

*A mutual debt binds man to the Supreme:
His nature we must put on as he put ours;
We are sons of God and must be even as he:
His human portion, we must grow divine.
Our life is a paradox with God for key.*

Savitri, Book I, Canto IV



*Darshan Greetings to All
Feb 21, 2009*

*Student Experience at SACAR
An Exchange between a SACAR
student and her facilitator*

*Menaka, an MA student to Margaret, her
course facilitator:*

I would like to share something that is a constant reality in my life and presents a great challenge to me and equally a great opportunity. In the midst of all the activity and commitment of a 'worldly life' when I don't know how to find time for my study and course assignments and fail to balance all the various demands on me, when I am stranded and don't know the way out, I surrender to The Mother that She may work through me.... work out through me what She wills! In this process of 'struggle' towards a larger perfection of the external life I have had to make a lot of attitudinal changes, I was compelled and inspired to apply all the knowledge learnt in the study of Sri Aurobindo; to let go all the stress of egoistic choice; to surrender and become a simple child in the hands of the Mother; to silence the being, the personality so that in the inner being

Her will may reveal itself; to give up all personal agenda and flow at every moment with the force and will of the Divine; to feel actively the Grace in every moment of the day; and when I receive support, understanding and help from you in this process I am deeply overwhelmed! It serves as the tiny ray of light that I can hold on to and watch myself being led to a higher order; it serves as that breathing space which carries me through the impasse! It makes all the difference!

I am sure most of the learners here have had similar experiences! It would be very nice to know how each one applies the knowledge and devotion to arrive at a growing perfection in life action.

Margaret to Menaka:

Thank you so much for sharing your process of surrender to the Mother. In academic endeavors, this aspect is often not included or misunderstood. The experience of working in this way is a direct application of the lives and teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. That is what is so unique about this subject matter. We do use our brains in very important ways, but we are not limited to just the reasoning mentality. Your sharing of your experience is a validation of the process of transformation in daily life. It also encourages others to incorporate this quality of surrender into their lives or share their experience, as well.

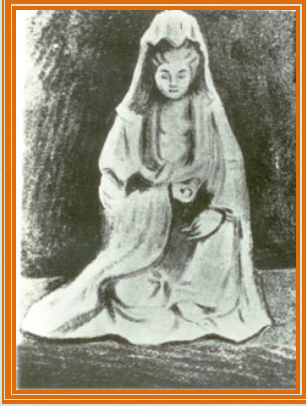
*To have a developed intellect is
always helpful if one can enlighten
it from above and turn it to a
divine use.*

Sri Aurobindo



Power of beauty

Beauty acquires its power only when
it is surrendered to the Divine.



Goddess Kwannon

Mother's drawing of the Buddhist goddess of compassion

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We invoke the grace and blessings of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo through our reference to MĀ and SA. MĀSA is also a Sanskrit word which means month - appropriate for a monthly publication.

Survivor of November 26, 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai visits SACAR; speaks of ordeal and Grace

Report by Shruti Bidwaikar

Nadia Colombo, a survivor of the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai recently visited SACAR and shared a brief account of her ordeal and survival.



Nadia is a fashion designer from London. She was on the fourth floor of the Hotel Taj when the terrorists entered and starting shooting the people. Nadia and her husband initially thought that the noise was of some loud crackers bursting at some wedding nearby. When they switched on their television they saw the terrorists attacking the very place where they were staying. But soon the telecast was disrupted. They were told by the hotel staff to switch off the lights and stay quiet in the room. They did so. In the meanwhile they called their children abroad asking them to search the Internet and keep them informed. As the 6th floor was on fire, the smoke started filling in every room. To avoid dying of suffocation Nadia and her husband came out of the room with wet towels tied on their noses and heads. They came out to discover that the corridors were pitch-black with smoke and they could not even see each other. They tried to go inside the room again, but to their dismay they had locked themselves out. So they started searching for some other room which could let them in. Nadia's husband saw light in a room and banged the door. A German businessman opened the door for them. His room too was filled with smoke and there was no ventilation in the air-conditioned rooms. Somehow Nadia's husband and the businessman

managed to break a huge window with great difficulty. They were then rescued by the cranes and thus saved.

Everyone who survived the 26/11/08 attacks must have something unique to share. What makes Nadia's incident so special is her faith. She told us that all during the ordeal she had complete faith that she and her husband would be saved. Not even for a moment her faith shook. In fact she said that when they were roaming helplessly in the dark corridor, she thought that they were two lost children held in the darkness. This was where she became a witness to her own situation. Perhaps a level of consciousness where one detaches oneself from the situation around and rises above. She had an unshaken certitude in the Mother. Mother's hand always guided her. As she was calm and poised, and did not panic even for a second she was able to hold the certitude within which saved her. She feels that as she describes the experience it seems as if it did not happen, only when she reflects upon it mentally it exists for her.

Hers is an example of the Grace leading and guiding our lives when we depend only on the Divine and surrender our lives completely.



There is a special personal tie between you and me, between all who have turned to the teaching of Sri Aurobindo and myself, -- and, it is well understood, distance does not count here, you may be in France, you may be at the other end of the world or in Pondicherry, this tie is always true and living.

The Mother



DARSHAN TALKS AT SACAR

FEB 16-28, 2009

*(No talks on Feb 21, 22)
by Ananda Reddy*

*Selected chapters from
The Life Divine &
Essays on the Gita*

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A student from Kuwait reflects on her learning experience at SACAR

Humera Roshi, a student of PG Diploma (Studies in Indian Culture) writes:

I came to India in August 2008 for my treatment for some sickness I was experiencing since April 08. I was psychologically depressed about my sickness. And then I read about SACAR-IGNOU courses and decided to enroll. It will be difficult to express in words, the wonderful change, this course has brought into me. I simply love it and in all aspects it exceeds the expectations I had from it. SACAR online campus is not just an academic institution but a virtual extended family for me and my family members. I find this course structure unique as it provides me with a great scope for academic as well as inner development. This is one place where academics do not mean exams and deadlines, rather we are gently guided to a well of knowledge and encouraged to extract out as much we want.

I thank my moderators for being my guide in this journey and providing all the necessary support and encouragement. They are all wonderful persons, teachers, and friends.

On her experience in the introductory course on Sri Aurobindo and his Essential Thought, Humera writes:

I should also add that I am one of the rare students of SACAR who had no previous knowledge about Sri Aurobindo, other than about his role in the freedom struggle, as mentioned in some of the history books. Before joining this programme at SACAR, I read some articles about him on the internet but could comprehend very little.

I am indebted and must congratulate the SACAR team responsible for formulating the introductory course in Sri Aurobindo Studies so thoroughly and carefully. It has not only introduced me to the vision of Sri Aurobindo but also described for the students different aspects of his multi-faceted personality.

I consider my joining this course through SACAR as a God given opportunity to know about this great seer, philosopher, nationalist and saint. I pray that this relationship does not end here and that his examples continue to lead me in my endeavours and new manifestations in later life.



An enthusiastic learner browsing through SACAR library

SACAR library is home to approximately 3000 texts in a wide variety of subjects from psychology to futurology to world literature, Indian culture, philosophy, and education. It specialises in literature by and about Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, their philosophy and yoga.

Admissions are ongoing for August 2009 session of SACAR-IGNOU programmes

To learn about the programmes, visit - www.sacar.in/ignou/mainpage.html

To apply, visit -
www.sacar.in/ignou/admission/application_ignou.html

Deadline for applications: June 15, 2009

