

"IF THE MOMENT OF GOD HAS COME..."

Well-known writer, Manoj Das, who has lived in Sri Aurobindo Ashram for the past 34 years, was interviewed by Dr. P. Raja (a professor who obtained his Ph.D. on the writings of Manoj Das from Madras University and whose book Many Worlds of Manoj Das has won him warm appreciation from scholars) on Sri Aurobindo for The Statesman. The interview was published in both the Calcutta and New Delhi editions of the newspaper in its issue of 15-08-96.

- Editor

Of all spiritual Masters, why did you choose Sri Aurobindo?

It is not that I chose Sri Aurobindo; it is he in his infinite Grace who chose me! But answering your question in a less mystifying way, I should say that I 'evolved' into Sri Aurobindo's world. My quest for the meaning of life, for the destiny of man, led me to him. But had it not been for his Grace, I might be still beating in the bush - in the world of religions and philosophies.

What is the relevance of Sri Aurobindo today?

I should say - it is for today and tomorrow. Sri Aurobindo came at a time when mankind is groping in darkness, for all its favourite resorts - religion, politics, science - seem to have reached their dead ends without bringing to man any sense of 'liberation', any sense of having arrived at!

Sri Aurobindo was the only one to diagnose the impasse as an 'evolutionary crisis' which has engulfed humanity. He shows us the way to cross into a new phase of evolution - into a gnostic tomorrow.

Sri Aurobindo has a fine sense of humour, which is rare among Yogis. What have you to say about this phenomenon?

If Ananda (Delight) is at the foundation of this Sristi (creation), how can the Yogi, who is in union with that creatrix consciousness, be bereft of that trait? Sri Aurobindo's humour is the most subtle, most intelligent I have ever known.

Have you ever regretted that the genius of Sri Aurobindo was not taken note of by the Nobel Prize Committee?

Never! Sri Aurobindo should not be read by people because he received this award or that. One's quest and quest alone should lead one to him. It is good that he is not bracketed with a galaxy of award-winners. He dazzles in his uniqueness.

Why should we read Sri Aurobindo at all?

Because, if the moment of God in your life has come, you cannot do otherwise.

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