On Thoughts and Aphorisms

immortal. We become conscious of the domains where immor-
tality exists. But this does not imply that our physical substance
is transformed and becomes immortal. For that quite another
procedure has to be followed. You must not only first obtain
this consciousness, but bring it down into the material world
and let it work not only on the transformation of the physical
consciousness, but also on the transformation of the physical
substance, which is quite a considerable task.

Finally, you must not confuse personal realisation with the
realisation of humanity as a whole. When we have found the
nectar we are above all religious sects; they no longer have any
meaning or use for us. But in a general way, for men in general,
these things continue to have their value and usefulness as a
path, until they achieve realisation.

28 January 1961

55 – Be wide in me, O Varuna; be mighty in me, O Indra; O
Sun, be very bright and luminous; O Moon, be full of
charm and sweetness. Be fierce and terrible, O Rudra;
be impetuous and swift, O Maruts; be strong and bold,
O Aryama; be voluptuous and pleasurable, O Bhaga; be
tender and kind and loving and passionate, O Mitra. Be
bright and revealing, O Dawn; O Night, be solemn and
pregnant. O Life, be full, ready and buoyant; O Death,
lead my steps from mansion to mansion. Harmonise all
these, O Brahmanaspati. Let me not be subject to these
gods, O Kali.

Why does Sri Aurobindo give more importance to Kali?

It is good and necessary to possess all the divine qualities that
these gods represent and symbolise; that is why Sri Aurobindo
invokes them and asks them to take possession of his nature.
But for one who wants union with the Supreme, for one who
Jnana

aspires for the supreme Realisation, this cannot be sufficient. This is why at the end he calls upon Kali to give him the power to go beyond them all.

For Kali is the most powerful aspect of the universal Mother and her power is greater than that of all the gods in her creation. To unite with her means therefore to become more vast, more complete, more powerful than all the gods together and that is why Sri Aurobindo places union with her above and beyond all the others.

2 February 1961

56 – When, O eager disputant, thou hast prevailed in a debate, then art thou greatly to be pitied; for thou hast lost a chance of widening knowledge.

What is the use of discussions? What is the best way to make other people understand what one feels to be true?16

In general, those who like to discuss things are those who need the stimulant of contradiction to clarify their ideas.

It is obviously the sign of an elementary intellectual stage.

But if you can “attend” a discussion as an impartial spectator — even while you are taking part in it and while the other person is talking with you — you can always benefit from this opportunity to consider a question or a problem from several points of view; and by attempting to reconcile opposite views, you can widen your ideas and rise to a more comprehensive synthesis.

As for the best way of proving to others what one feels to be true, one must live it — there is no other way.

16 Oral question and answer.