

Sri Aurobindo on Yoga of Works







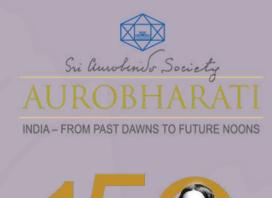


A Yoga of works, a union with the Divine in our will and acts—and not only in knowledge and feeling—is then an indispensable, an inexpressibly important element of an integral Yoga.









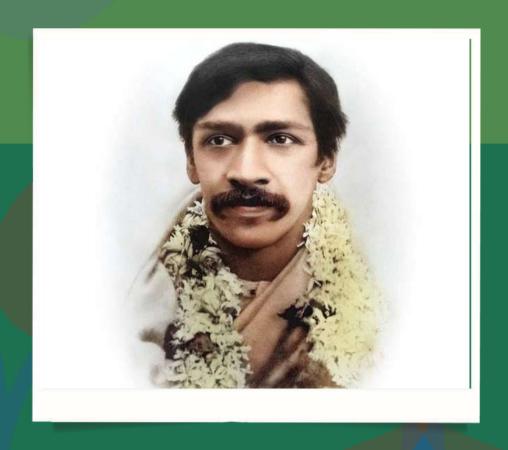


All acts are included in action,—work is action regulated towards a fixed end and methodically and constantly done, service is work done for the Mother's purpose and under her direction.









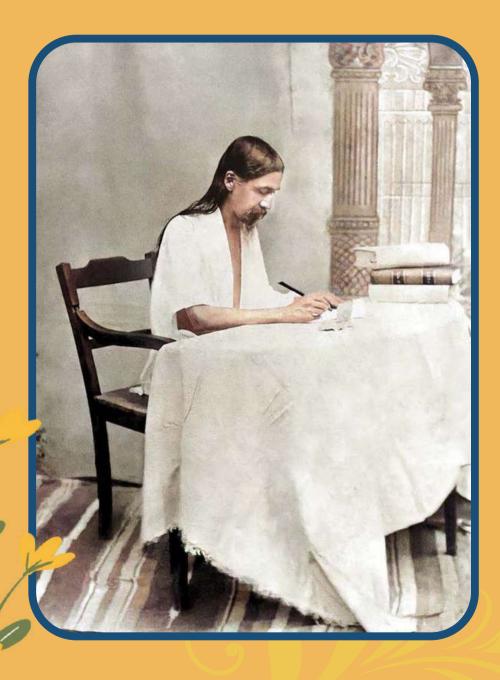
Self-dedication does not depend on the particular work you do, but on the spirit in which all work, of whatever kind it may be, is done.



It is the spirit and the consciousness in which it is done that makes an action
Yogic—it is not the action itself.

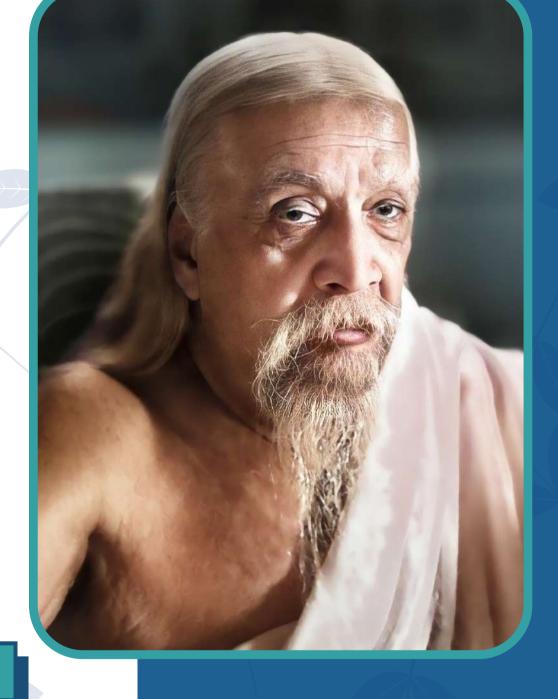








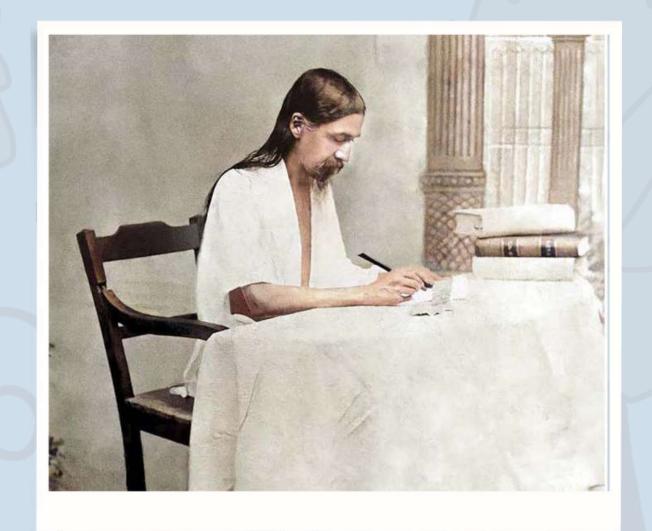
Your object is not only to practise
Yoga for your own internal progress and perfection, but also to do a work for the Divine.







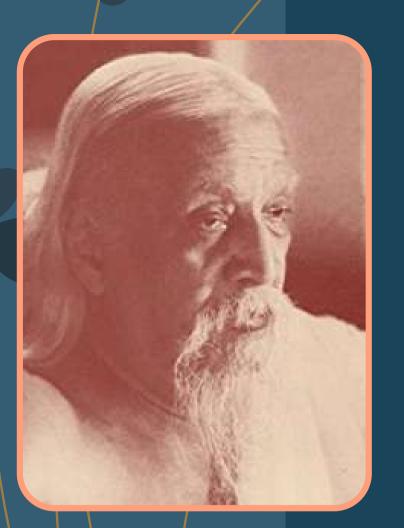






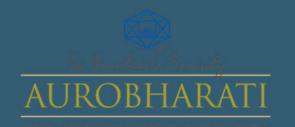
TO BE FREE FROM ALL EGOISTIC MOTIVE,
CAREFUL OF TRUTH IN SPEECH AND ACTION,
VOID OF SELF-WILL AND SELF-ASSERTION,
WATCHFUL IN ALL THINGS IS THE CONDITION
FOR BEING A FLAWLESS SERVANT.



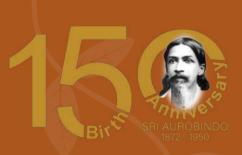




Work is part of the sadhana, and in sadhana the question of usefulness does not arise, that is an outward practical measure of things, though even in the outward ordinary life utility is not the only measure.







To do anything for a reward is contrary to the rule of Yoga.

One must do a thing because it is right or else do it for the Divine, not for a reward.



Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 29: 232





Crinum lily, Spider lily

Spiritual significance: Disinterested work done for the Divine in the vital; calm and powerful, it reaches its goal.





THE SADHAK OUGHT
TO BE READY TO DO
ANY WORK THAT IS
NEEDED, NOT ONLY
THE WORK HE
PREFERS.









"It is true that each being is an instrument of the cosmic Shakti, therefore of the Mother. But the aim of the sadhana is to become a conscious and perfect instrument instead of one that is unconscious and therefore imperfect.."

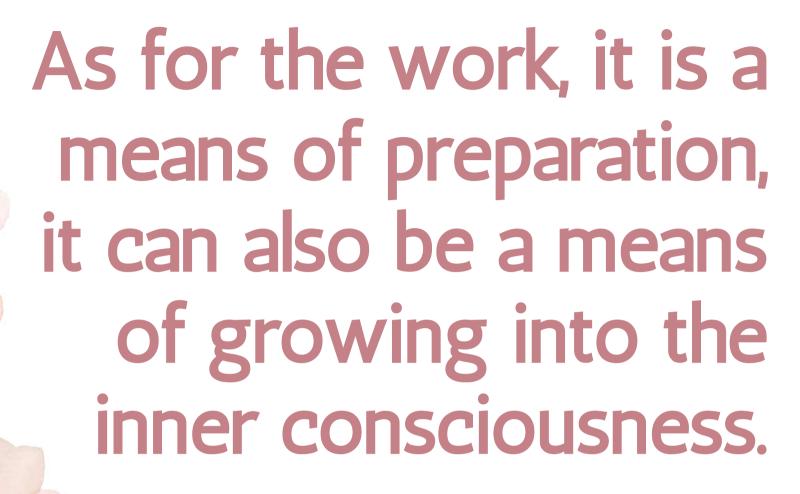
- Sri Aurobindo (CWSA, 32:243)







The impersonal worker puts his best capacity, zeal, industry into the work, but not his personal ambitions, vanity, passions. He has always something in view that is greater than his little personality and his devotion or obedience to that dictates his conduct.



Sri Aurobindo (CWSA 29: 242)











... the first rule of action laid down by the Gita is to do the work that should be done without any desire for the fruit, niskāma karma.

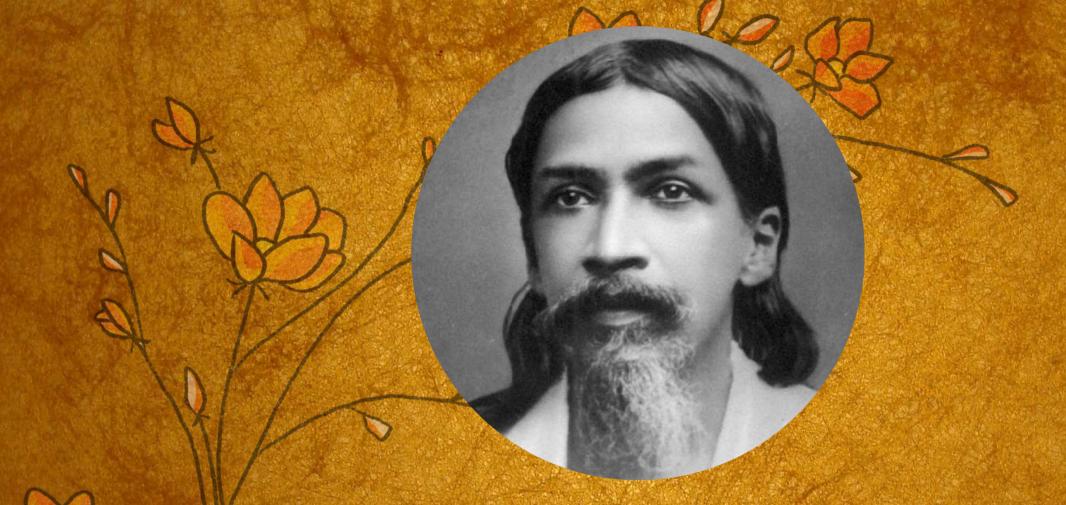






... the modern mind has exiled from its practical motive-power the two essential things, God or the Eternal and spirituality or the God-state, which are the master conceptions of the Gita.



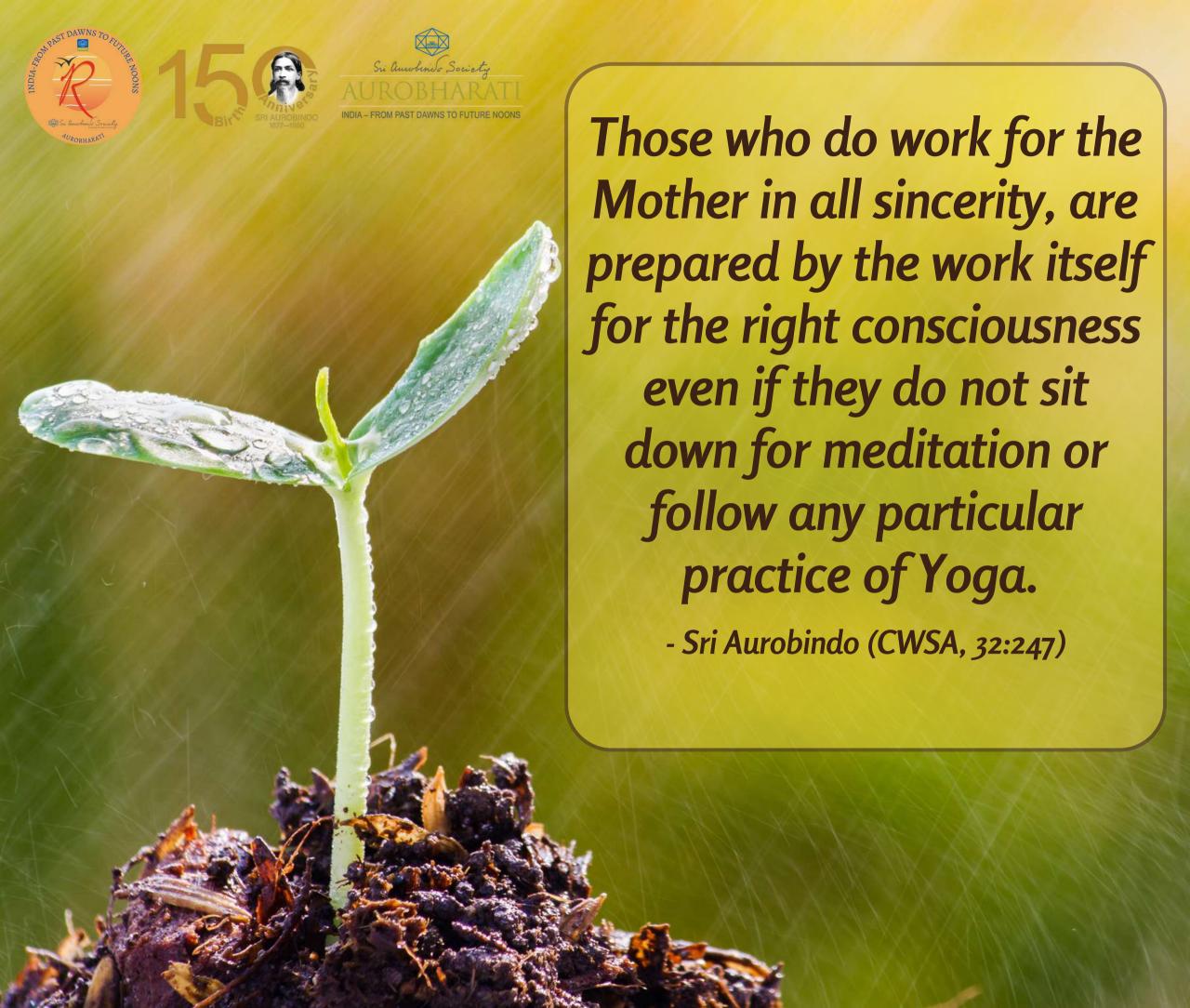


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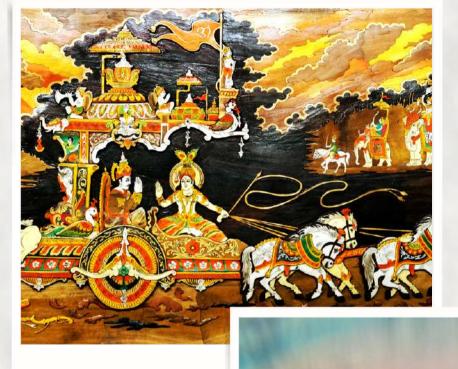


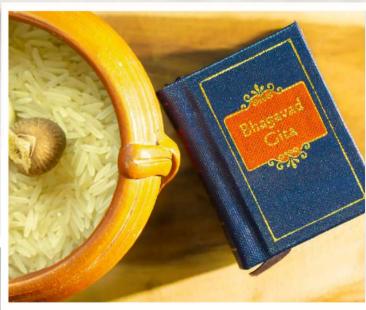




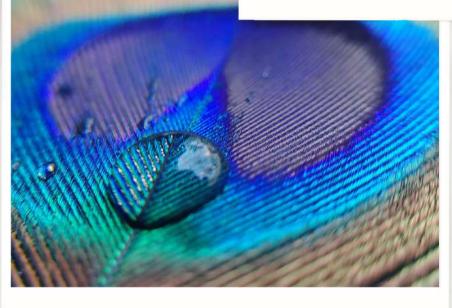




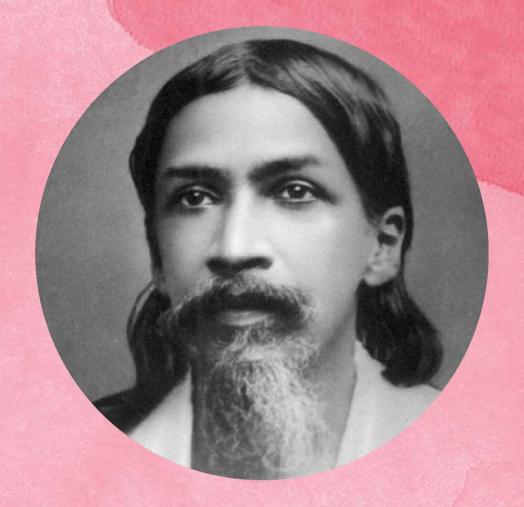








ANY WORK CAN BE DONE AS A FIELD FOR THE PRACTICE OF THE SPIRIT OF THE GITA.



There must be the rasa [in the work], but it comes when there is the dynamic descent of the Power.













All work done in an egoistic spirit, however good for people in the world of the Ignorance, is of no avail to the seeker of the Yoga. .



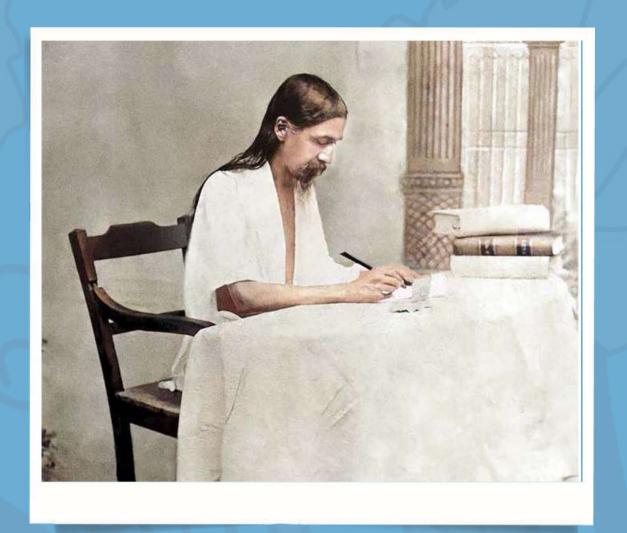




...it (work) must be done not as work only but as an offering to the Mother, without insisting on the ego, with an aspiration to feel her Force working in one, her Presence presiding over the work, seeking to give all to her, not claiming anything for oneself. That is the spirit of work offered as a sacrifice; done like that, work becomes a sadhana and a Yoga.

Sri Aurobindo (CWSA 29: 242)











In our Yoga, which seeks not only a static peace or absorption but a dynamic spiritual action, work is indispensable.







Work is part of the Yoga and it gives the best opportunity for calling down the Presence, the Light and the Power into the vital and its activities; it increases also the field and the opportunity of surrender.

- Sri Aurobindo (CWSA, 32:251)

