

Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo was a great Yogi, fiery and revolutionary, and versatile genius. He was a rishi in true sense. It is difficult to write about Sri Aurobindo's life because it is impossible to see it on the surface . His life was a saga of revolution, spiritual turmoil and realization of the Life Divine. Sri Aurobindo originally called Aurobindo Ghosh was born on 15th August 1872 at Calcutta to Krishna Dhun Ghosh and his wife Swarnalata Devi . His father who was an assistant surgeon in Bengal was an ardent fan of the British culture. So he encouraged his children to learn English and study in school where his children would be exposed to Christianity.

Sri Aurobindo's education began in Loreto House Boarding school in Darjeeling . At the age of seven, he was sent to England where he studied at Saint Pauls School, London and at King's College, Cambridge. His dedication and sharp intellect helped him clear the Indian civil service exam too. Returning to India in 1893, Sri Aurobindo worked for the next 13 years in the princely state of Baroda, in the service of the Maharaja and as a professor in Baroda College. Gradually he started showing interest in politics. During this time he also joined a revolutionary society and took a leading role in secret preparations for an uprising against the British government in India. At the age of 28, Aurobindo married Mrinalini, daughter of Bhupal Chandra Bose in 1901. Mrinalini died in December 1908 during the influenza pandemic. As a result of his political activities, he was imprisoned in 1908. Two years later, he fled and found refuge in Pondicherry, then a French colony. In 1908, he had the first of several fundamental spiritual realization. During his 40 years in Pondicherry, he worked on human evolution through spiritual activity such as integral yoga, which was characterised by its holistic approach. It's aim is a spiritual realization that not only liberates man's consciousness but also transforms his nature. In 1926, with the help of his spiritual collaborator, the Mother, he founded Sri Aurobindo Ashram. The ashram eventually attracted seekers from many countries around the world .Sri Aurobindo then became a spiritual reformer, introducing his vision on human progress and spiritual evolution. Sri Aurobindo passed away on December 5, 1950.

He emerges as one of the most remarkable writer of Indian English. He was the earliest Indian to create a major literary corpus in English. His writing synthesized eastern and western philosophy, religion, literature and psychology. Sri Aurobindo also expressed his spiritual thought and vision in poetry. He started writing poetry as the youngest student and continued until late in his life. His

powerful poetic output represents the creative effort of about 60 years. The theme of his poetry changed with the project that he undertook .He wrote in classical style.

Though his writings on yoga and philosophy are the most widely known, his oeuvre also include original work on politics, social development, psychology, culture ,art ,literature, politics and linguistics. In his early years, he wrote a number of plays, and poetry he wrote throughout his life. Most of his prose writing came during well defined periods each with a distinct content and style. He never wrote like a scholar. The more he matured, the more he depended on his own experience. His prose is of a literary artist with a mind of exceptional calibre. In his prose style, there is meticulousness and virtuosity possessing the power, charm and propriety that stand out distinctly. Sri Aurobindo generates life into the myths by using them in his texts. His prose is full of illustrations based on the clues offered by the Sanskrit text. He does not sacrifice the principle of English sentence structure but he infuses in his impeccable English the rhythm of Sanskrit verse. The Gita is an influence . There is sometimes a sense of thrill and adventure in Sri Aurobindo's prose. His writings takes a deep dive into the psyche and shakes a man out of consciousness only to make him have union with the supreme being. His writing stands out in long sentences yet puts his words so carefully that each word become quite expressive..Philosophy is the main trait of his prose. His political achievements as well as prose writing are of higher order thereby making him the colossus of Indo –Anglian literature .