

Sri Aurobindo: On the Divine Journey

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Abstract

Sri Aurobindo dreamt of the coming of a new species he called superman on the basis of his hypothesis that man is a transitional being. A group of scholars have given certain pertinent arguments to establish a close affinity between Sri Aurobindo's concept of superman and that of Nietzsche and Darwin's theory of evolution. But a close examination of the theory of these scholars makes it amply clear that Sri Aurobindo was in no way influenced either by Nietzsche's Übermensch or Darwin's evolution theory. His idea of superman was derived from the occult vision that he and the mother had experienced. They had conceived of a prototype of a new species and thereafter undertook the work of supermental transformation to herald the arrival of the new species on the earth.

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Introduction

The mother, a close associate of Sri Aurobindo once envisioned the prototype of superman which she could not realize but once in the company of Sri Aurobindo she discussed it with him and the latter pacified her grievances saying that the prototype which she perceived would be of a superman which clearly give weight to his logic that superman might descend on the earth since its prototype was perceived in the formless world by the mother.

The mother related her experiences to his disciple on 7th Nov. 1961 saying,

“Well one time I was there, but there I was, wanting to pass over to the other side, when in a quite unexpected and astounding way I found myself in the presence of the principle of the human form. I did resemble man as we are used to seeing him, but it was an upright form, standing fast on the border between the world of forms and the formless, like kind of standards. (By standard, mother means sort of model of archetypal). As that time nobody had ever spoken to me about it and Madame Theon had never seen it no one had ever seen or said anything. But I felt I was on the verge of discovering secret. After wards, when I met Sri Aurobindo and talked to him about it, he told me, it is surely the prototype of the supermental form, I saw it several times again, later on, and this proved to be true”¹

She reiterated the same vision which she had experienced earlier”.

When one went beyond and entered those regions, then there was it was the supreme outside the creation, beyond the creation, That’s where I saw the representative form of the new creation (and that was before I ever heard anything about Sri Aurobindo and the supermind), that’s where I saw the form that must succeed the human form, like the symbolic representation of the new creation. That was two or three years before I heard of Sri Aurobindo and met him. So, when he told me about the supermental evolution, I said to him (laughing), But of course, I know, I saw it up”²

It is still too early to arrive at conclusion than Sri Aurobindo had the identical experience of having glimpse of supermen tell prototype” but his diary containing his occult experiences speak of the fact in March 1914, he had envisioned the vast

evolutionary scale though which life evolves on Earth. Sri Aurobindo had developed his own approach regarding evolution on earth,

‘Every race that thus overshoots its mark goes a step further than their immediate next race in evolution aids powerfully that evolution, but becomes unfit for survival has to disappear. For this reason, the Gardharva race of the pashus disappeared the Asura Rakshasa type reappeared, then took up something of the Crondhark’s advanced one step two and the Asura Pashu of the Asura type. By such overleaping’s recoiling human evolution has always advanced’³

In an essay written in the karmajogin journal Sri Aurobindo had explained the occult mechanism that brings about the evolution of a new species,

‘The whole burden of our human progress has been an attempt to escape from the bondage to the body and the vital impulses.’⁴

According to the scientific theory, the human unity the being began as the animal, developed through the savage and consummate in the modern civilized man. The Indian theory is different. God created the world by developing the many out of the one and the material out of the spiritual.

From the beginning, the objects which compose the physical world were arranged by Him in their causes, developed under the law of their being in the subtle or psychical world and then manifested in the gross or material world. From Karana (casual) to sukshama (subtle), from shuksma to sthula (gross physical) and back again, that is the formula. Once manifested in matter the world proceeds by law which do not change from age to age, by a regular succession until it is all with drawn back again into the sources from which it come.

The material goes back into the physical and the psychical is involved in its cause or seed. It is again put out when the period of expansion recurs and runs into course on similar lines but with different details till the period of contraction is due.”

The fact that a prototype of every species exists has also been affirmed by other occultist Madame H.P. Blavack, the founder of the theosophical society states in the secret doctrine that he as has prototype of man preceded his physical

appearance. After the physical form appeared, it became subject to the processes of differentiation.

Reference:

1. The Mother address to her disciple in November 1961.
2. Ibid, 1962.
3. Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, Pondicherry Ashram.
4. Ibid.