

Doctrine of Supramental Manifestation in Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri*

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ABSTRACT

As a seer Sri Aurobindo visualises that man is going to emerge as Superman. Through sublime epic *Savitri* he has set forth his divine message of the next higher species to humanity. But he is also aware that Death comes in the way of man's spiritual progress. So death has to be radically transformed by the power of Superconscience. It is perhaps this vision which inspires Sri Aurobindo to select the story of Savitri. Sri Aurobindo, however, translates this legend into a significant symbol. He delineates Savitri as an incarnation of Divine Mother who encounters Death to establish immortality on earth.

Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950) is a well-known figure in Indian English literature especially in poetry. Sri Aurobindo's personality was multi-faceted with wide range of knowledge that there is rarely anything beneath the sun which is beyond his reach. He was a revolutionary leader, a born poet, a social thinker and spiritual philosopher, a visionary humanist, a mystic, a prophet, a scholar, an educationist.

Keywords: Supramental, Superconscience, Inconscient, Spiritualise, Ananda Being.

INTRODUCTION

We see Sri Aurobindo as a great occult scientist; meet him as a mystic of mystics using the medium of poetry to convey to humanity his deep and profound experience of spiritual life. Here an attempt has been made to bring out concept of Supramental Manifestation (New Age) propounded by Sri Aurobindo as one of symbolic and archetypal pattern in his super epic *Savitri*.

As a seer Sri Aurobindo visualises that man is going to emerge as Superman. Through sublime epic *Savitri* he has set forth his divine message of the next higher species to humanity. But he is also aware that Death comes in the way of man's spiritual progress. So death has to be radically transformed by the power of Superconscience. It is perhaps this vision which inspires Sri Aurobindo to select the story of Savitri. Sri Aurobindo, however,

translates this legend into a significant symbol. He delineates Savitri as an incarnation of Divine Mother who encounters Death to establish immortality on earth.

This is the awakening of the light of consciousness in the mass of darkness of the Night of the Inconscient. The result of the birth of divine vision is that man's path manifests itself to him, and those journeyings of gods or to the gods which lead to the infinite wideness of the divine existence also stand revealed. The path of man is that of his journey to the Supreme plane. There is a divine law of life in which makes soul grow to its divine stature.

The error, the crookedness, the falsehood, by which men violate the workings of the Gods and by which different principles of their being, consciousness and knowledge enter into confused conflict with each other, are removed by the vision of the divine dawn. In this context Sri Aurobindo writes in the *The Supramental Manifestation upon Earth*:

A new humanity would then be a race of mental beings on the earth and in the earthly body, but delivered from its present conditions in the reign of the cosmic Ignorance so far as to be possessed of a perfected mind, a mind of light which could even be a subordinate action of the supermind or Truth-consciousness, and in any case capable of the full possibilities of mind acting as a recipient of that truth and at least a secondary action of it in thought and life.... We have supposed not only the descent of the supermind upon the earth but its embodiment in a supramental race with all its natural consequences and a new total action in which the new humanity would find its complete development and its assured place in the new order. (86)

Sri Aurobindo prophesies that immortality will be one of the possible results of the Supramentalisation. Then all negation will be overcome. But once death, ignorance and mortality end, what will be the new creation? When will the superman be born?

The presence of Superman - the future-man on earth shall transform the world of Matter. He will be able to kindle the fire of truth in Nature's night and new law of truth will be established upon earth. As a matter of fact, this man shall turn to respond to the call of the spirit. His presence shall transfigure Matter's world:

He shall light up Truth's fire in Nature's night,
He shall lay upon the earth Truth's greater law;
Man too shall turn towards the Spirit's call. (*Savitri* 709)

The birth of the eternal supermind will directly touch the earthly time. Then it will reveal the hidden demigod in man and wake the mortal man to grow into the deity which is secretly indwelling in the cavern of his being. The supermind shall be the source of his nature, and the Eternal's truth shall shape his thoughts and acts. Then all shall change and this mechanical universe will be overcome by the magic order of eternal Light and Bliss.

At one with Nature and at height with heaven,
A spirit vast as the containing sky
And swept with ecstasy from invisible fountains,
A god come down and greater by the fall. (343)

Sri Aurobindo affirms in *Life Divine* that Divine is secretly present in all beings:

An aspiration, a demand for the supreme and total delight of existence is there secretly in the whole make of our being, but it is disguised by the separation of our parts of nature and their differing urge and obscured by their inability to conceive or seize anything more than a superficial pleasure.... A supramental manifestation in its ascent would have as a next sequence and culmination of self-result a manifestation of the Bliss of the Brahman: the evolution of the being of gnosis would be followed by an evolution of the being of bliss; an embodiment of gnostic existence would have as its consequence an embodiment of the beautiful existence. In the liberation of the soul from the Ignorance the first foundation is peace, calm, the silence and quietude of the Eternal and Infinite; but a consummate power and greater formation of the spiritual ascension takes up this peace of liberation into the bliss of a perfect experience and realisation of the eternal beatitude, the bliss of the Eternal and Infinite. (1027-28)

He also asserts that when Being begins to manifest, all his latent power comes out to reveals the eternal Bliss:

In the body it reveals itself as an ecstasy pouring into it from the heights of the Spirit and the peace and bliss of a pure and spiritualised physical existences. A universal beauty and glory of being begins to manifest; all objects reveal hidden lines, vibrations, powers, harmonic significances concealed from the normal mind and the physical sense. In the universal phenomenon is revealed the eternal Ananda. (1029)

The substance of Higher Truth will descend into his brain and his heart. The activities of his mind and the movements of his emotions will be undergo a change as a result of this ingression from above. The range and quality of his consciousness will also be different.

When the divine knowledge and force descends through the gnostic being, what will be the nature of the new man of future? Sri Aurobindo describes in *Life Divine*:

On this fact that the Divine Knowledge and Force, the supreme Supernature, would act through the gnostic being with his full participation, is founded the freedom of the gnostic being; it is this unity that gives him his liberty. The freedom from law, including the moral law, so frequently affirmed of the spiritual being, is founded on this unity of its will with the will of the Eternal. All the mental standards would disappear because all necessity for them would cease; the higher authentic law of identity with the Divine Self and identity with all beings would have replaced them. There would be no question of selfishness or altruism, of oneself and others, since all are seen and felt as the one self and only what the supreme Truth and Good decided would be done.... In the gnostic person the Truth-Knowledge would lead and determine and all the other forces of the being concur in the action: there would be no place for disharmony or conflict between the powers of the nature. In all action there is an imperative of existence that seeks to be fulfilled; a truth of being not yet manifested has to be manifested or a truth manifesting has to be evolved and achieved and perfected in manifestation or, if already achieved, to take its delight of being and self-effectuation. (1044)

The realisation of this latent power and force in soul, which man carries, is significant. Without such realization, Life stands precariously organised in brittle, small and divided forms and is unable to assimilate the working of powers beyond its accustomed range. The existence of great creation can come about only through the realisation of true Nature.

The arrival of new dawn will turn and move all towards the end precast by the Supreme Transcendent in the fixed inevitable course of Nature, sanctioned and decreed from the very beginning of created things. As the high crown of it all, there shall even come the end of Death, the death of Ignorance.

All turns and winds towards his predestined ends

In Nature's fixed inevitable course
Decreed since the beginning of the worlds
In the deep essence of created things:
Even there shall come as a high crown of all
The end of Death, the death of Ignorance. (*Savitri* 708)

As a matter of fact, after the end of Death and Ignorance, a new life shall come into being: it shall embody the superconscient's truth and shall be a native field for the play of Supernature's might. It shall convert the nescient base of earth into a colony of Truth; make even the Ignorance a transparent robe through which the radiant limbs of Truth shall shine:

And Truth shall be a sun on Nature's head
And Truth shall be the guide of Nature's steps
And Truth shall gaze out of her nether deeps. (708)

Then the spirit shall no more stay hidden in the obscurity of form; it shall be the undisputed sovereign of his world; Nature shall reverse the process of her action; the external world shall reveal the Truth it conceals. All things shall bring into open their hidden Godhead, and all shall reveal the light and might of the Spirit.

The summits of the Spirit and the base of Nature shall come close to the common secret of their respective truths and know each other as but one divine manifestation. The spirit shall look out through the eyes of matter and matter shall reveal the force of the spirit. Then shall man and superman become one and all on earth become one single life. There will be no division, no separation of one from another, any longer.

The Spirit's tops and Nature's base shall draw
Near to the secret of their separate truth
And known each other as one deity. (709)

The earth then shall be moved with sublime impulses, humanity shall awake to its deepest self, and Nature shall come to recognise the godhead hidden in herself. The divine force shall course through every tissue and cell and govern the breath, speech and act. All thought shall be luminous with the radiance of knowledge and every feeling will throb with a celestial thrill.

It will symbolise the arrival of the luminous inner dawn that will enlighten the chambers of the sleeping mind.

A sudden bliss shall run through every limb

And Nature with a mightier Presence fill. (710)

Sri Aurobindo explains it more pointedly in *The Supramental Manifestation upon Earth*:

The full emergence of supermind may be accomplished by a sovereign manifestation, a descent into earth-consciousness and a rapid assumption of its powers and disclosing of its forms and the creation of a supramental race and a supramental life: this must indeed be the full result of its action in Nature. (93)

Thus, according to Sri Aurobindo, Nature shall live to manifest the Godhead hidden in her, and the Spirit shall take charge of the human play and this earthly life will become the life divine.

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