

SAS Golden Jubilee Year: Vijaybhai's Talk on 19 September 2009

At Beach Office, Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry

Friends, we are meeting today on a very special occasion. On this day, the 19th of September (in 1960), the Mother signed the memorandum and the registration papers of the Sri Aurobindo Society as its founding and executive president. It is a very special day because it is not just the founding of an organisation or an institution but because it is part of the Mother's work of world transformation. She had declared that this is the Hour of God, that this is an opportunity which comes not just once in a lifetime, but perhaps not even once in millennia. She had said that to participate in the birth of a new world, the Supramental world, is an exceptional privilege. And this is the privilege that has been given to us as members of Sri Aurobindo Society, of which the Mother herself is the founding and the executive president.

In fact when the Society was started and Navajataji was discussing with the Mother on the starting of the Society, he told her that if all those who are inspired by their Yoga, their vision, their ideals came together, if we worked together, something very beautiful and unique could be achieved. The Mother said, 'Yes, that can be done.' And then he told her – and this is very, very significant –, 'But Mother, this cannot be done unless YOU directly, personally lead it.' That is when the Mother said, 'I agree, I accept to directly, personally lead it' and that is how the Society was started, with the Mother as the Executive President. Not president as a figurehead but president in all the smallest details of how the Society should function, what should happen, how it should grow.

Today is not the occasion for speaking about it, but what I would like to share with you is that we do not appreciate fully the privilege which has been granted to us. Even now we think that how lucky were the persons in the army of Shri Ramachandraji that they got an occasion to be part of that work when he came upon the earth. How lucky were the Gopis and Gopas in Brindavan that when Krishna came upon earth they got a chance to be part of it. Centuries later people are going to say how lucky we were that we got a chance to be part of that work when the Supramental Avatars came and descended upon earth. And I can tell you, I believe it deeply, that each one of us, wherever we may be, who has come to the Society, has been chosen by the Mother. It could not be our personal decision, we are not fit to take that decision; it is she who has chosen, it is she who has given us this opportunity. And we should really be conscious of this privilege which has been granted to us and not miss this opportunity which has been given to us.

The last 50 years have not been easy years by any stretch of imagination, they have been extremely difficult and challenging years. But through it all, unbelievably, the Mother's Grace has taken us not only out of the abyss but taken us to greater heights. Most of us who are here don't know about that period, have not experienced those times. But there are also some here who have lived through that period, that difficult period which was there and it was the Mother's Grace that took us through it all and the courage and sincerity of that small group which faced all the problems, so that today we can be where we are.

So many beautiful things are happening in so many centres, branches, all over India, abroad, where you see so many projects coming up, out of the blue, where persons have come and joined us. So much is happening in village development, something unique in the light of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, something in education, health, management, Indian culture, in youth, women, films, television programmes – name it and the Mother’s work is growing in all these fields. And it is for us to take advantage of this and see how we can grow through it.

After all, celebrations for the sake of a celebration has no real meaning. Celebration has a meaning if through this year and through the coming years we can put in a little more effort in our *sadhana*. The challenge is not to be where we are today but we decide, we resolve that we will put in that little extra, a little beyond what we are doing today, as our offering to the Mother. At the internal level, at the level of *sadhana* because the work of the Society does not grow, has no meaning, unless it grows through *sadhana*. There is no meaning in doing all these projects unless we grow through that work offering, that karma yoga, in our consciousness, and become more and more open to Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. So our way of celebrating this golden jubilee can be only one: to grow more and more in their consciousness, to open more and more to their light, to their power, and at the work level, a little more effort, ‘something beyond what I’m doing today, how can I do a little more than that tomorrow, how can that be my offering to the Mother...’

Can I share with you something that touched me. In 1960 the Mother started the Society, in 1961 we had our annual conference and at the annual conference, just as we have here today the Mother’s chair which has been kept as her presence, that is how at the conference the Mother’s chair was kept there. When one starts speaking one normally addresses the senior-most person on the dais and then addresses everyone else. I remember, when Navajataji started giving his speech – and it has stuck in my mind so clearly –, there he was giving the speech, before starting he turned towards where the Mother’s chair was put up and said, ‘The Mother’, then addressed the persons on the dais and then the audience. It was not a symbolic presence of a chair which was there, it was a living experience that the Mother *is* presiding, she *is* there with us, and at every moment she *is* the one who is leading and guiding us.

And today too let us make a very conscious decision that we will invoke her presence not only in this hall, invoke her presence in our heart temples, in everyone who is connected with and aspiring for her work, so that it gets established in us. Whatever we do let us first invoke her, address her, call her and then begin our work – I think there can be no better way of celebrating this year. Let us put in that extra effort, let us, by the end of this year and the coming years, see her smile of approval that we have been good children, that we have been good warriors, that we have been good workers, that we have done what was expected of us, that we have been worthy of their grace. And with that let us offer our gratitude, let us invoke them both, Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, in us, in our work, and let us offer our great, infinite gratitude that they chose us and gave us this opportunity to serve them.
