the potter:
"To what purpose dost thou knead me ?
A day shall come when I shall knead thee."
ibid

Having become the Five in the Earth,
in the Water the Four, in the Fire the three,
in the strong Wind the two, in the Ether the
one,
becoming distinguished as different from
these,
who can know That Being ?

Bhaktisara Alwar

Being the One and the two forms,
being the Lord of both knowledge and
ignorance,
creating the One and the two times,
being the Lord of the *karmic* earth,
making the One and the two fires,
wonderful Lord born amidst cowherds.

ibid

He became me out of His own accord.
Nammalwar

The orient smiles bright.
 Lovely birds sing aubade.
 Hear you not the loud blast of the temple
 conch ?

Hear you not the sound of the curds
 churned by the milkmaids ?
 O jewelled daughters of happy Vrindavan,
 O fair ones of prosperous Vrindavan,
 wake up !
Andal

The froth of the bubble
 claims birth in eternity.
Sarmad

I am a flame, burning smokelessly.
ibid

Who wants to wed Love,
 let him first offer his head.
Bullah Shah

My Lord is not separate from me.
ibid

My day of birth is the day of my annihilation.
ibid

I dive down into the depth of the ocean
 of forms,
 hoping to gain the perfect pearl
 of the formless.

No more sailing from harbour to harbour
with this my weather-stricken boat.
The days are long passed when my sport was
to be tossed on waves.

And now I am eager to die into the deathless.

Tagore

And never can the mighty Traveller rest
And never can the mystic voyage cease,
Till the nescient dusk is lifted from man's soul
And the morns of God have overtaken his
night.

Sri Aurobindo

Bridge our earth and heavenhood,
make deathless the children of Time.

ibid

ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Arise, awake,
find out the great ones and learn of them:
for sharp as a razor's edge, hard to traverse,
difficult of going is that path,
say the sages.

Katha Up.

A conscious being is the centre of the self,
who rules past and future;
he is like a fire without smoke ...
That, one must disengage with patience
from one's own body.

ibid

Even as men come to Me,
so I accept them ...
Those whose sacrifice is to Me,
to Me they come.

Gita

The greatest of all taints is ignorance.
Cleanse yourself of that taint alone
and you will be free of all taints,
O Bhikkhus.

Buddha

The mistaking of the body for the Self
is called Maya.

Ramayana

To check the mind is more difficult
than desiccating the ocean,
uprooting the mountain or eating fire.

ibid

Do not give up truth.
Be always cheerful.

ibid

Remain established in the eternal peace of
the *Atman*.

Shankara

Lovers do not care for their head;
themselves cutting it off
they seek the path of Love.

Shah Latif

The Lord takes the human body
for the sake of those pure souls
who love the Lord.

Ramakrishna

The Lord saves one,
only if one surrenders oneself
completely to Him.

ibid

As thieves cannot enter a house
if its inmates are wide awake,
so if you are always on your guard,
no evil thought will enter your mind
to rob it of its goodness.

ibid

My Divine Mother is both one and many,
and also beyond one and many. *ibid*

Just as we are sitting and talking together,
so can God be seen and talked with. *ibid*

Company of the holy and the wise
is a major element of spiritual progress. *ibid*

Money can procure only bread and butter.
Do not consider it to be
thy flesh and blood ... *ibid*

God impels the thief to go and steal,
and at the same time warns
the householder against the thief.
God does everything. *ibid*

Live in the world like a waterfowl.
The water clings to the bird,
but the bird shakes it off.
Live in the world like a mudfish.
The fish lives in the mud,
but its skin is always bright and shiny. *ibid*

The power supreme sustains the world.
The ego false that claims to do so
is like the gargoyle that pretends

to carry the temple tower on its head.
Whose fault is it if a passenger
in a huge, big train carries his baggage
on his own head and suffers pain,
instead of putting it down ?

Ramana Maharshi

Your duty is to *be*
and not, to be this or that.
"I Am That I Am"
sums up the whole truth;
the method is summarised in "Be Still".

ibid

A man attached to the things of life
cannot get solitude, wherever he may be.
A detached man is always in solitude.

ibid

One might be in the think of the world
and yet maintain perfect serenity of mind.
Another may stay in the forest,
but still be unable to control his mind.

ibid

To see wrong in another
is one's own wrong.

ibid

One should not use the name of God
mechanically and superficially
without the feeling of devotion.
To use the name of God
one must call upon Him with yearning

and wholly surrender oneself to Him.

ibid

Silence is like the even flow of electric current.
Speech is like obstructing the current
for lighting and other purposes.

ibid

If you are quiet, you do the greatest service.

ibid

Realization of the Self is the greatest help
that can be rendered to humanity.
Therefore, the saints are said to be helpful,
though they remain in forests.

ibid

Yoga is not an easy path
and the total change of nature
cannot be done in a day.

Sri Aurobindo

The ego is not the self;
there is one self of all
and the soul is a portion
of that universal Divinity.

ibid

You cannot realise freedom and unity
unless you realise God,
You cannot possess freedom and unity
unless you possess God,
possess at once your highest self
and the self of all creatures.

ibid

Do not imagine that truth and falsehood,
light and darkness, surrender and selfishness
can be allowed to dwell together
in the house consecrated to the Divine.

ibid

All wealth belongs to the Divine
and those who hold it are trustees,
not possessors.

ibid

Do not look upto men because of their riches
or allow yourself to be impressed by the
show,
the power or the influence.

ibid

If you follow your mind,
it will not recognise the Mother
even when she is manifest before you.

ibid

Follow your soul and not your mind,
your soul that answers to the Truth,
not your mind that leaps at appearances.

ibid

You must keep the temple clean
if you wish to instal there the living Presence.

ibid

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

What am I to do with that
which does not make me immortal ?

Maitreyi

The company of sages converts
emptiness into fullness,
death into immortality,
adversity into prosperity.

Yoga Vashishtha Sara

The Self is more extensive than Space;
it is pure, subtle, undecaying, auspicious.

ibid

The bodies cease to exist,
but the Self remains,
eternal and unattached.

ibid

The world is dark to a blind man,
and bright to one who has eyes.

ibid

Just as the pot goes back to mud,
waves into water and ornaments into gold,
so also this world, come out of the Self,
goes back to the Self.

ibid

Knowledge of the Self is fire
that burns up the dry grass of desire.

ibid

Like an empty vessel in space
the knower of Truth is empty
both within and without;
also, he is full within and without,
like a vessel immersed in the ocean.

ibid

The mind has bound itself by its own activity;
when it is calm, it is free.

ibid

The idea of Self in the non-Self is bondage.
Abandonment of it is liberation.

ibid

It is the nature of mind
to accept certain things
and to reject others;
this is bondage, nothing else.

ibid

If inwardly one is cool,
the whole world will be cool;
if inwardly one is hot,
the whole world will be a burning mass.

ibid

Valour is the conquest of one's self,
happiness the transcending of both pleasure
and pain,

misery the hankering after the pleasures of
the senses.

Bhagwat Purana

Apprehension is where affection is.
Where there is affection there is misery.
Pain has its roots in love or affection.
Renounce affection and you will be happy.

Garuda Purana

Hate is not conquered by hate,
hate is overcome by love.
This is the law eternal.

Buddha

Many do not know that we are here
to live in harmony.
Those who know this
do not fight against each other.

Among those who hate
let us live in love.

ibid

Overcome anger by peacefulness,
evil by good, lies by truth.

ibid

The Lord is the Saviour of the fallen.

ibid

Nothing can halt the course of Karma.

ibid

There is no greater wealth
one can acquire than Dharma,
and no misfortune greater
than the forgetting of it.

Tiruvalluvar

What fruit is by learning,
if thou adore not the beautiful feet
of the Master of luminous wisdom ?

ibid

When man has reached the majestic feet
of him whose walk is on flowers,
long upon earth is his living.

ibid

True religious life consists
in the avoidance of four things:
envy, the craving of pleasure,
anger and harsh speech.

ibid

The key to purity of action
is purity of thought.

ibid

He who leads his life in this world
as he should,
ranks with the gods in heaven.

ibid

When you have wealth, cultivate humility;
when your means are strained, then it is
that you should hold your head high.

ibid

There is no folly so great as the folly
that makes men proud of their own wisdom.

ibid

Self-inflicted miseries of ignorance are
greater
than what can be inflicted by enemies.

ibid

The opposition of wise and good men
does infinitely greater good
than the closest friendship of a fool.

ibid

The man of true knowledge understands
how the world moves,
and moves accordingly.

ibid

True Knowledge is an inner fortification
that enemies cannot destroy,
and is the ultimate, impregnable defence.

ibid

It is possible to escape other enemies,
but you cannot fly from the relentless
pursuit of your own evil deed.

ibid

High-born, whose souls are mean, are never
great;
The low, of lofty mind, are not of low estate.

ibid

If you should ask what truth may be,
It's speech from every evil free.

ibid

A land, though blessed with many a varied
gift,
Is lost if king and subjects are torn by rift.

ibid

Justice is both good and true
If each section gets its due.

ibid

Whose subjects cruel wrongs endure,
Such king's ruin is swift and sure.

ibid

A thing, whatever its nature be,
It's wise its ultimate truth to see.

ibid

Tradition is the narration of a past life.

Dayanand

The soul pervades the body
and God pervades the soul.

ibid

The treasure of learning is imperishable.

ibid

Individuality is the basis of distinction.

ibid

Who injures others through selfishness
is a big brother of beasts.
Who being powerful protects the weak
is the real man.

ibid

Although his evil has cleaved our heart in
twain,
Let us forgive.

Kamba Ramayana

The gods themselves with all their might
win not, if unjust is their cause.

ibid

Fishes live not if waters fail;
and all that lives must die
if Mother Earth gave way.

ibid

Sin can never overcome Virtue.

ibid

When Fate her darkest hour unrolls and all
appears lost,
'tis only weaklings lose their heart
and hopeless sink in black despair.

ibid

God is the medicine for our hell-existence.

Peyalvar

Man is happy when he has conquered the
self.

Kabir

The true Name is the only thing to repeat.
ibid

Many are there
 who don the garb of a recluse,
but rare is he
 whose mind is turned a recluse.
ibid

If you so like, live in the house,
or if you please, dwell in the forest;
it makes no difference.
ibid

Round the furnace of Love, many were
 seated,
but only he who proffered his head,
drank the cup of Love;
others went dry.
ibid

You wish to drink draughts of Love,
and to maintain your pride ?
Well, two swords in one sheath
have never been seen nor heard of.
ibid

Oppress not the poor, mighty are their sighs
like those of the bellows,
by which the very iron melts away.
ibid

Better to be cheated
than to cheat others.

ibid

Truth is above everything,
but higher still is the living of Truth.

Nanak

Everywhere is God's seat,
everywhere is His stall.
And He puts in it what He wills
once for all.

The world is blind,
God alone sees.

He alone liveth,
in whom liveth God.

The Lord's name is Truth.

Good are they
who are judged good at the Lord's door.

Truth alone saves us,
yea, Truth alone.

The bride is she
who sleeps carefree in her Lord's embrace.

When one dies to the self,
one becomes all-knowing.

ibid

He dwells in your heart;
seek Him there.

Baba Farid

The path by which the soul has to pass
is subtler than the thickness of a hair.

ibid

Never think of retaliating;
remember it is all the play of the soul.

ibid

Despise not the earth,
for none is greater than it.
So long as you are alive,
you tread it under your feet,
but on your death it lies on your head.

ibid

His grace may fall on us any time.

The Lord doesn't forget thee for a moment
and feeds thee.

ibid

Why seeketh thou His abode only in the
chapel and the mosque ?

Seeth not thou, His creation above and below,
wherein doth He not abide ?

The whole universe made by Him recites His
tale,

he alone is wise who for Him is mad.

Sarmad

Whenever you see the failings of others
or cast glances on their virtues,
throw the searchlight within you ...

ibid

The light of Truth I saw in my citadel —
when I had renounced all, I was bathed in it.
If thou too aspires for it, give up thy lower
self,
then shall ye find thyself bathed in Truth's
sunshine.

ibid

My heart leans not towards this or that.
Only union with the Beloved it seeks.

ibid

The madness of my heart
is the height of my intellect.

ibid

Men find their happiness
in religion and the world.
Deliver me from both,
this is my happiness.

ibid

What matters if all my friends turn hostile ?
To me friendship of the One gives joy.

Friendship here is all for a loaf of bread.
None seeks to befriend the Spirit.

ibid

Who recognises no other relations but God,
he alone can attain to God.

Bullah Shah

His name shall be the food we will take on
the way.

No other wealth we shall carry beside it.

ibid

Truth cannot be suppressed;
it rushes to express itself.
The only Truth worth disclosing
is the Lord's secret.

ibid

Why be a slave to people of the world?
Why not serve the omnipotent Creator,
and make complete surrender to Him?

Shah Latif

If thou desirest to be a Yogi,
die to thy self.

ibid

The path and the goal,
both lie within thee.
Seek them not outside thyself.

ibid

Although the wine is there,
also the cup and the bottle,
but where is the wine-server ?

Nazir

Why should we blame the hunter
if we preferred ourselves to be netted ?

ibid

God saves even the evil ones
that he destroys.

Narsi Mehta

To the dispassionate mind
all beings are one.

ibid

I am the doer and I the lord,
such thinking is pure ignorance.

ibid

If you have not known your real inner self,
all yoga and sadhana are useless.

ibid

Even the gods, when in trouble,
call upon the One who is within.

ibid

Remember His name and to call upon Him,
and you will surely be helped.

ibid

Feed the soul
and starve it not
at the cost of the body.

Saint Ramdas

Is there a greater fool than he who,
having got the privilege of human birth,
fails to rediscover himself?

Shankara

The Eternal is true; the world is a lie.

ibid

Talk as much philosophy as you please,
worship as many gods as you like,
observe all ceremonies, sing devoted praises
to any number of divine beings —
liberation never comes even at the end of
aeons,
without the realisation of the Oneness of Self.

ibid

Study of scriptures is useless
as long as the highest Truth is unknown,
and it is equally useless
when the highest Truth is already known.

ibid

Disease is not cured by uttering the
medicine's name,
but by taking medicine.
Mukti is not achieved by repeating the name
Brahman,
but by directly experiencing Brahman.

ibid

Titiksha is the capacity
to endure all sorrows and sufferings,

without struggling for redress or revenge,
being always free from anxiety or lament.
ibid

There are saints, peaceful and magnanimous,
who live, like the spring season,
for the good of humanity.
ibid

Wherever is Krishna, the Master of Yoga,
wherever is Arjuna, the archer,
there will be, I say,
glory, victory, prosperity,
and also the stable law of Truth.
Gita

Desire that which is within you.
Desire that which is beyond you.
Desire that which is unattainable.

A Theosophical text

Nothing is outside the Infinite totality or the
Whole,
not even the "non-existent".
Anandamayji Ma

From the One all have come into being.
In the One all exist, persist and merge finally.
ibid

Only the One Himself is the Guru.
ibid

Let whatever happens happen.

ibid

Hold fast and you will never witness a fall.

ibid

Do God's work as you think best.

God's service must be done with a cheerful heart.

ibid

God is Beauty and Delight
hidden in the variation of his masks and
forms.

Sri Aurobindo

Love of God, charity towards men
is the first step towards perfect wisdom.

Love of man, love of woman, love of things,
love of thy neighbour, love of thy country,
love of animals, love of humanity
are all the love of God
reflected in these living images.
To love and grow mighty to enjoy all,
to help all and to love for ever.

If thou canst not love the vilest worm
and the foulest of criminals,
how canst thou believe that
thou hast accepted God in thy spirit ?

ibid

Smiles are a richer wealth than tears.

ibid

If you are no longer disturbed
by what people say or do,
then that is a great progress.

ibid

A mistake must always
be acknowledged and corrected.

ibid

It is in the service of spirituality
that Art reaches its highest self-expression.

ibid

What men call knowledge
is the reasoned acceptance of false ap-
pearances.

Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees.

ibid

Don't speak. Act.
Don't announce. Realise.

The Mother

To know is good,
to live is better,
to be, that is perfect.

Remain young,
never stop striving
towards perfection.

ibid

Let us serve the Truth.

ibid

Life is a journey in the darkness of the night.
Wake up to the inner light.

ibid

The whole of our life
should be a prayer
offered to the Divine.

All sincere prayers are granted,
every call is answered.

Do not give way,
hold tight.
It is when everything seems lost
that all is saved.

ibid

Success is a harder ordeal to pass through
than misfortune.

It is in the hour of success
that one must be especially vigilant
to rise above oneself.

ibid

You are richer
with the wealth you give
than with the wealth
you keep in your possession.

ibid

Use the past as a spring-board
to leap towards the future.

Let the past be past.
Concentrate only on the Eternal.

The same minute never strikes twice
on the clock of Fate.

The present is the most important moment
in life.

Each new dawn
brings the possibility of a new progress.

ibid

One must be able to control oneself
before one can hope to govern others.

ibid

The future of the earth
depends on a change of consciousness.

A change of consciousness
is equivalent to a new birth,
a birth into a higher sphere of existence.

A change in human consciousness will make
possible
the manifestation upon earth of a higher
Force,
a purer Light, a more total Truth.

ibid

Be sincere,
always sincere,
more and more sincere.

A grain of practice
is worth a mountain of theories.

Our life ought to be governed
by the Love for Truth
and the thirst for Light.

ibid

APHORISMS AND MAXIMS

Not by studying scriptures does man become wise.

Mahabharata

Happiness is the result of good conduct.

Getting rid of desire, man becomes rich.

Giving up anger, we will no longer be subject to sorrow.

Abandoning pride, the man will be loved by all.

Courage is man's salvation in danger.

If dharma is sought not, man will be ruined.

Truth is a king's highest duty.

ibid

The sages are to be approached even if they do not teach.

Yoga Vashishta Sara

Consciousness alone shines by itself

ibid

One who has no idea of gold sees only the bracelet.

ibid

Conquest of the mind
leads to attainment of everything.

ibid

Abandon all concepts
and remain what you are.

ibid

Although the adjuncts are many,
the Self is really one.

ibid

Before discarding the slough
the snake regards it as itself,
but once it has discarded it,
it does not look upon it as itself any longer.

ibid

When Reality is envisioned,
who would wrap oneself
in mere imagination ?

Andal

To adore the wooden doll
whilst the mother who brought him forth is
before him :
this is man's nature.

Nammalwar

God is in all men,
but all men are not in God.

Ramakrishna

Humanity must die
before divinity manifests itself.

ibid

The body is born, and it will have to die.
But there is no death to the soul.

ibid

Unless the spirit in man gets awakened,
he cannot know God.

ibid

With faith, you attain what you long for.

ibid

Knowledge leads to unity;
ignorance to diversity.

ibid

Get to the other side
of both knowledge and ignorance.

ibid

Like the tree that lives by its roots
and by its leaves,
we too have leaves that come and go
and roots that stay.

Truth and peace and joy are the roots of the
soul.

Tagore

The story of mankind is in you.
This has been the story of man.

Constant challenge and response to that
challenge.

J. Krishnamurti

The man is never free from the known.

Where there is contradiction,
there must be conflict.

Hope is time.

Life is experience,
experience in relationship.

Being good and becoming good,
are two different things.

The flowering of goodness is not becoming
good.

Becoming good is the denial of goodness.

Truth is not yours or mine.

Truth cannot be organised.

Possessions possess us more than we possess
them.

Pleasure is one thing and bliss another.

Pleasure is the bondage of thought,
and bliss is beyond and above thought.

Love is anonymous, therefore not violent.

The highest form of sensitivity
is the highest intelligence.

In the light of silence,
all problems are dissolved.

The ending is the beginning,
and the beginning is the first step,
and the first step is the only step.

ibid

When we have passed beyond knowings,
then we shall have Knowledge.
Reason was the helper;
Reason is the bar.

Sri Aurobindo

When we have passed beyond willings,
then we shall have Power.
Effort was the helper;
Effort is the bar.

When we have passed beyond enjoyings,
then we shall have Bliss.
Desire was the helper;
Desire is the bar.

When we have passed beyond
individualising,
then we shall be real Persons.
Ego was the helper;
Ego is the bar.

When we have passed beyond humanity,
then we shall be the Man.
The Animal was the helper;
the Animal is the bar.

What is God after all?
An eternal child
playing an eternal game
in an eternal garden.

Delight is the secret.
Learn of pure delight
and thou shalt learn of God.

The whole world yearns after freedom,
yet each creature is in love with his chains;
this is the first paradox
and inextricable knot of our nature.

Immortality, unity and freedom
are in ourselves and await there our
discovery;
but for the joy of love
God in us will still remain the Many.

ibid

EVOLUTION AND PROGRESS

Then existence was not nor non-existence,
the mid-world was not nor the Ether
 nor what is beyond.
What covered all? where was it?
in whose refuge? what was that ocean dense
 and deep?
Death was not nor immortality
 nor the knowledge of day and night.
That One lived without breath by his self-
 law,
there was nothing else nor aught beyond it.
In the beginning Darkness was hidden by
 darkness,
all this was an ocean of inconscience.
When universal being was concealed by
 fragmentation,
then by the greatness of its energy That One
 was born.
That moved at first as desire within,
which was the primal seed of mind.
The seers of Truth discovered
 the building of being in non-being
by will in the heart and by the thought;
their ray was extended horizontally;
 but what was there below?
 what was there above?
There were Casters of the seed,
 there were greatnesses;
there was self-law below,
 there was Will above.

Rig Veda

I have arisen from earth to the mid-world,
I have arisen from the mid-world to heaven,
from the level of the firmament of heaven
I have gone to the Sun-world, the Light.

Yajur Veda

As he mounts from peak to peak...
Indra makes him conscious of that goal of
his movement.

Rig Veda

There is a birth and growth of the self.
According to his actions
the embodied being assumes forms
succesively in many places;
many forms gross and subtle he assumes
by force of his own qualities of nature....

Swetaswatara Up.

Mortals, they achieved immortality.

Rig Veda

The past is our foundation,
the present our material,
the future our aim and summit.

Sri Aurobindo

Evolution is the one eternal dynamic law
and hidden process of the earth-nature.

They say that the gospels are forgeries
and Krishna a creation of the poets.

Thank God then for the forgeries
and bow down before the inventor.

The world knows three kinds of revolution.
The material has strong results,
the moral and intellectual
are infinitely larger in their scope
and richer in their fruits,
but the spiritual are the great sowings.

What we inappropriately call revolution
is only a rapidly concentrated movement
of evolution.

All religions have saved a number of souls,
but none yet has been able to spiritualise
mankind.

For that there is needed not cult and creed,
but a sustained and all-comprehending effort
at spiritual self-evolution.

Go on we must;
for if we do not,
Time itself will force us forward
inspite of our fancied immobility.

We do not belong to the past dawns,
but to the noons of the future.

ibid

DIVINE LIFE

I am a son of Earth,
the soil is my mother....
May she lavish on me her manifold treasure,
her secret riches....
May we speak the beauty of thee, O Earth,
that is in thy villages and forests
and assemblies and war and battles.

Atharva Veda

O Godhead, guard for us the Infinite
and lavish the finite.

Rig Veda

Let your creative soul radiate
streams of rays for new forms.

ibid

Cast off the fear of death from your heart
and live a full life.

ibid

He alone is the superman
who most manifests the highest nature
of the Godhead in humanity.

Sri Aurobindo

It is the descent of the Supramental
that would end all the difficulties.
Supermind is superman;
therefore to rise beyond mind
is the condition.

To be the superman is
to live the divine life, to be a god;
for the gods are the powers of God.

Be a power of God in humanity.

Life, Life, Life,
I hear the passions cry;
God, God, God,
is the soul's answer.
Unless thou seest and lovest Life as God only,
then is Life itself a sealed joy to thee.

Whatever is beyond mind and life and body
is spirit.
But spirit can be realised
even on these lower levels,
in the spiritualised mind,
in the spiritualised life-force,
even in the spiritualised
physical consciousness and body.

The divine life will reject nothing
that is capable of divinisation;
all is to be seized, exalted, made utterly
perfect.

ibid

A divine life upon earth,
the ideal we have placed before us,
can only come about
by a spiritual change of our being
and a radical and fundamental change,
an evolution or revolution of our nature.

The Supramental Yoga is at once
an ascent towards God
and a descent of Godhead
into the embodied nature.

A descent of the Divine Nature
can alone divinise the human receptacle.

A divine life in a divine body
is the formula of the ideal
that we envisage.

Self-surrender to the divine and infinite
Mother,
however difficult, remains our only effective
means
and our sole abiding refuge, —
self-surrender to her means that
our nature must be an instrument in her
hands,
the soul a child in the arms of the Mother.

ibid

THE NEXT FUTURE

The Master of Wisdom
cast down the stone defences
and called to the Herds of Light ...
and discovered the Dawn and the Sun
and the Light and the World of Light.

Rig Veda

Dawn comes divine
repelling by the Light
all darknesses and evils.

ibid

An offspring from the lap of many Waters,
he comes forth from them a seer
possessed of his whole law of nature.
Manifold, he grows in the lap of their
crookedness
and becomes high, beautiful and glorious.

ibid

A perfect path of the Truth has come into
being
for our journey to the other shore
beyond the darkness.

ibid

The Swan that settles in the purity...
born of the Truth, —
itself the Truth, the Vast.

Katha Up.

From the non-being to true being,
from the darkness to the Light,
from death to Immortality.

Brihadaranyaka Up.

The Iron Age shall change.
It shall fade, it shall pass away.
The gods shall be in our midst.
The mighty golden Age shall hold the earth
and the flood of the highest Bliss shall swell.

Namimalwar

In all these rising worlds
they have thronged and wide they spread,
those beauteous forms of Krishna —
the unclad Rudra is there, Indra, Brahma all.
The Iron Age shall cease to be —
do ye but unite and serve these.

ibid

In the boundless heavens the Great Ascetic,
Vast Time keeps vigil.

It is for Him through all the ages
The Great Time Spirit keeps vigil.

Have you not heard his silent steps ?
He comes, comes, ever comes.

The dams round the celestial city shall
crumble,
The flood of the new Harmony shall rush
forth.

And the ancient walls of a deaf age
Shall be swept away.

Tagore

A spiritual evolution,
an evolution of consciousness in Matter
in a constant developing self-formation
till the form can reveal the indwelling Spirit,
is then the keynote,
the central significant motive
of the terrestrial existence.

Sri Aurobindo

Man is a transitional being;
he is not final.

For in man and high beyond him
ascend the radiant degrees
that climb to a divine supermanhood.

The step from man to superman
is the next approaching achievement
in the soul's evolution.
It is inevitable because it is at once
the intention of the inner Spirit
and logic of Nature's process.

The appearance of a human possibility
in a material and animal world was
the first glint of some coming divine Light,
the first far-off promise of a godhead
to be born out of Matter.

The appearance of the superman in the
human world
will be the fulfilment of the divine promise.

Out of the material consciousness
in which our mind works as a chained slave
is emerging the disk of a secret sun
of Power and Joy and Knowledge.

The supermind will be
the formed body of that radiant effulgence.

Man's road to spiritual supermanhood
will be open when he declares boldly
that all he has yet developed,
including the intellect
of which he is so rightly and yet so vainly
proud,
are now no longer sufficient for him,
and that to uncase, discover, set free
this greater Light within
shall be his pervading preoccupation.

Man's true freedom and perfection will come
when the Spirit within
bursts through the forms of mind and life
and,
winging above to its own gnostic fiery
heights of ether,
turns upon them from that light and flame
to seize them and transform them
into its own image.

The secret of the transformation
lies in the transference of our centre of living
to a higher consciousness and
in a change of our main power of living.

ibid

INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Caste, creed, family and lineage
do not exist in the Brahman.

Shankara

Why is society crumbling, collapsing,
as it surely is ?

One of the fundamental reasons is
that the individual, you,
has ceased to be creative.

J. Krishnamurti

The individual is the society,
and the society is the individual —
they are indivisible.

Can I be a light to myself,
not depending on any other light ? ...
Can I be a light that never goes out ? ...
I must be aware

of the total field of my own self,
which is the consciousness

of the individual and of society.
It is only when the mind goes beyond
the individual and social consciousness
that there is a possibility of being
a light to oneself which never goes out.

The division between the religious life and
the world
is the very essence of worldliness.

Without the world of matter, the material
world,
we wouldn't be here.

We are concerned with the totality of life,
not a particular part of it
which is considered religion
in opposition to the rest.

Each one of us, being responsible
for the chaos, misery and sorrow in the
world,
each one of us as a human being
must bring about a radical revolution
in himself.

ibid

Brotherhood based on a sense of equality
is the supreme goal to be attained
by human society as a whole.

Maharshi Ramana

Through brotherhood
supreme peace will prevail among mankind
and then this entire planet will flourish
like a single household.

ibid

Brotherhood exists
only in the soul and by the soul;
it can exist by nothing else.

Sri Aurobindo

A perfect community can exist
only by the perfection of its individuals.

Self-realisation is the sense,
secret or overt,
of individual and of social development.

A spiritualised society can alone bring about
a reign of individual harmony
and communal happiness.

A society which was even initially
spiritualised,
would make the revealing and finding
of the divine Self in man
the whole first aim of all its activities,
its education, its knowledge, its science,
its ethics, its art,
its economical and political structure.

A spiritualised society
would live like its spiritual individuals,
not in the ego, but in the spirit,
not as the collective ego,
but as the collective soul.

ibid

A NEW WORLD ORDER

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

The whole earth is indeed one family.

Hitopadesha

Democracy is by no means
a sure preservative of liberty.

Sri Aurobindo

The communistic principle of society is
intrinsically as superior to the individualistic
as is brotherhood to jealousy and mutual
slaughter;
but all the practical schemes of Socialism
invented in Europe are a yoke, a tyranny
and a prison.

Vedanta realised is the only practicable basis
for a communistic society.
It is the kingdom of the saints dreamed of
by Christianity, Islam and Puranic Hinduism.

War is a dangerous teacher
and physical victory
leads often to a moral defeat.

The elimination of war and
the recognition of the equal rights of all
peoples
are intimately bound up with each other.

The nations should become conscious
not only of their own but of each other's souls
and learn to respect, to help and to profit,
not only economically and intellectually
but subjectively and spiritually by each other.

The leaders of the nations,
who have the will to succeed
and who will be held responsible
by posterity for any avoidable failure,
must be on guard against unwise policies
or fatal errors.

A spiritual religion of humanity
is the hope of the future.

A religion of humanity means the growing
realisation
that there is a secret spirit, a divine Reality,
in which we all are one,
that humanity is its highest present vehicle
on earth,
that the human race and the human being
are the means
by which it will progressively reveal itself
here.

There must be the realisation by the
individual
that only in the life of his fellow-men
is his own life complete.

There must be the realisation by the race
that only on the free and full life of the
individual
can its own perfection and permanent
happiness be founded.

ibid

GOD-TOUCH

Beholding the higher Light
beyond the darkness
we came to the divine Sun in the Godhead,
to the higher Light of all.

Rig Veda

Slowly the Light grows greater in the East,
Slowly the world progresses on God's road

Sri Aurobindo

That must be reached from which all
knowledge comes.

A Power that lives upon the heights must act,
Bring into life's closed room the Immortal's
air
And fill the finite with the Infinite.

The Two who are one are the secret of all
power,
The Two who are one are the might and right
in things.

A Seer, a strong Creator, is within,
The immaculate Grandeur broods upon your
days,
Almighty powers are shut in Nature's cells.

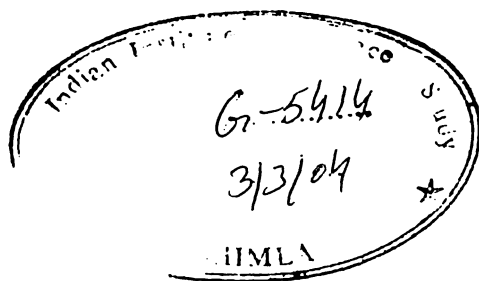
All that transpires on earth and all beyond
Are parts of an illimitable plan
The One keeps in his heart and knows alone.

A Word is spoken or a Light is shown,
A moment sees, the ages toil to express.

Earth-deeds shall touch the superhuman's
height,
Earth's seeing widen into the infinite.

All can be done if the God-touch is there.

ibid



India is the land of the Spirit. She has been destined to deliver the supreme and eternal word of wisdom for man. Indeed this process was initiated in the hoary past itself by the Vedic Rishis and has been carried on through millenniums by yogis, sons of God, saints, mystics, poets and philosophers in different languages and various modes of expression. Here we have attempted a compilation of such utterances.



Library · IAS, Shimla



G5414

Price: Rs. 45.00