

who a true Aurovilian is. We said, "To be one with the Divine—at the service of the Divine." That was our first answer. She was happy and said "Good, good, good." Then she said, "We should take up the other conditions in the next interview. Before we met her the next time, she had already worked out something.

It was incredible how she used to tackle Auroville Life without rejecting anything that is essential in Life; how to live and rise from the lowest level to the highest level. She even spoke on how manual work is important. Nothing needs to be barred by force; you should rise in your consciousness so that it falls off by itself: that is what I understood.

Though we were three, we were also representing the collectivity. So I wanted to tape the conversation. When I first put the tape record before her, she was not so inclined. I explained to her that it is for the community listening—then she said O.K. After the interview we used to go directly to Aspiration Cafeteria where people used to assemble. We used to play the tape and then have a collective meditation. To me, the Auroville life started from that time.

About the present: I feel that the people who come now,—though they had no physical touch of Mother—have inner maturity. With the spiritual labour of Mother and Sri Aurobindo in the Earth consciousness, the younger generation is able to do more quickly and easily what was hard for us.

We have many differences in our outlook on things and life etc., but we should not have division. We are all complementary. So many people are coming here with a full hope for its realisation. We have to welcome them as our brothers and sisters and share our experience. This is a beautiful possibility for Auroville, a real fraternity.

His consciousness is a babe upon her knees.

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Aspiration

Cristof

When we came to live in Aspiration, we were babies, and we still are babies.

But like babies, we had such faith in our Mother, in Her new creation: everything was going to change, today, or may be tomorrow... From the red earth a new world would arise, because "All's miracle here and can by miracle change."

After some time, we felt the need to come closer to Her, I mean physically, and to put before Her the problems, day to day problems that we had. I wrote to Her and She agreed to see the three of us, Alain, Jean Pierre (Bhagawan Das) and myself, once a week on Tuesdays at three o' clock in the afternoon.

Most of the time we were rather lightly dressed, working in the garden planting trees, as it was just the beginning of Aspiration in the desert. But for that wonderful meeting, we put on our best dress—like today I have put on my beautiful white shirt. On that day, we were really trying to be at our best—not only outwardly! We were making effort to be in touch with something deeper within us.

The first time when we went to see Mother, it was difficult to speak. We had prepared some questions and so we put the questions before Her. I think the main problem we had in the beginning was how to do practical work and at the same time do the inner discovery—do the inner work. That was the problem for us, it was not easy. We asked Her this question and She answered. She said: "Actually the ideal would have been if the inner discovery had been made before coming here." But of course She didn't stop at that. She didn't send us back home, because our home was here.

I came in 1967 for the first time to see my mother. And I met Mother. When I went back to France, it was a hard time for me because life away from Mother was so strange and at times so painful. So, in 1969 I came back and just before leaving—I had my ticket to return to France—I told Mother: “Well, I don’t feel like going back.” At that time it was so simple. She told me, “You can stay as long as you like.” So I am still here, you see. At that time it was very very simple with Mother, no complications: you want to stay, you stay; if the aspiration is there, you stay with me.

Merci, Mère.

*In all who have risen to a greater Life,
A voice of unborn things whispers to the ear,
To their eyes visited by some high sunlight
Aspiration shows the image of a crown:...*

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My Future Was Sanctioned and Sealed by Her

Ananda Reddy

My association with Auroville began with the Foundation Ceremony on 28th February 1968 with my participation in it representing Liberia. In fact when I held the flag of Liberia I didn’t even know where it was! However, that was perhaps the seed sown in me. Around that time, if I remember correctly, Roger and a couple of others had come to the Ashram school, which I had joined in 1958, and spoken to the students about the plans of building the Matrimandir—the soul of the city to be. He then invited the students to submit some drawings for the Matrimandir. And, quite in an Indian tradition, I had drawn a lotus design—a hundred petalled lotus as the form of Matrimandir. [Remarkably, the final design approved for Matrimandir is of lotus form (with four inner and twelve outer petals).] That’s how my contact with Auroville began.

When I had completed the Ashram education in 1969, I had to choose the area of my work, for I had decided to do some work remaining in Pondicherry only. In those days there was absolutely no difference between the Ashram and Auroville, at least in my mind. As long as it was the Mother who was physically and spiritually guiding Auroville, it was for me an extension of the Ashram. But it was a question of joining some experiment that was absolutely new in conception and also something that was just starting. It had its own challenges but it would be a greater adventure. The Ashram was already something concrete in form and crystallized. Here was a new form of the Mother’s dream—Auroville! I had come on a survey-