

THE BOMBARDIER BEETLE

On Evolution and Intelligent Design



Georges Van Vrekhem

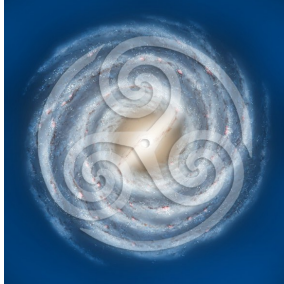
THE BOMBARDIER BEETLE

On Evolution and Intelligent Design

by
Georges Van Vrekhem

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Acknowledgment

The material in this e-book originally appeared on the University of Human Unity website as an audio recording of a talk that Georges Van Vrekhem gave at the Savitri Bhavan and has been transcribed and published here with the kind permission of the Savitri Bhavan and the University of Human Unity. Although the material has been reformatted somewhat for clarity and ease of reading, every effort has been made to ensure that this is a faithful reproduction of the original audio file and editor's notes have been enclosed in square braces [*note*].

We invite Georges' friends who wish to experience the vibrations of sympathy and humility which Georges' voice transmits, to listen to the original audio files which may be found on the University of Human Unity website: (<http://universityofhumanunity.org>), In this small e-book, through the frequent use of italics, we have tried to convey, as much as possible in print, the original emotion in his speech. This work has been conceived as a tribute to an Aurovillian brother.

We are extremely grateful to the Savitri Bhavan and the University of Human Unity and all of the many other authors and publishers of original works who have graciously allowed us to publish their material in multiple digital formats in our effort to increase the circulation of this very important material which mankind so desperately needs at this time in our history.

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PART ONE

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND ITS BLACK SIDE

[*In answer to an audience member asking what this talk is all about, Georges begins...*]

I try to tell you, this is the last in a series of four talks. So we have had a walk through philosophy in ancient Greece, we have been... had a look at spirituality and religion, Gnosticism and the early Christian church. We have had ... a smell of contemporary history, Hitler and his god, so contemporary that a couple of people here — more than a couple who are sitting here — were participating very young at that time, but they were there, and now we have a walk through the landscape of science.

So my title, *The Bombardier Beetle* — you know, I was a play writer at that time of Ionesco and Beckett and the absurd theater so I always try to have a title which is provocative, catching the attention and actually saying what it has to say — it is about evolution and the idea of Intelligent Design, which is one of the most important things also for Aurobindonias like us nowadays.

First, I would like to sketch a little the background, because biology, Darwinism, Neo-Darwinism, everything is science of course, but science has many faces, many facets. And it is extremely important, although I find it very seldom except in histories of science to realize [*Georges writes on chalkboard*] but science comes after the Middle Ages. Here was Greece [*pointing to chalkboard*] in the Renaissance this science has been rediscovered, for how long the Middle Ages last? One may say four hundred — when the Emperor Theodosius closed all the temples and made done with Greek culture, up to, I might say, sixteen-hundred. Of course here there was Leonardo.

Leonardo, as Sri Aurobindo says, concentrated in himself the whole modern world, he was the [*mind?*] but Leonardo's... *ideas* have been kept hidden till quite recently — fifty, one hundred years ago they have been rediscovered. He was the man who started this all. So, this was fifteen-hundred. Then we have Galileo, sixteen-hundred, so we may actually say that these lasted from four-hundred till sixteen-hundred because Galileo was the one who started the scientific method. Now what happened is the following, *brummm and this* [*Georges makes a gesture to indicate that the time went very fast*] the further we go, the more the idea of God is dying out. We are still in that process. I'm telling that because we are still in this process.

The further we go, the more the importance of science increases. And now of course we are in a world — look around you — without it, without science, it would not be possible, it's a world created by that. God is dead said *Nietzsche*. But that of course means the Christian God — and this is very important to realize — when we talk about God we are all the time talking about the Judaic Christian God. And the importance of what I think and I have to say today, is quite simply that in the West they have *no idea* of the *Brahman*, the *One*, the *Absolute* present in everything. And you read all these books — I have read a lot of books otherwise I would not be so pretentious to give a talk like this — you read all that and you will never find anything about the God as we try to live and realize it here.

This is extremely important because the whole battlefield of all these sciences, biological and others — these matches are being fought on the mat of Christianity, Western Christianity — and the rest is idolatry and standing on your head and all the crazy things you can imagine.

They have no idea, they always have *that* God there. And this is behind all this, these are such the most — and they think themselves surely — the most intelligent people in the world, they are all the time reasoning about that. And it is really quite touching, in a certain

way, — *not moving but surprising* — that all these people who have been studying fifteen years, seventeen years, to become a physicist, and many more years to become a known physicist, that they start talking and writing about God just remembering something that they have from their youth, without having study, read or think anything else. This is a huge contradiction in the Western civilization.

Now, *where is science here?* This is the big crescendo, but where is it here? Well, at the moment they say it stopped. It's finished. And this is quite surprising. [*It*] was also to me. There is a book "*The End of Science*" by Horgan who was after all, editor of one of the great science magazines. Why does he say that? Because everything now, after the quantum mechanics and the quantum [*chromodynamics*] physics and the quantum gravity and so on, everything is now *strings*, and you cannot open one magazine [?] and read about *strings*, and it sounds as if the *string theory* is the *triumphant* physical science at the moment.

Now, if you go to the sources, then you see that *string theory* is living in a vacuum. Because they do not *one* experiment, they cannot predict *one* experiment, and the science that cannot predict is not science.

So they are doing the *mathematics* since forty years, but mathematics from here today are almost literally formulas. Incredible! They are creating universes, *string theory* has either nine or eleven, or twelve or ten to the power of one-fifty universes, but all that is in the mathematics. That is the reason that people say science, physical science, at the moment has stopped, and something may happen ... a lightening, thunder clap from somewhere... like it happened with relativity and quantum mechanics a hundred years ago.

Of course when we speak about science we always speak about physical theoretical science. But science is much more, it has so many faces, like it has for instance if you take Paleontology, and starting to see it with scientific method and with prediction,

everything is in the past. The same with Archeology, the same with biology, the same with everything that has to do with Biology, and this is one of the important trends in science, that biology always came after the mathematical sciences.

Vesalius started cutting up what Leonardo Da Vinci already had done, cutting up corpses dissecting... long after Galileo had given his formulas of the mechanical. So they always came after the mathematical sciences, and their dream is as people write, *physics envy*. They also want to have that *basis*, the scientific *methods*, and what has happened? The whole of all the biology has gone down to physics, the deeper they went the more they came from molecules to the atoms, sub molecules and the rest. So they go up again, from everything that mathematical physics has to tell them, up to the biological structures.

This is an important fact in what we are going to say. So Sri Aurobindo has already predicted after all, the triumphs and marvels of science, the explaining principle, the rational significance of all is left as dark as mysterious and even more mysterious than ever. And this is absolutely true because if we talk about that, one thing we have to consider is *matter*. [*Georges writes on the chalkboard*] For physical science there is matter, only matter, because there is only matter. It is a circle. What is reality? *Matter!* But in the whole of the human wisdom history, and in the whole of the perception as we have it even today, there is this chain of beings, *matter* is one. Then you have *vital mind* and the levels above. That is reality according to what we are learning here, what we are reading and also according the way we are living. And that is of course the reason that for instance the kingdoms of existence have been divided into the material kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, the animal kingdom, — man. So there is a big difference between saying only matter and then the chain of beings. *What is reality?* And of course quantum mechanics has come being confronted with that fact: *What is reality?* Then went Sri Aurobindo says matter will go through their fingers...

he has said that and written it in the "*Life Divine*" so long ago. Now you have a book, ["*The Missing Matter*"]... because, *what is matter?* They go down down down till the atom, then you have the nucleus, there are the electrons, then they consist of quarks, and what is there after quarks? *Big discussion!* Big boxing match between Einstein and Niels Bohr. Niels Bohr said that the question is absurd... "*we do not ask what is reality...we have our formulas and they work experimentally.*" Einstein said, "*there must be something behind it, there must be some foundations of reality.*" According to the mathematics of the quantum mechanics and physics, everything is put together, it is a way of many things together that have that effect.

Einstein said it cannot be, "*God does not throw dice.*" There must be something that gives a deterministic course of effects, and this discussion is still not finished, this discussion that started in 1927 in Brussels on the Soviet Conference.

What is reality? You know, many or few must know or read about David Bohm, who has the *implicate order* and the *explicate order*. The *explicate order* is everything that is in manifestation, the *implicate order* is something supposed to be behind. Of course if you have the spiritual view, all that is quite true, but it is not physics, it is not theoretical physics, it is not expressed in formulas.

What is reality? For us, there can be only one answer. Reality is the *Big Chain of Beings* which is in fact not the good term, it is not the chain of beings. As Wilbur has said it is a nested, then you have the center and over and over bigger and bigger... but it is very difficult to find the word for that, because *chain* is mental continuation, while the other thing is something that is a manifestation, that is quite different.

Another point to keep in mind *is* the way of perceiving reality, perception. And that was already a point of discussion among the pre-Socratic, the Greeks we have been talking about a couple of weeks ago.

What we perceive, is that reality? And everybody will agree to say no. For instance, if we see a stick put in the water, then we will see that that stick is bent, — that is the most common example that is given in all the literature. But it goes much further, because the more I am reading about these things, the more you see that we are evolutionary beings. And we came to 98.2% of our DNA is also there in the chimpanzee. We are evolutionarily beings and we perceive the world. And if you read how Sri Aurobindo and the Mother talk about reality, and if you read how the Mother at the end says there is only *vibrations*...

What is sitting here [*Georges indicates himself*] is a concentration of vibrations, which I have arranged in that way that you can perceive it as *me*, otherwise there wouldn't be communication possible. But this means that [*Georges raps on the table*] the great astonishment of Mira when she was a little child, when she heard that everything is atoms and empty space.[*rap rap rap*] Then she said: “*there is nothing what we see that is real,*” and indeed if you consider it as evolutionary beings, that is exactly the truth.

If you would condense this body, belly included, without the empty space, we would have a quantity of mass smaller than this [*Georges indicates with his fingers a very small quantity*], so it's a matter of perception. And if we hurled our toe against this table — which is very painful — it is still a matter of our being now. And this reminds me of the remark made by the Mother when almost she hit her foot like that, and that was in her the very last months, and somebody said “Ya Mother, but if you had hit that,” she said, “it would not have happened.” Everything is there for us to live like evolutionary beings, with that kind of matter perception, and matter perception is not only perception through the eyes, it is perception through the whole of the body with all its means of living in the world.

And the more I read about it, the more it becomes the reality, and it is so important because it is one of *the* big factors in yoga. If we are

living like beings who live in earth, simiesque primates-like world in our perceptions; everything you read, Sri Aurobindo and the Mother about other perceptions in the *other substances, matters...* there is the substance in the *Vital* there is the substance in the *Mind*, there is the substance in the *Higher Things*, and there is must also be a substance of the *Supermind*.

If they go there, they perceive and live in another world where these clashes would not happen in this way, this painful way of the evolution. That has come up through the whole animal, plant and animal's kingdom, *where we are now with our other perceptions*, the mental ones, which makes life *so* dualistic and *so* difficult, because we know that there is something else than that, and then... *the higher worlds...* perception is the very important thing, and of course for science there is only material perception, *but* that is exactly where quantum mechanics get stuck, because they cannot perceive behind the smallest, lets say particles, at the moment, and perception has become a problem because they perceive only through machines. And the man is reading the machine.

There is an indicator that says that much... everything has to be measure, it is always a matter of perception. But through to the actual reality which is a reality of identification we cannot go, they cannot go, and it is a big problem.

And you will find it everywhere in the literature. Then there is another point that is *qualitative* and *quantitative*. *Quantity* and *quality*. [writing on the chalkboard] If you have read "*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*" this must become very real because this was the huge problem of the protagonist of [?]. Everything we have is *quantitative*. Physical science is measurement. It is measurement of weighing, which is a measurement of dimension and mass. But of course, if you go into another level, in the *vital level*, then that way of measuring is not *possible*, and that is why Sri Aurobindo speaks about the future science. He says this science is

stuck in this *materialism*, in America they often say *naturalism*. I do not find that a very good term because nature is much more normally in our associations than matter, so I would say this *materialism*. So they are stuck in that. *Quantitatively* — everything is *quantity*, but *when there is quantity there is no quality*, and this means everything has been *thrown* aside, what we are, because we feel we have perceptions.

When Wittgenstein says, you know, “what one cannot talk about, one should be quiet about.” This is absolute *nonsense*, because then you cannot talk about anything! You cannot talk about a beautiful face, you cannot talk about a withered tree, you cannot talk about the sunset, you cannot talk about *anything*, because everything is a way of humanly perceiving. This has thrown away all that, and that is the use, the reason, that this has gone down like that, [*Georges illustrates with gestures*] of course the *fundamentalism*... And the criticism of the Bible, because it is not possible for intelligent beings to have all these stories, these impossible stories and that cruel God... *You will know me alone... kill that whole tribe of this one... destroy the city!* People could not accept that, reasonable people. So gradually this came, but the main reason then was this: only *quantity* and not *quality*. *Quality* is something that you appreciate; *quantity* is something that you measure.

Then there is after all the wide spread opinion that science has triumphed. The world in which we are... *is that true?* And I say... *partially*, but surely not completely, because a difference should be made between science and technology. Technology was there before the science. The invention of the wheel, to take a symbol. But the sailing, the way that people were going all over the world with this and with that, and many things were there before. The way how to bake bread, the ovens, ceramics, all this, this was a technology. Science came afterward. The second point is: when one says science, one normally thinks of mathematical theoretical science. And these are formulas. *So, has that science triumphed? It is in great crisis* and

it has always be in crisis. You know, at the end of the nineteenth century they were all convinced that science is finished. There are a couple of gaps, but these will be soon be filled up. Science is complete. And of course the next year, Planck had his photoelectric effect, and then there came Einstein and the whole, and than there came the quantum mechanics and the whole science was put on its head.

Now we are again at that moment, of course it is not only in the scientific way of thinking, but in the world we are living in, that everybody feels that something can happen. Anything can happen. The world is opening. We are at the time of the great change, and this time of the great change is only since, let's say the birth of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. You can also say since fifty-six, whatever; but evolutionarily it is a very short time, but everything now is possible. Humanity is now becoming one and the surprises will be legend. For the young people, they have so much to expect of the unforeseen.

Has science triumphed? Technology has triumphed. Science has no fundamental legs to stand on. They don't know the foundation of reality of things in mathematical science, they don't know! All the books that are written, all the research that has been done, is just that question: *what is reality? What is the world?* And they have given answer after answer in the course of the history of science, and now again they are there, just as Sri Aurobindo says, here in the dark... nowhere.

Has that triumphed? It cannot be that! What has triumphed is the engineer, and the man who built the first locomotive, and so on. They were not scientists, they were blacksmiths. Who built the first airplane? *Cycle repairers*, the brothers Wright. And of course they have to find out, they were studying the thing and all that, these were not the theoretical scientists, they were people who make things. And how has the car come about? By improving improving improving

and changing changing.... And you see pictures or photos, even of the first trains, you will see that every compartment is still a car, horse car. You know, they have put them together and then they have change change change... When I was young from one compartment to the other you couldn't go, you have to open the door, step out of the train, and then go into the other. How is it? It is unthinkable, but this all came from a gradual evolution by the scientists? *No!*

Because if the scientists know what they are saying, they must be able to predict what they are pretending, and for instance, when the first test was held for uranium to have a chain reaction. This was in Chicago with Fermi in charge — great scientist — and there was this block of uranium with the holes, above it where the rods were suspended, and they would let them sink it in, but they did not know what was going to happen. *Would this chain reaction start?* First question. Second question: *would it stop?* And if it didn't stop, the whole universe would explode!

So what did they do? They put leaden rods, because lead stops the reaction of the uranium, and they tied this mass with the rope. And they were ready when they let it sink in, that somebody was there with an ax waiting for Fermi to say yes or no...

The universe did not explode. You see how important, they have calculated everything; they know they are up to the moment of experiment, but they are never sure. Who has built the world in which we are living? *The engineers*. And for instance, when you have one of the particle accelerators, which are *huge* machines, ten kilometers in diameter the biggest one, for one theoretical scientist you have 2500 *experimental scientists*. Who are the experimental scientists? Fundamentally they are *engineers, the makers*. They have made the world. Of course in many things, and the more they go into miniaturization, the more science and engineering are coupled, but fundamentally is like that: science has not triumphed; it is technology that has triumphed.

And then the last remark is that if you look at these things with interest, and when you live in the Aurobindonian perspective, everything is always interesting, when you see how things happened. The Middle Ages happened, the Renaissance happened, the Industrial Revolution happened, and up to now, I have not read one meaningful, coherence explanation of the Industrial Revolution.

They started making these things in England you know, with steam and all that, for their spinning and all these things, and the Industrial Revolution happened. With that, the whole coming up of the fourth estate. It happened, things happened. By that I mean, there is something behind all that, that scientists will never accept, and in fact is the correct reading of history. How it happens? It is something behind that *arranges* things. There is an important aspect of that, that is what will have, [*Georges illustrates on the chalkboard*] let's say this is the body of the happenings and here you have a part, and this is happening now, but many things here must have been filled up by civilizations before us.

The Mother has said Atlantis was an occult civilization. What were the others? And why do I dare to suggest that? Because if it is *true* that we live at the moment of Supermental realization change *now*, it means that the whole of humanity must be ready, all the experiences must have been gone through. And how much history do we know, do we realize of? *Ten-thousand years*. And you read everywhere about these people, you know, who have started tilling the ground, and that is when history commenced... *ten-thousand years*... and Sri Aurobindo gave such a good argument to say that is not possible in ten-thousand years, the mind cannot have become what it is at the moment. It must have grown through a long history of which we are forgetful, and I should say, I'm convinced, but that of course does mean anything — I think that in the future many of these things will be found again by accident. Just like Troy was found, just like the Nag Hammâdi writings were found, just like so many discoveries have been made all at once *saff* [*Georges makes a gesture with the*

hands] and the whole history is changed.

Because Sri Aurobindo and — when he writes such things, even if it is in the conditional tense, he knows very well what he is doing of course— he says that all the primitive tribes were not tribes that have came up from the monkeys, there were civilizations that have been falling back. And that is why many of tribes remember things, and they have these myths which in one way or in another are interconnected. And you have the Dogons with their Sirius, and their Sirius A and B, they have some remembrances from that time. Just suppose that in the civilization we are at the moment, that something would happen in the magnetic field of the earth — which seems to have happened many times before — and all at once electricity is no longer possible. First of all if you want to go back, many over here to their place of origin, you would have to go on foot or swim. But what would happen? It would be that falling back, which must have happened says Sri Aurobindo many times in history. So this is the scientific background. As I said in the beginning, there are many kinds of sciences, everything when one says science is theoretical with big mathematics and the formulas, this is one kind of science. They have the applied science which is also formulas, you have the sciences of history, the science that can only be. Why are they so different? Because for instance, in Paleontology, you cannot have *experiments*. Science without experiments is not good science.

What is good science? *That what follows the scientific method.*

Number one: you have a whole bunch of givens, facts. But of course Einstein has said, “*facts do not exist, theories exist.*” Because you will always read the facts and interpret them in the what? The way your theory tells you. That you have givens, theories of other people and that, and from that you make a theory. They call that nowadays the *hypothetical-deductive method*. Now this is not a very nice word, but that is what I have used. And you make your theory and then you have to have certain predictions which show that your theory is true.

That in outline is the scientific method. With dinosaurs you can not do that. You cannot make a new dinosaur world and see how it will go. You just can say what happened there and try to put things together. With the first humans, our origins, you can not do that; you cannot experiment with the human beings. So that is.... All these studies are called sciences although very few are actually according to the theoretical science. But as I told you, biology always felt to be the stepchild. And it was very ambitious because it has to explain man, the humanity, the human beings. So that is why it went always to try to reason in the way that theoretical physics reasons. And I call this the *physics envy* of biology. And then there was the Darwinism. The great revelation of the nineteenth century and surely a very important moment in the development of mankind... and the thinking of mankind. But Darwinism, *number one*.

There were two Darwins at the same time. Darwin and Wallace were discoverers of the same things as happens very often. You had Newton and Leibniz with their mathematical theories, and many more in history. There was Darwin and Wallace. One always talks about Darwin because Darwin has been *divinized*!

Number two: before Darwin there was Lamarck and Lamarck is being *demonized* without any reason because Darwin was a Lamarckist at the end of his life but nobody knows that. What does Lamarck say? Lamarck says: just like anybody who has a child — I mean, any woman who has a child — will realize, that the characteristics of the beings, the living beings, can be influenced by the experiences of one life. And the Mother was the first *Lamarckist*, I mean our Mother. She said about these cats, you know, “*See what a nice tail it has! She must have concentrated very much, or she must have been searching for the fellow who has a tail like that!*” So, and in many things with the children, you will find always concentrate now and do something, change, and what you do will be of important for the future; this is Lamarckisms. What the Darwinism says is absolutely nonsense, because this bring in the power of mind and

life. That does not exist. So Darwinism says: all changes take place by *small* mutations of the cells. Now, most of the mutations are *bad*, only a *few* are good, and then my question is: these mutations will gradually shape something new... but how can *one mutation have a role in a living environment*? So these mutations take shape and then through natural selections, through the environment, whether an animal finds enough food to continue living and to continue reproducing, *so will the life develop*. So you have three things in Darwinism.

The first is hereditary transmission from one to another.

The second is: these mutations, these changes very small, changes gradually step after step.

And the third is: the sculpture that nature gives to the species.

This has always been contested. Now that Darwin is a semi god at least for the neo-Darwinist, this has always been contested. And one of the good reasons was for instance, that Darwin didn't know, he could not have had the idea of how of these mutations took place, because he didn't know what a cell was. Mutations are changes and changes within the cell, within the nucleus of the cell, *but he didn't know what a cell was*. At that time they thought that it was a blob of plasma, like that. Mendel had not yet done his work. Secondly, it was not yet recognized, Mendel's work, because this has happened only 20 30 years [later] and then by coincidence, by de Vries and others, after he had died. And the third point is that of course they had no idea of the way that the chromosomes break up the DNA into the double helix, which is an explanation [of] how cells multiply. Meiosis — mitosis. Darwin had no idea, and it will take almost one-hundred years before the *explanation was there*. *What had Darwin then done?* Well, he had taken, he had seen all these changes, you know, that he saw in these islands — of the one island, one kind of finch has another beak because there was other food. So at that time [*there*] was the theory of *Malthus* that say[s] everything will grow to

the limit of the provision of the food. If there is no food, then people will start fighting each other, killing each other and the population will drop. He had applied the population theory of Malthus to that, so he had no idea about the science.

It was an application of that together with the economic theory of Adam Smith. Why is that so important? Because when in 53, 1953 Watson and Crick had discovered the functioning of the double helix, a new movement started that put it all together — Mendel, these [*pointing to chalkboard*] Watson and Crick — and I call it the *new synthesis*. The new Darwinism, neo-Darwinism, *materialist absolute*. *Darwin! God!* And this is how the human being has come about: *animal*, the human being is an *animal*, period.

Then the progress which has always been carrying idea[s] throughout the history of mankind was just wiped out. First there was the tree of life, and there were these animals, the lower, the higher, the mammals, then you came to the monkey-like beings, and primates, and on top was the human being. Sorry, on top were the Germans and the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons are as much as the German; at least as much. *They were the top of the tree*. It was a tree, you know. Making the intention of coming there, whose job it was to dominate the earth, very clear. And now, they say here everything is matter, everything is *chance*, chance and mutation, it is always just like the half life of the radioactive element and mutation is always by *chance*. *So tree[s] intention... push, evolutionary push*. Evolution is like a bush. And it has gone in that direction, and it has gone in that direction [*pointing one way then another*]. *We are animals; we are robots. Not more than that*. And where Descartes still placed the mind as an epiphenomenon outside the matter of the body, now everything is the body, everything is done by the *brain*. So, in fact, what is happening at this moment, me perorating here, and you listening, is just an affect of all these brains stuff that by a kind of coincidence has come and is coming together.

It is very strange how science has a very black side. I for myself call it black science, you know, they like so much to say that we are nothing.

Number one: the earth is going to perish. I have a book with 50 causes with the earth may very soon perish.

Number two: the Sun is going to die.

Number three: the cosmos is going to die because you don't have only the Big Bang, there is always also the Big Crunch.

Number four: men are animals.

*Number five: there is the second thermodynamic law which say[s] that everything is always degrading in a closed system. Because life is an organization. My body is an organization. Everybody's body is an organization. Which is completely against the second thermodynamic law which just say[s] that everything is separating into elements, and at the end there is only chaos and so on and so on. Black science. But they are never pointing out that the end of the cosmos will be in *billions* of years, that the death of the Sun, the explosion maybe of the Sun, may be in *billions* of years.*

If it has taken so long to make us, what may have happened by the time that that happens?

Of course we know, by that time we will always play third dimensional chess and football, and we will live in the Supermind. No quarrels anymore, no illnesses, no heart attacks. Everything will be the Big Joy. Surely, they give the time for it, considering the time that has been pass[ed] to come up to us. So... the people of this neo-Darwinism, the people of the neo-Darwinism are very famous at the moment. That is the reason that I give this talk for my fellow Aurobindonians.

They are: Richard Dawkins, he was Carl Sagan who died 12 years

ago, he is Daniel Dennett, he is Hawking. These are the great people who are read all over the world, *absolutely materialists*, *absolutely Darwinists*, *absolutely anti-human* in their writings. But the strange thing is, like with all the pop singers and the others, they start as drug users and alcoholics and all the rest, and when they have got much money and they still have their reason, than they become humanitarians, and they do something for the children in Africa and this and that, you know. If they are still, because now, they have much money, and they grow in glory. So these people here are growing in glory. They are, of course, all fighting each other, as always in science. There is never so much quarreling as in science, because that is true!... and the other say that is true! because that is true!... and that is true! ... and that is true! So these are the great people at the moment, and the Big Chief of the whole bunch is Dawkins — do not mix him up with Stephen Hawking the physicist — but this is Richard Dawkins who is now professor, who was a zoologist, biologist and who is an *excellent writer*. And he has written a whole series of books, you know. So he says, “*you cannot be both sane and well educated and disbelieve in evolution. The evidence is so strong, that any sane and educate person has got to believe in evolution.*” Then he says, “*It is absolutely safe to say, that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane, or wicked... but I'd rather not consider that.*”

Now, the discussion is not about evolution, the discussion is about Darwinian evolution. Sri Aurobindo was an evolutionary thinker according to that, but there is something that carries the *material* evolution. Then in his famous book “*The Selfish Gene*” written in seventy-six, already... that long passed time, time passes so fast! Dawkins says, “*We are survival machines – robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve the selfish molecules known as genes. [This is a truth which still fills me with astonishment. – Quote completed by editor].*” *Genes have become the god*. He has put it on the other level. The genes are directing what we are doing because of their

multiplication. Selfish, they are very egoistic, the selfish gene. And the only action *in us* is to drive us to make many more genes. Of course through... copulation, anything you can imagine and all that. The selfish gene. He has made the gene into an explanation, has made the gene in to god, and you have no idea if you read in the literature, what effect this has had had, and still has on so many people.

We admit that we are like apes but we seldom realize that we *are* apes. Congratulations!

And then of course you have the books of Desmond Morris “*The Naked Ape*” and all that, and they have better foundations to say that than the people who say we are incarnated souls — don’t forget! — They have much better foundations — much better easily — because *look at us! Look at how we behave!* If you say you have a soul inside, to prove that or to show that, is already something very different. *They have all the reasons.* Desmond Morris just sees the behavior comparing with the behavior of primates and apes and monkeys. And he is very often right. So you see, the problem for people who are not thinking like we are thinking. God for Dawkins: “*Of course, I am not attacking any particular version of god or gods. I am attacking god, all gods... anything and everything supernatural wherever and whenever they have been or will be invented.*”]

And he has very good reasons. Because don’t forget they are reasoning within the Christian context. And he says for instance, “*The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.*” It is all there, you know, you can illustrate this with passages from the Bible. So you see, the strange thing to say is that Dawkins now is, in fact, a British humanist. And he is a nice

fellow, he is the nicest fellow you can meet, and he means well for humanity, all that is there in his literature, you know. But the reasoning behind is only possible — this is the important point — within the European Judeo-Christian context. It is always the game: the God in his nice dresses above the clouds or above the roof who has created this, you know, and then on the first — second — third — fifth day, when there was no time, there were days and so on.

So we have come to the end [of] this small survey of science behind evolution. Then you have the neo-Darwinism which is extremely atheistic and extremely aggressive. They fight for their ideas because Christianity *is so bad*. It's a *virus*. A virus that has spread to humanity. And for religion people do the most incredible things. Of course he is justified, you see what happens every day on TV, what is happening in the name of religion. You see in Christianity in the past what has happened in the name of religion. This is not without reason, these are not unreasonable people. So in the second part I will go on a little about another current which is brings in the unknown God for the West, the known God for the East... *Have a nice tea please!*

PART TWO

EVOLUTION AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN

So my dear friends, — the second part. When the first was a little negative, black science and so on, this will be, I think, nicer. So — when you hear this whole theory of evolution, and Darwin has never been without his critics, never. People often think that Darwin took a long time to be accepted; this is not true at all; he was accepted in five years. Because it is so evident. Of course there were all the reservations from the Christian side, which is quite normal, because ultimately he was also saying that the human being is an animal. He didn't say it in his first book, because he found it so horrible, especially for his wife who was a Christian. So he only wrote it later in another book. So, he has always been criticized but the first criticism that remains — Sri Aurobindo has also formulated.... Sri Aurobindo is so *full* of science if you read him with this nose [*he points to his nose*] and search you will find so much. He knew so much he foresaw so much — that he says there are missing links that always remain missing, in “*The Life Divine*.” Now, in the latest scientific theories this is exactly the same, the missing links are missing, and [*they*] were before. They have this tree of life [*drawing on the chalkboard*] now they will do this [*drawing on the chalkboard*] because they are not sure *where and when and how* it happened. They do like that [*drawing on the chalkboard*] so these links remain missing. [*Point*] number one.

The second point is they do not know how *life came about*. Because, first there was matter, earth, the rock, and then *how* did life came about on this earth? *They do not know*. So for instance, Robert Shapiro, who is a scientist, has written a very good book about the origins of life and he [*gave*] seven theories. And the first one is: the creation myth. God has created life, the plants, the animals, the

human being.

The second one is: spontaneous generation. And one should not forget that spontaneous generation was accepted till *very recently*. Because, quite simply, they could not know how the small animals came out of that [*unintelligible*] and of these bubbles with these spoiled things that have been standing there for a long... they could not... how did it happen? They could not see, they could not *think* that there were smaller things that caused these animals to come about, so they called it spontaneous generation. Life came about by itself. [*unintelligible*]. And it is so interesting again, as an illustration of my technology thesis, that you have two Galileis. The first one Galileos, Galileo Galilei, that was his full name, but if I say Galileo you may think of Christ, but you have two Galileos. The one who was the genius who invented the mechanics — and this I won't go into it otherwise we are here again after 12 o'clock — was really something incredible. But the other one was *technology*. In Holland they had toys. They brought the toys to Italy. Galileo, being somebody who worked with his hands, Newton somebody who worked with his hands. The theoretical physicists today they do not do that. These old ones were at the same time, technologist and theoretical scientists. He made a good telescope and he saw the moon, and he saw the planet of Jupiter, and he saw the phases of Venus. *This was a revelation* it has nothing to do with theoretical science. It was a confirmation of a theory, but it was not something new that he expected.

Second point, a little later again in Holland, they invented the microscope. And then in the water they saw all these small animalcules. And then more and more and more what a role technology has played in this science! Spontaneous generation was there when they could not *perceive*, it's quite simple. That is one of the reasons that Darwin could not *know*. And many you people — you can amaze and maybe get a pair of beer betting in a cafe — when you say Darwin did not know what came about, but he didn't

know.

So then you have the *third one*: pre-biotic or primordial soup. They say it came from the collate, the soup, which is a mixture of many things. Darwin has already written in his “*Origin of Species*” maybe somewhere there was a small pond and with lightning or with ultraviolet rays and all that, life generated there. So now in the laboratory they put that together and left it. Lightnings! And they have some molecules. The [Miller–Urey] experiment in 1953. And this, for a long time when I was starting reading about science — I have been interested in it all my life you know — you always read about [Miller–Urey] experiment, which had created the life in the laboratory. Now it is totally discredited. The first thing: *how could they know how was life in the beginning?* It is just a supposition. And the fact is that these molecules were not at all [conducive] to life. Not at all!

Another theory was... *minerals*. And these are the minerals of what we would call *dust*. And they may have been there in the sea, and they may have been there in somewhere else, and this may have been the origin of life. Another theory.

Another theory is... *life comes from another planet, extraterrestrial*. Sri Aurobindo has already answered. This does not change the problem of the origin of life, whether it originated there or here. And Sri Aurobindo has always said, mankind, humankind will *always be created again* and the evolution will always be created again, because God is eternal. It is an *eternal act*, and what is called earth, to me may mean anything, and he says humankind has been on many planets or life environments, *the last being Mars*.

And this is an early text. This is at the time that Sri Aurobindo was in full discovery. The time of “*The Record of Yoga*.” And when he still wrote and said many things, which later he wouldn’t say anymore, or just put in a conjectural way. *The last being Mars*. That always is going on, and the Mother said: “*where do you put the beginning, in*

the year zero zero zero zero? Where is that year? There was not time, there is no time in the timeless.”

So extraterrestrial was another thing, and then you have *panspermia*. What is panspermia? “Sperm” is the thing that cause the life to be, “pan” is everywhere. So it was like a seed in the cosmos, and on earth it has flowered. We don’t know about the others yet.

And then the last one was *creationism*. Now, that is one thing I want to say. I am never talking here about creationism, because this is a totally different subject. You believe, you do not believe in that — very good — and I do not mean that [*in a denigrating way*], but is something apart. You believe that the Bible literally is God’s Word? God’s Word, creationism says that it is literally His Word, but if you believe that, good for you, here I talk about something else.

So you have all these theories, and you know Shapiro who is very intelligent good writing scientist, says, “*I have come back to spontaneous generation.*” – Which means we cannot explain it.

There was a time that Sri Aurobindo, before and while he wrote the “*Arya*,” told that the world was changing very fast. And he told that there was a kind of infusion of the spiritual psychic and all that in science and in everything. And through his words — every time when I read it I write now in the margin, I surely have minimum 200 annotations about that time — as he told, *boom* is happening. Not expecting the two world wars, the one world war that would follow, before something really happened, because that was the time of Nietzsche, it was the time of Bergson, it was the time of spiritism, it was that time of hypnotism, it was the time of all these new engines, it was the time of the Planck discovery of radiation and all that. He said it and told it was happening at that time. And now after the wars have taken place and in *full flower of atheism*, read Dawkins and Dennett at the head of their powers and their fame and Sagan... something is really happening.

Two things: the first one is the *Anthropic Principle*, [*writing on the chalkboard*] the second one is *Intelligent Design*. And this is happening *in* science. So now it is not anymore from outside some crazy people who are sitting and moving tables and all this time, it is [*inside*] science.

What is the Anthropic Principle? “Anthropos” is human [*man*], so it is quite simply that they say: the evolution of the cosmos from the beginning with the Big Bang, *is so amazing*, that life has, in a way, been planned in it. Planned. – Because *if one little factor* had been wrong, life would have been impossible, and these little factors, these really little factors on the kind of, for instance, something like that [*writing on the chalkboard*] ten to the minus fifty-third power this is. If something had gone a little wrong life would never been originated. They have come to that conclusion. And what is that conclusion? It is, these are intelligent people — hyper intelligent people — who just say... *give way to their amazement of how the cosmos has evolved and that man is there, man a being that can reflect on the cosmos evolution and interpret it.*

This is amazing. To give you an idea: if protons were two tenths of a percent heavier, they could decay into neutrons, destabilizing atoms — no life possible — if the electromagnetic force were four percent weaker — there would be no hydrogen and no normal stars — no earth, no life — if the weak interaction were weaker, hydrogen would not exist. If it were stronger, supernovae would fail to seed interstellar space with heavy elements. We come from the stars, all the heavy elements have been, as they say in science, cooked in huge explosions of the stars — the force necessary to make these nuclear elementary particles stick. If the cosmological constant were larger, the Universe would have blown itself apart before galaxies could form.

This is only a little thing of a whole list. They are so many constants in the world, *the Planck constant, the cosmological constant*, all

these constants which are — they have found out in their calculations — have no justification of being that crazy thing or something like that [*writing on the chalkboard*] or then something like 0 0 0 7 1. *Why?* Nobody knows. All these numbers.

You can find something in it, about it, in *Savitri*. In *Savitri* you just do a search and you write “number,” and you will have all these extracts where Sri Aurobindo says how the cosmos was formed, *by number and form*. Because according to Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, on all these levels they are ... *demiurges, creators*. And number and form are at the foundation of mathematics. So that is *Platonic* in the highest degree. Plato who said you know, these have been created with forms. Above his Academy was written: *Nobody should enter here that doesn't know geometry* — and then you have, always you read about mathematics and you may be sure to find a paragraph to say how *beautiful formula* is. Now they don't use beautiful anymore, they use the word *elegance*. They are always amazed about the *simplicity* and the *beauty* of all these things that hang together. There in *Savitri*, you have these verses, these lines where Sri Aurobindo said... everything was made according to *number and form*. This is also Sri Aurobindo.

So there are so many things and you have two kind[s] of entropic principles. We have actually five, I give only two:

The weak principle is: if any of the major constants of the universe were different, we would not be here. Life would not have evolved, our life is dependent on the world being exactly as it is. The universe is fine tuned for life.

Then you have the *strong entropic principle:* the universe contains within itself the potential for life. And it was therefore impossible for human life not to have been created in this world. Scientists speaking like that... this of course something that is unheard of, unexpected, and was *fiercely* fought by many other scientists.

Life? Formation? Pre-vision? Plan? That is not science! That is imagination!

The greatest scientists are going against each other and the strange thing is that the weak principle was formulated by Steven Weinberg. And Steven Weinberg was one of these hard nosed physicists who wrote: *“the more I learn about the cosmos, the more I am convinced of the absurdity of the whole thing.”* And he came up with the Entropic Principle.

And then we have Intelligent Design. So, number one: no creationism, Intelligent Design. Which means there is a design in things, and it is meaningful, in a way we are not defining. Who has brought this up? Scientists, great biologists. So Intelligent Design means quite simply that things are too complicated to evolve according to the Darwinian theory, by chance, boom, one mutation at a time. They say almost everything in life is so complex that it doesn't work if not everything works together.

Here I come with my bombardier beetle.

It's a very beautiful beetle. Just by chance, when I was planning this thing, it was shown to me by one of the synchronicities, you know, on TV. The bombardier beetle: beautiful beetle, brownish, shining and then orange light brown, head like that... Why is it call the bombardier beetle? Well, [*writing on the chalkboard*] you know, he has in his body two compartments. And one compartment contains something that has to make the other one neutral which is hydrogen peroxide. And hydrogen peroxide, *pshuuu!* explodes! And the man who made that program on the Discovery Channel showed with a bottle of hydrogen peroxide what an effect it has. This is kept here [*pointing to the chalkboard*] to made it that it doesn't explode. So when the bombardier beetle is threatened..... *pssht!* It turns its rear to the attacker and gives him the full broadside. Ya, but *how is that possible?* Because, not that he does it, but how it has come about. If this here [*pointing to the chalkboard*] this compartment is planned, it

must have in mind — by way of speaking in mind — that.

That is not Darwinism. In Darwinism, gradually things come about. Here there is a plan. Where there is a plan there is a design. And of course the whole thing is much more complex than that. You do not only have these two things, you also have the whole mechanism, the sphincter and everything that makes it possible to eject that, so that it does not explode in the body of the beetle, and that it is directed in the right... it is extremely complicate. To make that, it is like a mouse trap, and the mouse trap is the most common example in that literature. You have your piece of wood platform, you have what I call the hammer, you have a spring, you have something that keeps this from springing. Every part alone is worthless; they can only work all together, they can only work all together. They can only work in the flagellum — another example — these are examples made by big great scientists. Another one is the flagellum of the bacteria. And what is the flagellum of the bacteria? Well you have these small boats you know, where they are paddling like that [*Georges paddles with his arms*] the bacteria have a flagellum to paddle. What does that mean? The bacterium is in enclosed, it needs a mechanism to make that something can go through its skin. It needs to make that. It needs a *motor, literally, that make this flagellum move in all directions*. This cannot evolve step by step. So you see, this is what Intelligent Design is about. And the people, most of them, who bring this forward in science, within science, are saying very clearly: please note that we do not know, that we do not say, that we do not define what this Intelligence is.

Everybody draws his conclusions, thinks what he wants, *but it is not possible that this happens according to Darwinian, Neo-Darwinian evolutionary theories*. That is a great discovery. And when William Dembski writes somewhere, “*I think it is the greatest discovery of recent time,*” I think he is right. So you see, Sri Aurobindo before the *Arya*, and now, how these things come up. There are openings, let’s call them openings. Openings with possibilities to something else.

I read [*about*] the bombardier beetle by somebody who formulated it much better than me. His name is Brachinus in Latin, commonly known as the bombardier beetle. I find it such a nice name, you know. He squirts a lethal mixture of hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide into the face of his enemy, and the man who gave the demonstration said: *my God, it burns!*

These two chemicals, when mixed together, literally explode. So in order to store them inside his body, the bombardier beetle has evolved a chemical inhibitor to make them harmless. Has evolved, what does it mean? At the moment the beetle squirts the liquid out of his tail, the anti-inhibitor is added to make the mixture explosive once again. That's a very complicated mechanism. The chain of events that could have led to the evolution of such complex coordinated and subtle process is beyond biological explanation on a simple step-by-step basis. The slightest alteration in the chemical balance would result immediately in a race of exploded beetles.

So, and then one of the scientists gives a definition: a biological system is *irreducibly complex*, unexplainably complex, when its operation requires the cooperation of numerous parts none of which perform a useful function *unless all are present and functional together*.

This is there. At the moment, there are openings based on scientific grounds. And then what does Sri Aurobindo say? Where are we? Well, surely we are within Intelligent Design. So I decided [*to write*] a book and [*give*] this talk, which came from that material about it. [*It*] is quite simply that I would like all my aurobindonian brothers and sisters to have the arguments when they talk to outside people. Which is the aim of the University of Human Unity.

So, Sri Aurobindo gives a theory of *spiritual evolution*. And he says, a theory of spiritual evolution is not identical with the scientific theory of *form* evolution and *physical life* evolution. It must stand on its own inherent justifications. It *may* accept the scientific account of

physical evolution as a support or an element, but the support is not indispensable. And it can accept the scientific explanation, when it suits, together with the spiritual evolution which by itself demands an evolution of science. Now, Sri Aurobindo has written several times about the science of the future. The science of the future will go towards *Total Reality*. Remember in the beginning reality? Total Reality: material, vital, mental and above. We are at the material level. *How can you divide a vital?* Because *vitalism* is a dirty word for material scientists! *Mysticism* is a dirty word. *Vitalism* is a dirty word. But, [*total reality*] will only be when the whole reality is together included. This may still take some time.

Another very important fact which Sri Aurobindo is: that he had a kind of crescendo of the evolution. Crescendo. *Matter* takes very long time. Vital accelerates — shorter of time. Mental can think things out in shorter time. And we are at that time now of this incredible acceleration of history

I personally — of course I don't say that I am completely normal — but I think I feel *so much* this speed of the time that is now going by. I am 73 now. You know, you have to take into account the years still remaining, and what has gone by *fish!*.. is just like that. We are living in a time warp, And this is the time warp of the action of the Supermental. Its influence on history *now*. So what will happen? Anything is possible! Then there is another thing which Sri Aurobindo... if you say, what did he actually mean? First of all, Sri Aurobindo *knew science so well*. This does not mean that he would solve the equations of quantum mechanics, but he knew science so well, he knew vedic science so well and all that. But then you say, you take his last great statement, Savitri. What do you read there?

First of all, evolution is a fact. It is full of science.

Second point is: human kind is part of the evolution. When Savitri also awoke among these tribes, he says you know, human kind is part of the evolution. Then he describes the world's stairs. Matter, chain

of being described from experience which does not exist anywhere else. And that is the spiritual reality. He also says very complete things. *Does he accept the Big Bang?... – “A gas belched out from some invisible Fire, Of its dense rings were formed these million stars”*; – So the fire, as I have already said on another occasion, is Agni. An invisible fire. And Agni, *it is a fact that Agni is the basis of forms* as the Sankya has pointed out long ago — this means the *fiery principle in the three powers: radiant electric and gaseous*. “The Vedic Trinity of Agni is the ancient introducing liquid and solid forms of what is called matter.” he writes in one of his letters. Then he himself says... “the all shaping fire”... Big Bang... fact — according to Sri Aurobindo in Savitri.

Then he has some other lines... *“For long before earth’s solid vest was forged... By the technique of the atomic Void,”*

Aa ha! What is that? And I have two explanations, which I do not mean [*that they*] are correct and there be maybe something totally different. Vladimir gives a totally different explanation.

The number one is: *to create something material, the One had to make space in Himself because He’s absolute fullness. He is the Pleroma*. So He had to create a void to give place to the ether and give shape to the manifestation. That is one explanation.

Another explanation is that: now, according to quantum mechanics, it is possible from the void that something comes about. For particles come about from the void by positive and negative fields which are temporarily created, some may subsist, others disappear again in to the void. There is a quantum mechanic theory, the fundamental about the reality says nothing, it says everything mathematically. So you see, there are possibilities. – *“For long before earth’s solid vest was forged by the technique of the atomic Void,”* and he says... *“Out of the Void’s unseeing energies... Inventing the scene of a concrete universe,”* – This is exactly what I came to say on both accounts.

We have to put them together into something else, because in one of his *“Thoughts and Aphorisms,”* Sri Aurobindo has said: *“there was a time that they said that the sun turns around the earth. Then they said that earth is turning around the sun. Neither is true.”* He says, *“both are moving in a third reality.”* He doesn’t formulate this last thing like that... So according to Sri Aurobindo he always goes back to magic, miracle. And strange to say, you find this more and more with the best scientific, the most open scientific writers. So it is quite an adventure to go through science, you always have to see whom you are reading, in what context they are writing, and in what context they are thinking. But Sri Aurobindo, if you read *Savitri*, you will find magic on every page. It is quite simply, he said, *“the Infinite has made Itself finite.”* This is the ultimate act of Maya, magic, mating, measuring out, forming. And then there is one scientist, Robert Kuhn, who writes the following: *“In the Intelligent Agency case, we face the difficulty that the Agent involved would enjoy intellectual powers at least many orders of magnitude above our own.”* If you read a little about the sub atomic particles, quantum mechanics, if you read a little about the *unbelievably irreducible complexity* of a cell, and you realize that in our body we have *one hundred trillion trillion cells*, and then you realize that the whole world consists of all these particles even *shooting* in her, and through her at this moment [*Georges makes a movement to indicate the persons around him*].

Who is directing that concert? Because a concert it is! The forms are there, so it is not chaos. And this is something important, when one reads about science, one also always finds an illustration, simplified schemes. The hydrogen atom and then a part of a cell or cells, but this always exclude the realization of the *enormity* of this trillion quadrillion of cells and sub atomic particles, and that for instance, an atom of iron or of uranium, is so much more complex than a hydrogen atom; they cannot even calculate it with the most advanced calculators computers at the moment. It is so much so, and this man has realized that, you know. That the agent involved enjoys

intellectual powers, at last many orders of magnitude above our own. And must have employed means of a kind that we can barely imagine — this barely is a softening — it should be that we cannot imagine it at all. In addition we have little idea of the scope of the Agent's activity, what we see in terrestrial biology may only be a small part of a much larger design whose ultimate purpose is beyond our kind. This is written by a scientist. We know what can do that. We cannot imagine it, we cannot realize it, but we know, we are told that something like that exists. That of course is the *Supermind*. And it is like Sri Aurobindo has written so nicely everywhere, behind all manifestation stands the *Supermind*. Otherwise it simply couldn't be there because... and it is this huge complexity [*which*] comes from there, and it is upheld by That.

So you see, science has openings at the moment, they are severely fought by others, who remain there, because if they lose their material stand point, they lose the reason of what they have been living for so many years, and which have been teaching, for which they have got money, have kept up family, and so on. They cannot say just like that. Like I said when I talk about Hitler, people after the war in Germany could not just go and say this was bad, they were living in it, they have being living in it and for it. The same is with science there.

And then there is the last point. Evolution of the human species.

Are we descendents of the primates? Now, it is science to say no, we are brothers. And you have here [*pointing to a chart*] the chimpanzee and the bonobo, and we are here, we came from a common ancestor, and here you have then the orangutan. This is what they say now. And the Mother and Sri Aurobindo have put it otherwise. And it is a very strange thing, that they say, you know... there are the typical worlds. This is Sri Aurobindo's word. For the world's stairs you have all these worlds, which he climbed up: *lower vital, higher vital, lower mind, higher mind, and so on and so on... all these worlds*

exist. He has described that. Then you have the earth. And the earth is in evolution, it is building up something like that, because the Divine has come to build up itself again, to see Itself, to enjoy Itself, the great ecstasy of evolution. Matter, we are at vital, we are at mind, now we are going up. Now, they say, every time something comes here it came also from there.

On the one side you have the inconscient earth, that inconscient that Sri Aurobindo has written so often. Inconscient is everything, it is Infinite, it is the Divine Itself in its black mode, negative mode. So there is one Power here, but the evolution can only take place when something from here inserts itself in the ladder of evolution. So, when man came about, it was not a monkey that became human, and Sri Aurobindo has *formulated that so clearly*. It was the aspiration of the evolution in higher monkey-like primate-like beings that called for the descent of the Mind. And a Power is always a Being, and a Being is always a Power. And there you have the *incarnation* of these Beings. Am I fantasizing? Let me illustrate.

Sri Aurobindo has said that every new species that appeared on Earth was the result of an *involution*. Consequently there has always been the combination of the two. *Evolution and involution*. There is a *descent* and an *identification* of beings. A descent into *conscious beings, individualities* in the forms produced by the evolution. What happens is the unification of beings from the higher regions and forms that have been evolved. And the identification takes place of the Immanent Divinity and the descending being. The identification of the Imminent Divinity, which is imminent in the whole of evolution, and the descending Being.

This is the Mother speaking: Then she says, “*When the mind descended on the earth, between the moment when the mind manifested in the earth atmosphere and the moment when the first being appeared, mental being, something like a million years have gone by.*”

I think that normally people are not aware of this kind of seeing *here*. It is *so important* to know that because of what is happening *now*. We are a species [*and a species*] always has its ceiling. And the Avatar has to come to take up the species and [*pierce*] the ceiling, break through it to make that possible because the species itself cannot do it. If a superior creation is intended, then certainly it is not out of man that a new greater type or pattern can develop. *Not out of man*, for in that case, there would be some race or kind or make of human beings that has already this material of the superman in it. It must be there to come out, just as the peculiar animal being that developed into humanity had the essential elements of human nature already potentially or present in it; there is no such a race, kind, or type, at most there are only spiritualized mental beings who are seeking to escape out of the terrestrial creation. He says the species is limited. There is an aspiration but the thing comes from above, wakes it up, and takes it the step further.

When the Mother, in the yoga of her last years, when she was going through that whole process, and she would say, “*Now we know that it is possible because it has been done.*” *In whom had it been done?* In Sri Aurobindo and in her. What had happened? The *psychic being*, not the soul, the psychic being — because the psychic being is a being, an evolutionary being around the *Divine spark* — the psychic being takes shape throughout all our lives. So he says here, “*it may happen now because there is in humanity the aspiration in a few beings, who are making that which is ready,*” and it is as the Mother has said in the last years of her yoga, the *psychic being* that when matter is [subtilized] or divinized or changed, this matter about which we have been talking from the beginning, when this has changed, the Beings can come in all, and take the shape materially, in what we have realized through all the life, through our companionship, the fellowship of the Aurobindonian ring, to create a new being.

It’s a very important thing of course, which maybe you have seldom

heard up to now. So we are in that, we are in that adventure, and you see from the beginning I had to go so fast because in this talk there is material enough for fifteen talks... about matter... about this... about that... the science of today.... Darwinism... neo-Darwinism... these are all great adventures... and one can only have, like Sri Aurobindo had... great admiration, and like the Mother had, great admiration, for all the people who have dedicated their life in whatever way: in the materialistic way, and scientist way or whatever to the evolution of knowledge. As Rod said during the interval, they all work for it. It is like Auroville. The Mother has said "*Even the one who works against, will still working for it*". It is the same with everything, because evolution is a general fact, there is only That. The evolution of the earth. We are the sons and daughters of the earth. In us, the earth evolves. So... these are all very important things. I hope I have just pointed out a few of them. They all hang together, especially, if one has the view of Sri Aurobindo. *It all hangs together, it all makes sense* because there is only That and That always makes sense.

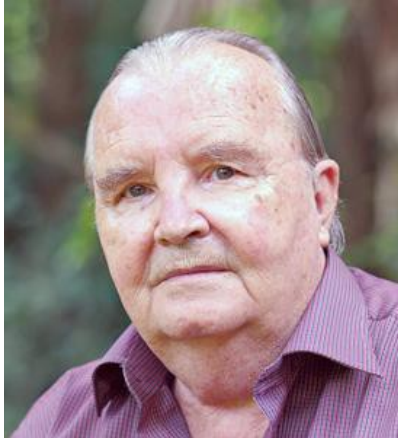
This is the great vision that one assimilates from the writings. And the great ecstatic thing of having a meaning, having a sense, having a job to do in life, however far we may get. And I consider myself always as an absolute beginner, but we have the joy to participate. So that child goes to the Mother. "can we now make the supramental"? "*No you cannot. This cannot be done by you.*" Sri Aurobindo has written very often... "*the sadhana cannot be done by you, is the Mother in you who has to do the sadhana*" because we are egos, more than we maybe realize, in all parts of our being. Material ego, vital ego, mental ego, and ignorant. This thing can only be done by the great *Shakti* who incarnated in the Mother. But the Mother said to that child, "You know now there is a difference... you can collaborate." This is of course exactly what Sri Aurobindo says, to make that ready for the other being to come in, to come in.

And here we come again with that *amsha*. *Amsha* is a part, Sri Aurobindo called Christ an *amsha* avatar, a partial avatar. And

Nolini — I remember very clearly in one of his writings — said, “Everyone here has his *amsha*, whether he realizes it or not.” But does that mean we are all aspects of the One, and we all have something special to do. And our special is that power, *amsha*, that is always the being. So for the Supramental Being to come, there has to be a readiness in a few, an elite, and then the *amsha* will come and take over the work. It’s an incarnation. That is what he is writing and what I am trying to say. If I am wrong, you always have the text to go back to. I am very happy that you let me come here, to rant a little.

And thank you so much for your patience and your kind attention. All the very best to you.

About the author



Georges Van Vrekhem (28/03/1935 -12/08/2012) first came to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1970, after having been a well-known poet and having had a successful career as playwright and artistic adviser of the Dutch Theatre Company of Ghent, in Flemish-speaking Belgium. The ‘roots’ of his writing, he said, produced their first shoots at 14 when he ‘spontaneously’ started writing poetry. This led in the late 1950s and 60s to the publication of three volumes of poetry and a number of poems in various magazines. He also wrote nine original plays, translated and adapted a number of plays of other authors and wrote essays and articles. His literary talents were acknowledged when he was awarded the 1965 Prize for Literature by the City of Ghent.

In that period Georges Van Vrekhem read a staggering amount of books in Dutch, German, French and English. One of the authors was Satprem whose *Sri Aurobindo or the Adventure of Consciousness* ignited a spark. “This is what I had been looking for,” he said afterwards. But it took some time for the spark to become a flame.

Georges' reading, writing and theatre work were complemented by a regular immersion in the bustling nightlife of Ghent – he knew all the pubs, he said afterwards – to 'interact and discuss issues with the artistic society of Ghent'. Then, in 1970, after a brief stint as tour guide, this life ended when he moved to a small room in the Rue Suffren in Pondicherry and joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. As he later wrote in a poem, "*One day I broke through an inner wall and found a fire within, and the power of that fire has gradually conjured me to another continent.*" The Mother gave him the name Matriprasad (meaning 'Blessing of The Mother' or 'Offering to The Mother') which he however never used. He started teaching at the Ashram school and, because of his proficient language skills, also became one of the secretaries of the Sri Aurobindo Society, in charge with international relations for their project Auroville.

Works by Georges Van Vrekhem

- *The Mother, The Story of Her Life (2000)*
- *Overman – the intermediary between the human and the supramental being (2001)*
- *Patterns of the Present – from the perspective of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother (2002)*
- *Hitler and His God, the background to the Hitler phenomenon (2006)*
- *Evolution, Religion and the Unknown God (2011)*
- *Preparing for the Miraculous (2011)*