

THE CALL BEYOND

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Receptivity

Receptivity is the result of a fine passivity.

The Mother

Highlights

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It is easy for you, how about us? Page 16



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SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM - DELHI BRANCH



The central circle represents the Divine Consciousness.

The four petals represent the four powers of the Mother.

The twelve petals represent the twelve powers of the Mother manifested for Her work.

J. J.

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Look Out on Your Birthday

My love is always with you; if then you do not feel it, it is because you are not capable of receiving it.

The Mother



It was on 24 April 1920 that the Mother arrived in Pondicherry for the second time, not to leave it physically till she left the body in 1973. 'The Call Beyond' is celebrating the centennial of this momentous event by focusing on the twelve petals in the outermost circle in the Mother's symbol. The focus this month is on receptivity. The Mother has said that our receptivity to her Love and Grace depend maximally on

two factors: sincerity and humility. What reduces receptivity are our preoccupations with mundane matters, which leaves little room for receiving anything sublime. What truly blocks receptivity are extremes of intellectual gymnastics aimed at understanding spiritual matters, which erode faith and create doubts. Once a year there comes a day, our birthday, on which the rhythm of universal forces favours high receptivity. That is why, the Mother has advised that a person can "take advantage of this receptivity by making good resolutions and fresh progress on the path of his integral development."

PETAL OF THE MONTH: Receptivity

What Makes the Receptacle Ready to Receive?

Aspiration calls down an answer, and this answer, the effect, which is the result of the aspiration, depends upon each one, for it depends upon his receptivity.

The Mother (The Great Adventure, p. 138)

Gladiolus xhortulanus. Multicoloured. Spiritual significance: Manifold receptivity. Nothing resists the Light.



Forty students attend the same class, but only a few are able to go to the heart of the lesson. *The Call Beyond* goes to a few thousand, but only a few hundred read it. A few hundred thousand people live within walking distance of Sri Aurobindo Ashram – Delhi Branch, but only a handful walk to it, even when there is no lockdown. Millions of people see beggars outside temples, but only one Narayanan Krishnan changes the plans of his life to feed them.* It is as if there is plenty of positivity labelled ‘to whom it may concern’ around, and those whom it concerns are uniquely equipped to receive it, just as the television is uniquely equipped to receive what is telecast.

What equips a person to be especially receptive to spiritual awakening, the call from the beyond? Each individual soul is on an evolutionary journey. When a soul gets embodied as a human being on earth for the first time, the individual may behave almost as an animal, which it was in the previous life. But as a human being, she has a free will, which she may use throughout life for making choices, some of which raise the consciousness and some that lower it, and per chance she may leave the world at a level of consciousness higher than the one with which she arrived. This goes on for several lives, and finally she arrives as a human being who has a level of consciousness that sets her apart from the average of her species. She may be

the odd one out, 'too good', 'won't fit into the world' types. She does not live to eat, she eats to live. And, she is highly receptive to a trigger that wakes her up. The trigger is the call from the beyond. She now knows how she has to live, why she has to live that way, she enjoys living that way, and that is the only way she can live. In short, she is now on the spiritual path. Just as she was receptive to the call, she is also receptive to a contact with the one who was destined to be her Guru. Now she walks the spiritual path secure in the guidance, the protection, and above all, the Grace of the Guru.

The spiritual awakening often comes through a misfortune, a traumatic event, which makes a person miserable and helpless. But sometimes it comes through good fortune, as it did in case of Mani Bhaumik who, after staying intoxicated with material success, one day suddenly got a queasy feeling of being overfed and underfed at the same time – overfed with material possessions, progress, name and fame; and underfed spiritually. The awakening leads to an aspiration for discovering what it is that is truly Eternal, Everlasting; for discovering how I as an individual am related to that Absolute Reality; and for giving a meaning and direction to life that would be based on these discoveries. The more intense and sincere the aspiration, more effective is the Divine Grace because the intensity and sincerity of the aspiration heighten the receptivity. Taking a clue from one of Kabir's couplets, the Divine Grace is always there, but it is like sugar mixed up in a heap of sand. An elephant cannot find the sugar, but an ant can, because the ant has receptivity for sugar. Similarly, it is not the wealth of a millionaire or the intellect of a genius that gives receptivity. It is the spiritual evolution over several lives that creates aspiration; and it is sincere aspiration, which even a simpleton might have, that creates receptivity.

*<https://edition.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/04/01/cnnheroes.krishnan.hunger/index.html>

The Supreme Charity

For there is a force which can be distributed to all, always, provided that it is given in its most impersonal form: this is love, love which contains within itself light and life, that is, all the possibilities of intelligence, health, blossoming.

Yes, there is a sublime charity, one which rises from a happy heart, from a serene soul.

One who has won inner peace is a herald of deliverance wherever he goes, a bearer of hope and joy. Is not this what poor and suffering humanity needs above all things?

Yes, there are certain men whose thoughts are all love, who radiate love, and the mere presence of these individuals is a charity more active, more real than any other.

Though they utter no word and make no gesture, yet the sick are relieved, the tormented are soothed, the ignorant are enlightened, the wicked are appeased, those who suffer are consoled and all undergo this deep transformation which will open new horizons to them, enable them to take a step forward which no doubt will be decisive, on the infinite path of progress.

These individuals who, out of love, give themselves to all, who become the servants of all, are the living symbols of the supreme Charity.

I invite all of you here, my brothers, who aspire to be charitable, to join your thought with mine in expressing this wish: that we may strive to follow their example a little more each day so that we may be like them, in the world, messengers of light and love.

CWM 2: 105 – 106

The Mother



Open & Empty

O MY beloved Lord, my heart is bowed before Thee, my arms are stretched towards Thee imploring Thee to set all this being on fire with Thy sublime love that it may radiate from there on the world. My heart is wide open in my breast; my heart is open and turned towards Thee, it is open and empty That Thou mayst fill it with Thy divine Love; it is empty of all but Thee and Thy presence fills it through and through and yet leaves it empty, for it can contain also all the infinite variety of the manifested world. ...

O Lord, my arms are outstretched in supplication towards Thee, *my heart is wide open before Thee, that Thou mayst make of it a reservoir of Thy infinite love.*

"Love me in all things, everywhere and in all beings" was Thy reply. I prostrate myself before Thee and ask of Thee to give me that power.

*The Mother
('Prayers and Meditations', prayer dated 27 December 1916)*

Never Try to Pull the Force

I would like to recommend something to you. In your desire for progress and your aspiration for realisation, take great care not to attempt to pull the forces towards you. Give yourself, open yourself with as much disinterestedness as you can attain through a constant self-forgetfulness, increase your receptivity to the utmost, but never try to pull the Force towards you, for *wanting to pull is already a dangerous egoism*. You may aspire, you may open yourself, you may give yourself, but never seek to take. When things go wrong, people blame the Force, but it is not the Force that is responsible: it is ambition, egoism, ignorance and the weakness of the vessel.

The Mother ('The Great Adventure', p. 209)

Divine Love Is There

Divine Love is there always in all its intensity, a formidable power. But most people – ninety-nine percent – do not feel anything at all! *What they feel of it is exclusively in proportion to what they are, to their capacity of receiving*. Imagine, for instance, that you are bathing in an atmosphere all vibrant with divine Love – you are not at all aware of it. Sometimes, very rarely, for a few seconds there is suddenly the feeling of “something”. Then you say, “Oh, divine Love came to me!” What a joke! It is just that you were simply, for some reason or other, a wee bit open, so you felt it. But it is there always... This is so for all divine things. They are there, only one does not receive them, for one is closed up, blocked, one is busy with other things most of the time. *Most of the time one is full of oneself*. So, as one is full of oneself, there is no place for anything else... there is no place for the Divine.

The Mother ('The Great Adventure', p. 364)

Passive Receptivity & Realising Activity

To be at once a passive and perfectly pure mirror, turned simultaneously without and within, to the results of the manifestation and the sources of this manifestation, so that the consequences may be placed before the guiding will, and to be also the realising activity of that will, this, more or less, is what a human being ought to be. ... *To combine these two attitudes of passive receptivity and realising activity is precisely the most difficult of all things.* And that is what Thou expectest of us, O Lord, and as Thou dost expect it of us, there is no doubt that Thou wilt give us the means of realising it.

The Mother

(‘*Prayers and Meditations*’, prayer dated 21 June 1914)

“An entire sea of water can’t sink a ship unless it gets inside the ship.

Similarly, the negativity of the world can’t put you down unless you allow it to get inside you”



Just as it is important to be receptive to the Divine influence, it is important not to be receptive to negativities. There are hostile forces that do not want man to progress spiritually, but they can do nothing unless there is a chink in our spiritual armour.

(Received as a ‘Forward’ on WhatsApp. Source Unknown)

A Defence of Indian Culture



The Upanishads are the supreme work of the Indian mind, and that it should be so, that the highest self-expression of its genius, its sublimest poetry, its greatest creation of the thought and word should be not a literary or poetical masterpiece of the ordinary kind, but a large flood of spiritual revelation of this direct and profound character, is a significant fact, evidence of a unique mentality and unusual turn of spirit. The Upanishads are at once profound religious scriptures, – for they are *a record of the deepest spiritual experiences*, – documents of revelatory and intuitive philosophy of an inexhaustible light, power and largeness and, whether written in verse or cadenced prose, spiritual poems of an absolute, an unfailing aspiration inevitable in phrase, wonderful in rhythm and expression.

Here the intuitive mind and intimate psychological experience of the Vedic seers passes into a supreme culmination in which *the Spirit, as is said in a phrase of the Katha Upanishad, discloses its own very body*, reveals the very word of its self-expression and discovers to the mind the vibration of rhythms which repeating themselves within in the spiritual hearing seem to build up the soul and set it satisfied and complete on the heights of self-knowledge.

13 hundred years ago

The Upanishads are the creation of a revelatory and intuitive mind and its illumined experience, and all their substance, structure, phrase, imagery, movement are determined by and stamped with this original character. These supreme and all-embracing truths, these visions of oneness and self and a universal divine being are cast into brief and monumental phrases which bring them at once before the soul's eye and make them real and imperative to its aspiration and experience or are couched in poetic sentences full of revealing power and suggestive thought-colour that discover a whole infinite through a finite image.

Sri Aurobindo (In the Arya, Vol. 6, No. 11, 15 June 1920, pp. 675-687)

13 twenty-five years ago

It's My Life, My Decision

Arvind

(Class XI, The Mother's International School)

School was over, and guess what – after a long time there was no homework. Wow! I got back home, sat down at the lunch table – yum! There were mouth-watering potato chips. As my hand approached them, I heard mom's voice, "WAIT! No more than one helping." "What? One helping? Then why did you buy them?" "They are to last one week, understand?" Yes, mom. How wonderful – one packet, seven days!

I decided it was time to have a nap. That, however, was not to be. "Sleeping in the afternoon is a bad habit. Read a book, or better still, start preparing for your exams." Great – what a brilliant idea – study! NO WAY! OKAY! Mom, I will be in my room. Once inside, I switched on the television – MTV, my TV. I took out a book and kept it near me – just in case mom decided

14 twenty five years ago

to peep in. Five o'clock: time to play. "Where are you going?" "Outside." "But where?" No time to answer – have to rush. This was one part of the day I enjoyed the most – playing with my friends – and I was sorry that it had to end!

"Go, have a nice bath." This was my dad. "By the way, who was that girl I saw you talking to?" "Dad, she is my friend." "Oh – Oh." What kind of a reply is that? Anyway, after I had my bath, there was this prayer, and when it was over, my dad called me aside and said, "Young man, don't you think it's time you started being serious about studies? After all, you have to get into I.I.T., then go abroad to do a Ph.D. ..." What? ... Who? ... I.I.T.? ... Abroad? ... Exactly who was he talking about? And how come HE has decided what I must do. Anyway, after dinner, I got into my room and turned on the TV full volume. Bang! Bang! Someone at the door, "Turn that thing off! It's too late, and that

Reproduced from *The Call Beyond*, Vol. 20, No. 2, p. 49, 1995

14 tip of the month

This column shall carry advice, practices or exercises which can make it a little easier for a seeker to walk the spiritual path. Contributions from readers are welcome, and may be printed at the editor's discretion after editorial revision.

The GLASS Prayer

Gratitude for everything

Love for everyone

Aspiration to know and serve the Divine

Sincerity to do in the best way I can the best thing to do

Surrender to the divine Will and Wisdom; Thy will be done



It is easy for you, how about us?

Shishu

I always look upward. Beauty, Peace, Light are there, they are ready to come down. So, always aspire and look up, in order to manifest them upon this earth. Do not look down at the ugly things of the world. Look always upward with me, whenever you feel sad.

The Mother

Ever since the coronavirus took a liking for the world, there has been a deluge of positive messages about how it is giving us lessons that were long overdue – lessons such as, we should respect nature and natural resources, we should realise our basic oneness instead of quarreling over differences, and that the world needed a blow to hasten its march towards the new creation that Sri Aurobindo and The Mother have visualized. These sermons have been delivered by, and received with open arms by those who do not need a job or those whose jobs are secure, those for whom the lockdown has meant only a change of routine – a change in many ways welcome. One category whom these positive messages have been no more than irritating platitudes are the students a year or two on either side of the divide between school and college. Age sixteen to twenty is typically a stage when a student is working towards a career, dreaming of becoming this or that, trying to carve out an individuality free from parental interference, hoping to soon become economically independent, and in many cases thinking of making a difference that would make the world a better place to live in. The coronavirus pandemic has introduced an element of uncertainty and gloom to these expectations, with the result that young people are apt to tell those triple their age advising them not to worry, to look at it all positively, and so on, “It is easy for you, not for us.” Tongue in cheek, that is a great

admission – a teenager admitting that those old folks can at least do something that they can't! On a more serious note, the current situation has suddenly made available a very precious resource: *time*. Here are some suggestions, particularly for the young people, regarding how they can use this time.

Reading

It is surprising how few highly qualified people in India have read, within the last ten years, even one book that was not required for passing an exam. It is not their fault: it just shows how successful the system of education was in killing their love for learning. One may read for the joy of reading, which is very real. But since we live in a utilitarian age, readings from the following list would give you a better understanding of life, which in turn would help you handle the current situation with, what Sri Aurobindo calls philosophical equanimity.

Start with the Bhagavad Gita, generally called just the Gita. It is small, just 700 verses. You can afford to plod through it from cover to cover even if you don't understand everything. Just by doing that, you would have done something very few triple your age have done.

Read a few novels or short stories. Specially recommended are the better known works of (in alphabetical order) Jeffrey Archer, Charles Dickens, Alexander Dumas, Arthur Hailey, Victor Hugo, Somerset Maugham, Premchand, Mohan Rakesh, Bhisham Sahni, Erich Segal, Leo Tolstoy and Oscar Wilde. They would help you understand life better; if you have a flair for languages, they would also improve your command over language.

Hobbies

Cultivate a hobby, if you don't already have one. It will help you a lot in leading a happier life, particularly if you end up

doing for a living something that you don't really enjoy, which is the fate of the majority of people.

Breaking old habits

Compulsions of the so-called normal life might have made you get into some unhealthy habits such as not sleeping enough, eating junk food, lack of physical activity, etc. This is the time to break them, and replace them with better habits. Unhealthy habits apparently do no harm to young people because with their vitality they can get away with anything. But slow damage to the body goes on silently and keeps accumulating, and eventually shows up as a midlife disease thirty years later. If you wish to evaluate your lifestyle, and want to know what our current understanding is about a healthy lifestyle, you may go to <https://forms.gle/u4D3J4Q68WrpjBTK7>

Break away from peer pressure

Peer pressure is not all bad: it can inspire you to work hard if your friends are, and you are not! But there are many in the peer group who are imposed upon us by circumstances. For example, in a class of 40, every individual is distinct, and given the freedom of grouping themselves, many would like to be in much smaller like-minded groups. When you are not meeting your peer group every day, you have an opportunity to maintain intimate on-line contact only with a select few, and distance yourself from others.

Reflect

Reflection is a necessity that becomes a luxury in our 'normal' always-in-a-hurry life. Reflection does to reading and information what digestion does to food. Apart from reflecting on what you read, you can also reflect on what are, or at least seem to be, your original ideas. One fruitful reflection, based partly on data freely available on the net, would be to see

the type of jobs that would be available when you are ready to take up one. The world is changing fast. Many traditional jobs would soon become extinct, but many new ones would become available. Among those that are likely to become available, reflect over what you are really made for, what it is that you would really enjoy doing. Some young people have already capitalized on this rapidly changing scenario, and just by having a good idea and making use of the internet they have launched start-ups that have made a fortune.

Create

Like reflection, an idling mind is also a luxury in 'normal' times. But much of creativity depends on unstructured time for the mind to run freely without any agenda. All good creations start as an idea, and an idea may strike an idling mind at any time. But ideas get forgotten as swiftly as they arrive. So, keep the old-fashioned paper and pencil always ready, wherever you are. You never know: you might get your best idea in the bathroom. Note the idea down immediately. You may not be able to work on all the ideas that you save, but having more ideas than the time to work on is much more comfortable than the other way round.

Living with uncertainty

Advances in communication technology have brought about a remarkable decline in our capacity to live with uncertainty. Even as recently as thirty years ago, if someone went abroad for a week, his relatives assumed that if there is no news of an air crash, he will must have reached safely. How it is today, everybody knows. But the way the world has changed has not reduced the element of uncertainty in life one bit; it has only impaired our capacity to live with it. The current pandemic can teach us to stay in peace in spite of uncertainty, including the uncertainty of exam schedules, college admissions and career.

Switching channels at will

Thoughts about exams, college and career have a way of becoming a nag. They refuse to go away. This is an opportunity for cultivating the mental art of switching channels. Switch from this nagging channel to something more creative or calming. Some suggestions for the new channels to which you may switch have been given above, a few of more lasting value you would find below. The capacity to switch channels is of great use throughout life. If and when you are married, suppose you have a quarrel with your spouse in the morning. When you go for work, if you keep brooding on what happened in the morning, you would be inefficient at work, you may get easily upset with your colleagues, and you would be both miserable and unproductive the whole day. But if on reaching the workplace, you switch from the home channel to the office channel, it will be like any other day in the office.

Think beyond yourself

A self-centred life is a miserable life. The coronavirus pandemic brought many who were living from hand-to-mouth face to face with starvation. Compared to their problems, uncertainty about exams, college and career is a minor inconvenience. We do not have to think of those worst hit by the pandemic just to feel good that at least we are better off than they are; if to our cognitive empathy we add some concrete action, we would be not only helping them but also making our life more meaningful. Many very young people have actually made some very admirable gestures in this respect. Thinking beyond oneself is relevant today, and will be relevant for all time. It is one sure way to fulfill the purpose of life.

Gratitude

Expressing gratitude for all the blessings in our lives takes our attention away from our difficulties, and puts us at peace.

Gratitude may be expressed by sharing what we have received with those who need it.



Received as a 'Forward' on WhatsApp. Source Unknown

A new world after the pandemic

All the talk about the world not being the same after the pandemic is not wishful thinking. Even the residual change that persists after the pandemic will make the world a much better place to live in. And, those who create and inherit that world of the future would be those who are today the youth.

Turning to a higher power

It is those unexpected events that render us helpless, falsify all our calculations, defy rationality and erase all our plans which make us turn to a Higher Power, which runs the universe, whose Will always prevails, and whose Infinite Wisdom can be trusted to guide the destiny of the world in the best way at the best pace in the best direction. Faith in that inscrutable Supreme Consciousness without trying to understand Its mysterious ways, and surrender to Its Will never fails to give us lasting mental peace, no matter what. Getting a glimpse of the Infinite Source of all that was, is and will be, and establishing a personal relationship with It in our prayers is the best outcome of going through difficult times.

In conclusion...

All the above suggestions may not suit all the young people, but at least some of them are likely to hold some appeal for some of them. It is guaranteed that none of the suggestions can do any harm to any of them. That is an assurance no doctor can give regarding the treatment he prescribes!



Humbled in lockdown

R. Hemamalini

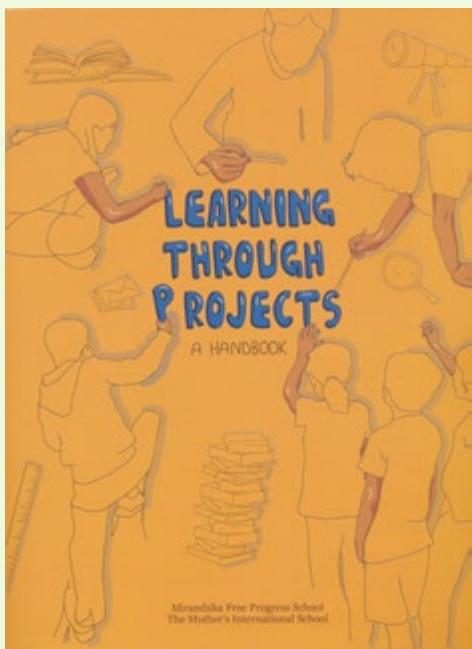
I had always taken great pride in being a multi-tasker and also in being efficient in my tasks. But these few weeks I can only marvel at the efficiency and commitment of my domestic maid – sweeping, mopping and washing dishes in more than five households, and turning up like clock-work each day. I, on the other hand, started my lock-down days with a rigorous schedule of sweeping-mopping every day. But clubbed with the load of doing the dishes five times a day along with cooking, laundry and a zillion other trivia, this resolve gave way. Sweep-mopping every room in our 4-room apartment even once a week became an achievement. So here I am deeply humbled by the experience. These day-maids are the real heroes who sustain our standards of cleanliness. What's more, they go about their jobs without any expectation of recognition or gratitude, unlike me who would grumble endlessly about being taken for granted, treated unfairly, and what not!

R. Hemamalini did a course on Teaching Yoga conducted by Sri Aurobindo Ashram – Delhi Branch in 2019.

Source: <https://hrlockdownmusings.blogspot.com/2020/05/humbled-in-lockdown.html?m=1>

Handsome Handy Material for Teachers

Learning Through Projects: A Handbook. Mirambika Free Progress School and The Mother's International School. Sri Aurobindo Education Society, New Delhi, 2020. 274 pp. ISBN: 978-81-937314-9-9.



This book is the culmination of forty years of experience that the Mirambika Free Progress School has had with using project work as a tool in the teaching-learning process. For the last few years, it has been used extensively also in The Mother's International School with gratifying results. This book puts together their collective experience with more than twenty projects done by children of age 3-12 years during the academic year 2018-2019. The person who has put all the material together in a systematic manner, and seen the project through has preferred to remain anonymous, but insiders know that he is Baren Roul, a senior teacher at Mirambika.

A project engages a group of children in working on a topic, preferably arrived at by the children, for a few days or weeks. During this period, they collect information on the topic, work out a critical synthesis of the data, and finally present it in one, or generally more, of various formats – as an essay, as a slideshow, as a set of charts or posters, and as a series of oral presentations. Collecting material on just one project may enhance knowledge in history, geography, mathematics and science besides developing inevitably language skills and higher faculties of learning such as comprehension, analysis, synthesis, reasoning

and critical thinking. Apart from developing the mental part of the being, handling scissors and glue while making charts develops sensory abilities and eye-hand coordination (physical); arranging pictures on a chart, or arranging charts on a notice board, or designing slides, develops the emotional part of the being (vital); and learning to work together as a team helps the psychic being evolve and illuminate the vital and mental parts of the being. Thus, without a formal classification of aims, from the same project students end up learning a variety of conventional subjects, and developing all parts of the being, thereby making the educational outcome truly integral. Moreover, the outcome is achieved in a way that absorbs and involves the students completely because they are working together towards an attainable goal, each of them contributing what s/he is best at. Thus, project work is contextual learning at its best.

Although project work is the buzzword in educational circles today, the difficulty is for the teachers to find age-appropriate topics, and to facilitate the project in such a way that they provide the necessary guidance without taking away the freedom that the students should have while working on the project. Most school teachers did not themselves learn through project work, and therefore it holds for them the fear of the unknown. Here is a book that gives them a large variety of topics, and how real children and their teachers have handled those topics. The book is profusely illustrated with colourful pictures of children at work and their products. It should be a great help and encouragement to teachers wishing to introduce project work in their schools. Once they start, there will be no turning back, and they and their students will keep expanding the list of topics to work on, for which sky is the limit.

Feedback and Encouraging Words

Dear Ramesh,

Thanks for this clarification. I'm pleased to know that I will continue to receive the newsletter [Realization] and the magazine [The Call Beyond]. I do actually read them.

I must tell you again how appreciative I am of your writings and so pleased that our paths crossed. It's a great gift.

Darrol (Bryant)

University of Waterloo, Canada

(in an e-mail dated 10 April 2020)

Feedback on the Story, 'A Tale of Two Girls'



Dear teacher

My comment on 'The Tale of Two Girls' is: It was a nice motivational story about kindness and I liked to read it. I read it three times.

Regards,

Divjot Singh

Class VI-C, The Mother's International School

(in an e-mail dated 13 May 2020)

(Editor's note: 'A Tale of Two Girls' is a short story by Ramesh Bijlani, suitable for children age 10 and above)

Eighty Four Years Young



To all the admirers and well-wishers of Sri Aurobindo Ashram – Delhi Branch, the Ashram is synonymous with Tara Didi, who came to the Ashram in 1976 after spending 32 years in Pondicherry as a direct disciple of the Mother. The love that they feel for her has been expressed year after year on her birthday, July 5. She lives a simple life, and needs nothing, which makes it difficult for anyone to give her anything personal, and therefore we always look for something close to her heart that we can do for the Ashram

on that day. She loves plants, and last year, all the well-wishers, including the volunteers, students of MIS and Mirambika, and the former students of MIS (The Mother's Blossoms) planted trees in the Ashram on her birthday.

This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we continue to be closed to visitors. A pet activity of Tara Didi are the youth upliftment programs, which she initiated in 1985. Under these programs, hundreds of young boys and girls from all parts of the country, specially remote and rural areas, have spent six months to a few years in the Ashram, and not only learnt some job-oriented skills but also picked up English and computer literacy, upgraded their educational qualifications,

and grown into polished personalities. Even more important, they imbibed the values of punctuality, discipline, hard work, time management, and the secrets of living a happy, healthy and meaningful life. Over the years, we have seen so many gratifying success stories.

The construction of a separate block to house these young people, named the 'Ashirvad Block', had just begun before the lockdown. The construction work would be resumed as and when the circumstances allow. The 'Ashirvad Block' will allow us to further expand our youth upliftment programs. While the construction work would cost a substantial amount of money, like everywhere else, the Ashram's economy also has taken a hit during the lockdown.

This year on July 5, Tara Didi will be 84 years young. We propose, and appeal to you, to express your love for her by making a donation to the Ashram, which would facilitate the construction of the 'Ashirvad Block'. No amount is too small, but the amount donated should preferably have a relationship with 84, such as Rs. 84 or 840 or 8400, and so on. **The donation may be made by a cheque payable to 'Sri Aurobindo Ashram – Delhi Branch'. With the cheque, please send us your postal address, phone number and PAN card number. This will make it easy for us to issue you a receipt, and for you to get income tax exemption under section 80 G.**

If you wish to pay by direct bank transfer, you may send an e-mail to contact@aurobindoonline.in to get the details of the bank account.

Contact us

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