

GLOBE LECTURE

Carole Lynne

SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER ON INTUITION

Founders of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society

My subject is “intuition.” Intuition is very big subject but allow me to touch on the subject of intuition as we move from the Websters Dictionary for a definition of “intuition” to Pondicherry, India to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram more commonly called these days “The Sri Aurobindo Society.”

WEBSTERS

Websters defines intuition as “the power or faculty of attaining **to direct knowledge or cognition** without evident rational thought and inference.” “quick and ready insight.”

Websters dictionary speaks of what I am going to call “ordinary intuition” “Oh I knew this meeting was going to be canceled today even though I had not received the memo yet.” “Oh I knew it was you when I heard the phone ring” “Something told me not to drive down that street, and later I heard that there had been a big accident there.”

Carole: I was driving towards an intersection and had a green light. I had every right to go through that intersection, but suddenly had an intuition that warned me to slow down which I did. A large truck ignored his **red** light and sped through the intersection. Had I proceeded I very likely would have been hit by the truck. This flash of insight may have saved my life.

These examples of intuition are what I call “ordinary or surface intuition.” Many people have experienced this level of intuition and it’s fun, useful and sometimes lifesaving. However, deeper levels of intuition can be transformative when one’s consciousness has evolved to a deeper level of knowing.

TEACHINGS OF SRI AUROBINDO ON INTUITION

All quotes from Sri Aurobindo, *The Life Divine*, pp.946-47

I turn to Sri Aurobindo and The Mother for an understanding of deeper knowing (Intuition), Before sharing their words let me share that their words hold, for me, such power. As students of sound healing, we talk about energy, vibrations and frequencies. I believe that if we could measure the power behind their words we would be amazed at the test results.

Sri Aurobindo writes: “*Intuition is a **power of consciousness** nearer and more **intimate** to the original knowledge by identity; for it is always something that leaps out direct from a concealed identity. It is when the consciousness of the subject meets with the consciousness in the object, penetrates it and sees, feels or **vibrates** with the truth of what it contacts, that the intuition leaps out like a spark or lightning-flash from the shock of the meeting;*

Carole: A deeper intuition may inform me about the character of a person in a way that my ordinary mind cannot perceive. A deeper intuition may bring me a feeling of dread that is so powerful that I will immediately understand that I should avoid a particular situation. A deeper intuition may evolve into energy that brings me closer to Source than I have ever been, bring me a depth of understanding that cannot be expressed in words. I am brought to the deep silence of inner peace. For me this is not an everyday experience, but it does happen.

Sri Aurobindo offers words (as far as words can be used) to describe this deeper intuition: *“when the consciousness.....looks into itself and feels directly and intimately the truth or the truths that are there or so contacts the **hidden forces behind appearances**, then also there is the outbreak of an intuitive light.....when the consciousness meets the **Supreme Reality** or the spiritual reality of things and beings and has a contractual union with it, **then the spark, the flash or the blaze of intimate truth-perception is lit in its depths. This close perception is more than sight, more than conception: it is the result of a penetrating and revealing touch which carries in it sight and conception as part of itself or as its natural consequence.**”*

Carole: In my experience *the hidden forces behind appearances* are a vibration, a penetrating vibration. When one has a deeper intuition and goes **behind the words**, and perceives in a deeper way, almost feeling touched by the vibrations of the insight. And occasionally feeling one and part OF the insight. If we ARE ALL ONE then a deep and penetrating intuition might bring one to feel **part of or one with** that which is being perceived or known.

However transformative intuitions can be, Sri Aurobindo does warn us *“that an intuition is subject there to an invading mixture or a mental coating or an interception and substitution; there is too a manifold possibility of misinterpretation which comes in the way of the purity and fullness of its action. Moreover, there are seeming intuitions on all levels of the being which are communications rather than intuitions, and these have a very various provenance, value and character.”*

Carole: This is a warning that not all intuitions are what they may seem. Sometimes thoughts from the mind coat the intuition and can distort the truth. In my opinion, this is good reason not to trust the intuition alone. Do research and fact finding, do studies and experiments. My Dad always used to say “listen to your gut and then prove it with data”. My husband also says his boss used to say that, so perhaps it is a famous quote.

TEACHINGS OF THE MOTHER ON INTUITION

Teachings by the Mother are gathered from The Collected Works of the Mother

The Mother taught a great deal at the Ashram and was often asked “Mother how can the faculty of intuition be developed?”

*Mother says “We carry these capacities within us. They are always active to some extent but we don't notice them because **we don't pay enough attention to what is going on in us.**”*

*Behind the emotions, deep within the being, in a consciousness seated somewhere near the level of the solar plexus, there isa kind of capacity for foresight, **but not in the form of ideas: rather in the form of feelings, almost a perception of sensations.** For instance, when one is going to decide to do something, there is sometimes a kind of uneasiness or inner refusal, and usually, if one listens to this deeper indication, one realises that it was justified. “*

Carole: The inner refusal! Sometimes the mind may be telling me to do one thing, because logically I must do that one thing, while the inner refusal is felt thought out my being and overrides the mental concept, and does what is intuitively known to be the right path. I call this “the mind says no, body says yes effect.”

Mother says *“Intuition is something which suddenly falls like a drop of light....., it gives the impression of something coming from outside or above, like a little impact of a drop of light in the brain, absolutely independent of all reasoning....if one can receive this light coming from above without entering immediately into a whirl of activity, receive it in calm and silence and let it penetrate deep into the being, then after a while it expresses itself either as a luminous thought or as a very precise indication here (Mother indicates the heart), in this other centre.*

Mother says *“But then, for the guidance to have its maximum power, one must naturally add to it a conscious surrender: one must be sincerely determined to follow the indication given by....the higher force.”*

Carole: I wonder if it will be as The Mother says “a conscious surrender.” Or if it will be a natural evolution into surrender as one has more experience with the powers of intuition and has developed more trust. I would not encourage the student to surrender too quickly. One needs experience with intuition over a period of time to know that it is real and not tricks of the mind.

There are many books, courses, lectures, podcast: you name it, on intuition. But the words of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother not only bring the information about intuition: their words, for me, carry the vibrations on “Intuition.”

To learn more about the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother and their writings.

The Sri Aurobindo Society <https://aurosociety.org/>

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