
Womanhood in the light of the Life Divine

By: Umesh Prasad

Research Scholar English Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh India

Abstract

The call of womanhood is deep, challenging and broad. We at Ladies against Feminism desire to raise high the Standard of godly womanhood and proclaim it beautiful -- not just with our words, but with our very lives. From comforting the dying to nurturing the weak to praising the strong, we glory in our role as women and find it rich beyond measure. We invite you to explore this marvelous calling with us, whatever your background or beliefs. Feminism has had its time on history's stage. We now call for it to step down and face the ruin and despair it has wrought and repent of its wrongs. One lifetime is given us to make things beautiful, wholesome, nourishing, glad-hearted and noble. May we use our time wisely!¹ The Life Divine explores for the Modern mind the great streams of Indian metaphysical thought, reconciling the truths behind each and from this synthesis extends in terms of consciousness the concept of evolution. The unfolding of Earth's and men spiritual destiny is illuminated, pointing the way to a Divine Life on Earth.

The Life Divine is no mere call to a life of piety, asceticism or outward religious fervor. It is a call to bring the Divine as a force of higher consciousness into all that we are and do, both individually and as a species.

INTRODUCTION

The Life Divine unfolds a panoramic exploration of consciousness from the Absolute (Brahman), to the Cosmic Creator (Ishvara), to the individual soul (Jivatman),

and all the realms of existence, manifest and unmanifest, known and unknown. There are few books that cover such an expanse and with such depth, direct knowledge and clarity. For those who want to widen their

horizons and extend their awareness into the realms of higher consciousness, there is perhaps no other book that is as complete, comprehensive and challenging. Reading it requires both concentration and meditation of a very high order, but brings great riches of inner insight in return. As someone who has studied the main religious traditions of the world, and has written extensively on the traditions of India, this book has remained with me as life time companion. I recommend it to all those who are looking at the spiritual life as a quest for a higher consciousness and grace that can transform all that we do. One can continue to delve into the book for new wisdom and insight year after year. The Life Divine teaches us in depth about the great spiritual traditions of India, Veda, Vedanta, Samkhya, Yoga, Tantra and Buddhism, but from a view of practice and realization, and a seeking for the universal truth behind all these great teachings.

The Life Divine

The Life Divine, Sri Aurobindo explains that there are two primary means by which we connect to and are transformed by the Spirit. First, he informs us that in the depths of our being there is a True Self and Spirit -- *an*

evolving Soul that he calls the "Psychic Being" -- which is the primary lever and means of our evolutionary change. By connecting to our Evolving Soul, we perceive our ultimate purpose in life, open to the vast array of spiritual insights, forces, and powers in the universe; feel a sense of oneness with everything and all around us; and as a result experience ultimate joy and delight in being alive.

Second, he reveals that around us there is also a descending spiritual Force -- a Supramental truth consciousness -- that we can open to, allowing Its infinite truth power to enter our being, and uplift, perfect, and transform it. It turns out that this supramental truth consciousness is not only the descending spiritual power that can hasten our progress, evolution, and transformation, but it is in fact the very force and power that enabled the universe to emerge from a Divine Source.

As we take up the call to discover our higher nature; as we come in touch with our evolving soul; as we open and surrender to the descending supramental power, we begin to make the decisive evolutionary and transformational change. Through this reversal of consciousness, our old nature is

transmuted into a new supernature. Not only are our mental, vital, and physical parts uplifted, and our capacities dramatically enhanced, but we also feel a deep connection and oneness with the world around us. In addition, we begin to feel a profound connection with the cosmic and transcendent spiritual reality, which helps us perceive life's true purpose, and our own purpose as instruments of the Higher Power. Finally, out of all of these inner and outer experiences, we feel a deep and abiding Joy and Delight in being alive.²

As individuals make this decisive change in their nature, as they infuse all parts of their being with this higher consciousness, there then gradually emerges a new type of Person -- a Gnostic, Supra-renal being, whose existence is organized around the power of the Spirit. As a number of such individuals make this decisive change, a new human social existence begins to emerge, culminating in a Divine Life on earth.

This is the powerful vision that Sri Aurobindo has offered the world. This is the revelation of a future existence for the individual and the society that he has

captured so eloquently in his metaphysical treatise.

Most notably, the Life Divine outlines the spiritual purpose of the soul and of our human lives. It charts a way to a future in which we can go beyond our current mentality of ego and strife to a world of Divine peace, bliss and knowledge. It charts the transformation of our species from a confused adolescence to the maturity of wisdom and grace. Sri Aurobindo shows how the Divine Shakti can descend into our minds and lift us to a higher level of intelligence as our natural state of existence. The book is perhaps the best study of the spiritual evolution of humanity, the evolution of consciousness in man and nature, which is available.

References

- [1] Tudor, Tasha and Richard Brown. *The Private World of Tasha Tudor*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1992. Page 104.
- [2] *The Life Divine*, Lotus Press, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin [ISBN 0-941524-61-2](https://www.lotuspress.com/)