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Collaboration

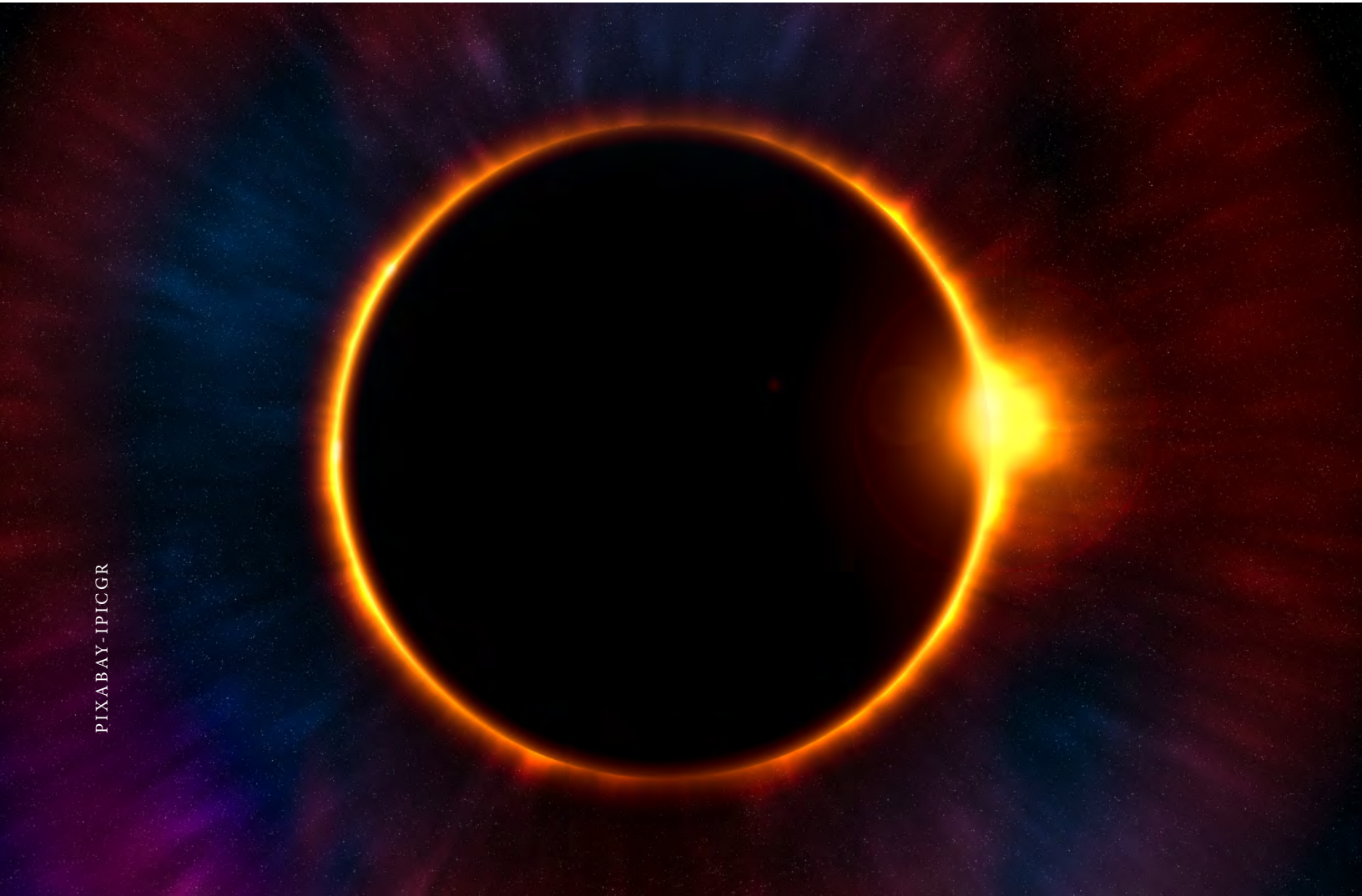
JOURNAL OF THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER



CRISIS & EMERGENCE

Break the moulds of the past,
but keep safe its gains and its spirit,
or else thou hast no future.

SRI AUROBINDO, *Essays Divine and Human*, p. 456



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PATRICK M. BELDIO

ABOUT THE COVER

Sunrise emergence of new harmony where each individual is a unique expression of the inner divine.

Cover design by Saili Sawant. To learn more about her work and to view her portfolio visit <https://www.sailisawant.com>.

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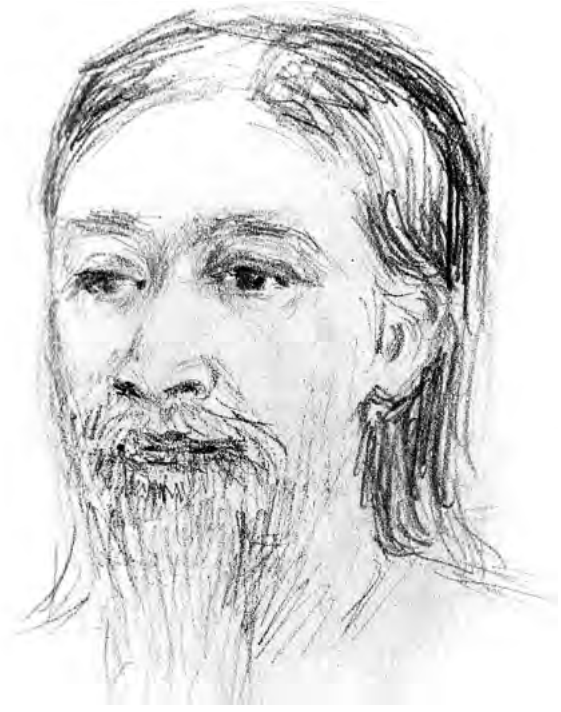
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The Mother (Mirra Alfassa, 1878–1973),
portrait by the Mother



Sri Aurobindo (Aurobindo Ghose, 1872–1950),
portrait by the Mother

AN EXTRAORDINARY MYSTIC AND SPIRITUAL LEADER, THE Mother was Sri Aurobindo's spiritual collaborator. As a child she had a series of spiritual experiences leading to her realization of the Divine. During her young adulthood in Paris around the turn of the century, she became an accomplished artist, musician, and writer. Many of the now world-famous French masters were her friends and acquaintances. During this time she found explanation for her inner experiences in the company of two great occultists, Max and Alma Theon, in Algeria.

In 1914 her meeting with Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry, India, became the turning point of her life. Six years later she joined him there, where she stayed for the rest of her life to collaborate with him in their spiritual mission aimed at complete transformation of human consciousness.

The Mother oversaw the daily activities of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, founded the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, and in 1968 founded Auroville, an experimental international community devoted to human unity. The Mother's spiritual work was concerned with activation of the highest human spiritual potential and the transformation of the earth and of the physical body at the cellular level. Her complete writings are compiled in *The Collected Works of the Mother* and *Mother's Agenda*.

SRI AUROBINDO WAS INDIA'S FOREMOST PHILOSOPHER, POET and spiritual figure of the 20th century. At age seven he was sent to England, where he mastered Western classical literature and languages. He returned to India at age 21 and soon mastered classical Indian literature and languages as well. He was active in the Indian independence movement until 1910, when he moved to Pondicherry to pursue his spiritual work.

From 1910 to 1950 his spiritual practice focused on the reconciliation of spiritual and material realities, with the ultimate goal of utilizing the most powerful spiritual force (the supermind) to accelerate and transform human evolution. He recognized that the current human state of consciousness is merely a transitional state with endless potential for spiritual development and called for the integration of Eastern and Western cultural and knowledge traditions.

He rejected world-negating approaches to spiritual development as escapism and embraced embodied spirituality and the reintegration of the feminine Divine.

His most notable works in prose are: *The Life Divine*, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, *Essays on the Gita*, and *The Human Cycle*. His poetic *magnum opus* is titled *Savitri*.



EDITORIAL: CRISIS & EMERGENCE

HOW FOUNDATIONAL IS LIGHT! IN OUR WORLD OF DUALITY, LIGHT comes arm in arm with the dark times and forces—but thankfully, it comes. In the northern hemisphere the green planet is emerging from the dark and cold of winter to the eruption of life and renewal. Our theme in this issue, Crisis and Emergence, bundles the dark crises of life and society in essay, image, and poetry together with startling eruptions of light in many dimensions.

Poetry from Sri Aurobindo such as “The Pilgrim of the Night” excavates and vibrates with deep and difficult sides of our existence, while “The Vedantin’s Prayer” bears the personal anguish and obstacles of the poet but ends in a cry for the joy of release. In “Harmony and Crises,” Seabury Gould reflects on the interplay between the musician’s constant search for harmony and a yogic response to the larger physical and social crises of our times. Martha Orton’s compact poem “Propelled” discovers the point of light in the chaos that brings guidance and deeper knowledge. In Sri Aurobindo’s stunning sonnets “Light” and “The Golden Light,” the miraculous particle/wave mystery rides like lightning from transcendent to visceral and cosmic to personal in epiphanies of joy.

“Towards the Great Turning Point,” by C.V. Devan Nair, is the latest in our “Gems from the *Collaboration* Archive” series. In this talk, Devan lays before us the supreme personal turning point—at the feet of the Mother—of a lifetime of revolution, action, and accomplishment on the world stage. “The Mother on Crisis and Emergence” brings a vast and universal vision to the material world and widespread destruction of the Great War, which had just begun.

This issue of *Collaboration* also features three powerful essays. The title of our first feature, “The Time Has Come,”

by professor and sculptor Patrick M. Beldio, implies a question—the time for what?—and an answer: It is time for the promised leap beyond the dual reality of our times: dissolution and progress, annihilation and new creation. The recipe is before us now, Patrick argues, if we understand Mother’s acknowledgment of the value of hostile forces and employ her flower-based method of evoking the life-changing power of aspiration.

The other feature articles investigate Dr. Pravir Malik’s paradigm-challenging cosmology of light, which proposes that light is the foundation of the cosmos itself. In “A Journey to Mathematize the Power of Light,” Pravir tells us stories and highlights of his unexpected 20-year personal journey to the cosmology of light, from San Francisco to Pondicherry to Cape Town. The title of the second article, “The Cosmology of Light: Bridging Science and Spirituality,” coauthored with Dr. Bahman A.K. Shirazi, suggests the scope of this work. In the first part of the essay, Bahman reviews the centrality of light in religious and spiritual traditions for thousands of years, with special emphasis on the role of light in Integral Yoga. In the second part, Pravir summarizes how he connects the story of light with the latest discoveries in science. Hold your hats! Pravir and Bahman write: “We propose that the mystical quest for unity in consciousness and the current scientific search for a unified theory of reality have a common origin in the mysteries of light.” Both articles are beautifully illustrated with art from Margaret Astrid Phanes.

The issue concludes with a surprise discovery on “the last tremendous brow” of a long climb in Sri Aurobindo’s poem “One Day,” displayed on the back cover.—*John Robert Cornell and Bahman A.K. Shirazi, editors*



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