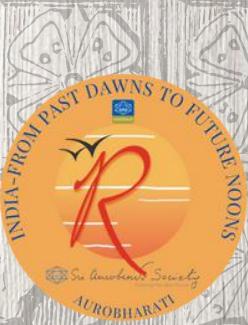




Sri Aurobindo Society
AUROBHARATI
INDIA – FROM PAST DAWNS TO FUTURE NOONS



WHO IS AN ARYAN? and BUILDING ARYAN CHARACTER



All the highest aspirations of the early human race, its noblest religious temper, its most idealistic velleities of thought are summed up in this single vocable [Arya].

Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 13: 441



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Intrinsically, in its most fundamental sense, Arya means an effort or an uprising and overcoming. The Aryan is he who strives and overcomes all outside him and within him that stands opposed to the human advance.



Self-conquest is the first law of his nature. He overcomes earth and the body and does not consent like ordinary men to their dullness, inertia, dead routine and tamasic limitations.

He overcomes life and its energies and refuses to be dominated by their hungers and cravings or enslaved by their rajasic passions.



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He overcomes the mind and its habits, he does not live in a shell of ignorance, inherited prejudices, customary ideas, pleasant opinions, but knows how to seek and choose, to be large and flexible in intelligence even as he is firm and strong in his will.

For in everything he seeks truth, in everything right, in everything height and freedom.



... in the Veda the Aryan peoples
are those who had accepted a
particular type of self-culture, of
inward and outward practice, of
ideality, of aspiration.

Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 13: 441





150
Birth
Anniversary
SRI AUROBINDO
1871-1929

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... whoever seeks to climb from level to level up the hill of the divine, fearing nothing, deterred by no retardation or defeat, shrinking from no vastness because it is too vast for his intelligence, no height because it is too high for his spirit, no greatness because it is too great for his force and courage, he is the Aryan, the divine fighter and victor, the noble man, aristos, best, the *śreṣṭha* of the Gita.



Self-perfection is the aim of his [Aryan's] self-conquest. Therefore what he conquers he does not destroy, but ennobles and fulfils.

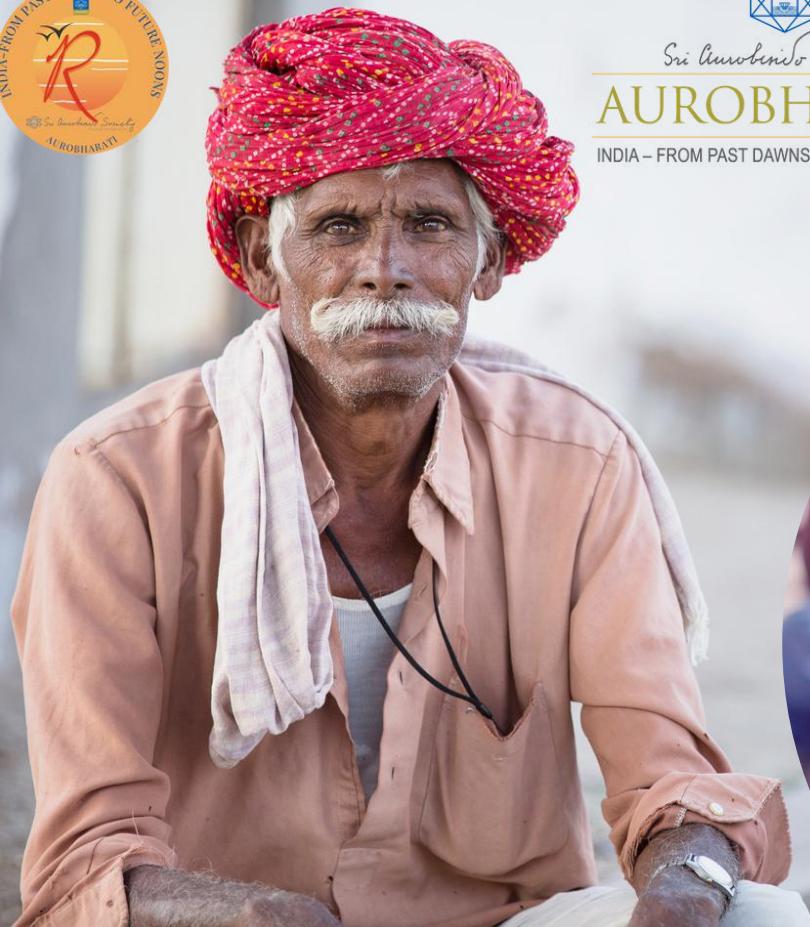
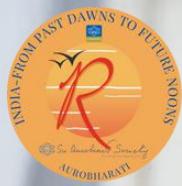
He knows that the body, life and mind are given him in order to attain to something higher than they; therefore they must be transcended and overcome, their limitations denied, the absorption of their gratifications rejected.

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But he knows also that the Highest is something which is no nullity in the world, but increasingly expresses itself here,—a divine Will, Consciousness, Love, Beatitude which pours itself out, when found, through the terms of the lower life on the finder and on all in his environment that is capable of receiving it. Of that he is the servant, lover and seeker.



We are in no way inferior to our forefathers. We have brains, we have courage, we have an infinite and various national capacity. All we need is a field and an opportunity. That field and opportunity can only be provided by a national government, a free society and a great Indian culture.

Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 7: 152



Nationalism's business is to build up Indian character by educating it to heroic self-sacrifice and magnificent ambitions, to restore the tone of nobility which it has lost and bring back the ideals of the ancient Aryan gentleman.

Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 7: 196



BUILDING THE ARYAN CHARACTER

Knowledge, devotion and non-attached activity are the root of an Aryan education; liberality, love, courage, energy, modesty are signs of the Aryan character.

To spread the light of knowledge among men, to hold before the race the impeccable ideal of elevated, liberal characters, to protect the weak, to punish the powerful tyrants are the aims of Aryan living; in the pursuit of these aims lies its religious fulfilment.



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We have fallen from the ways of our religion, moved away from our goals; victim to religious confusion and the gross illusions full of error we are without the Aryan education and its regulative ethics...

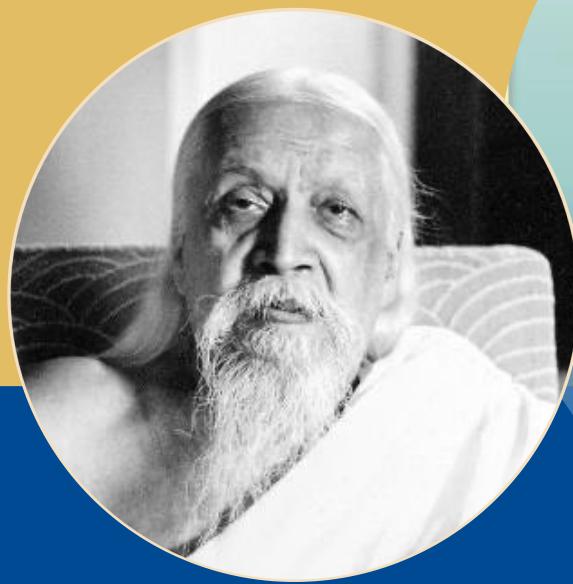
Hence if we want to survive, if we have the slightest desire to be free from an eternal hell, our first duty is to serve the nation.

The way to do that is to rebuild the Aryan character.

So that the future children of the motherland may become men of wisdom, truth-abiding, lovers of mankind, inspired by feelings of brotherhood, courageous, humble, it should be our first aim to give the entire nation, especially the youth of the country, an adequate education, high ideals and a way of activity that will arouse these Aryan ideals.

(*Sri Aurobindo, Bengali Writings, "Dharma", No. 1, August, 1909*)





We have to fill the minds of our boys [and girls] from childhood with the idea of the country, and present them with that idea at every turn and make their whole young life a lesson in the practice of the virtues which afterwards go to make the patriot and the citizen. If we do not attempt this, we may as well give up our desire to create an Indian nation altogether; for without such a discipline nationalism, patriotism, regeneration are mere words and ideas which can never become a part of the very soul of the nation and never therefore a great realised fact. Mere academical teaching of patriotism is of no avail.

Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, 7: 455



Make of us the hero warriors we aspire to become. May we fight successfully the great battle of the future that is to be born, against the past that seeks to endure; so that the new things may manifest and we may be ready to receive them.

-The Mother (CWM, 15:183-184)