

Accomplishment through Mother

In my last month talk I talked about how people accomplish in life using the power of organization and the power of values etc. Now I mean to talk about what are the accomplishments possible for devotees because of the availability of Mother's grace in their lives due to the fact that they have become Her devotees. When Appa started writing about the power of Mother's grace he emphasized the fact that Her grace is unique and special in the sense that it was solving problems that were not getting solved when people voiced their prayers about their insoluble problems to the traditional Gods that they were worshipping. He wrote about terminally ill patients given up by doctors as hopeless were getting cured and getting a lease of life when they voiced their prayers about their illness to Mother. People burdened with debts beyond their repaying capacity, women not getting marriage proposals and getting aged past 35 years or so, men who were not able to hold onto any job on a steady basis and people with long-standing property disputes among family members that were going on for years were all surprised to find that Grace was helping them to solve their problems by generating new income in unknown ways to get rid of the debts and by bringing suitors out of the blue for these aging brides and by helping irresponsible people to hold on to jobs by generating a sense of responsibility and by bringing harmony among family members simply by somebody in the family offering harmony flower to Mother etc.

The power of Mother's grace to bring quick solutions to long-standing problems may surprise many people who are new to Mother. But we devotees know that Her grace acts in a very quick manner because Mother's power is supramental. In fact Appa has written that Her grace acts at the speed of lightning and delivers results in a few seconds or minutes. Devotees have seen that quickness many times when power fails in their homes or offices and the minute they refer the power failure to Mother it comes back the next instant. Similarly many devotees have also reported incidents where what misplaced or lost item that they have been searching for more than an hour such as currency notes, pens and valuables like watches and reading glasses are found the instant they refer the matter to Mother. If results do not come instantaneously it is not because of the inability of the grace to deliver the results. It is more out of the inability of the devotee to have the commensurate faith in the power of the grace to deliver the instant results. Prayers for increase in income, for securing a job and for securing an alliance or purchasing or building an house or executing a big project seem to take time. Actually even prayers for big results such as these are granted immediately by the Mother if the prayer is sincere and voiced with sufficient intensity. But because we are functioning in the physical plane of time and space, the practical realization of the results of the prayer take some duration which appears unavoidable. But Sri Aurobindo in Life Divine in the chapter on Brahma, Purusha and Eshwara talks about three planes of time such as Time eternity, Timeless Eternity and the plane of Simultaneous Integrality where both the time plane and the Timeless plane coexist together.

We live in the plane of time and any work we do requires the passage of time to show the result. If a man wants to start a business it will require a few months of hard work before he sees some income coming in. It is not like a man wants to start a business in the morning and with an hour there is a company and sales has taken place and income starts flowing. If a farmer sows a crop he

has to wait till the crop matures and then only he can harvest. If a man starts to build an house on a piece of ground he owns he has allow for some time to pass such as a few months till the construction is completed before he can move in there and starts living. So as long as we are living in the time plane we are bound by the passage of time and duration and instantaneous results do not come easily in the majority of occasions. Now the Rishi or the tapasvi who is lost in mediation enters the timeless plane and becomes oblivious of the passage of time. He can sit in meditation for days on end and when he opens his eyes he may not know that so many days have passed. He may feel like he has been sitting in meditation for only a few hours. If a devotee becomes totally immersed in calling Mother he too loses the sense of time and may not know when he or she open their eyes that some 10 or 12 hours have passed. It is not in meditation only that we lose sense of time and enter the timeless plane. Whenever anybody does something enjoyable invariably they lose sense of time and to that extent they enter the timeless plane. When we are watching a good cinema we get so absorbed in it that when it comes to an end we are surprised to know that full 3 hours have gone by. Similarly children enjoy holidays very much and spent most of that time playing. When the holidays comes to an end after one and half months they also feel some surprise that a full one and half month has passed away so quickly.

Now The Mother lives in the plane of Simultaneous Integrality where both the time and timeless planes coexist. She is not wholly in the time plane like us ordinary human beings. Neither is She in the timeless plane like the remote Absolute Para Brahman. She has come down to the physical plane out of compassion for Mother Earth and all the living beings here for the purpose of transforming the physical creation. Also She has come here without losing any of Her Divinity and Her divine powers and while in the physical plane She still retains her connection with the divine supramental plane which is Her native plane of residence . So for all purposes we can say that she is present both in the Time and Timeless planes at the same time which is what Sri Aurobindo describes as the plane of Simultaneous Integrality. It is the plane of instantaneous accomplishment because by staying adjacent to the timeless plane something of its timeless nature gets passed on to the time plane as well. When we address a prayer to Mother we get in touch with Her consciousness which is in the plane of instantaneous accomplishment and so the results of our prayer come in such a quick time as to appear almost like miracles. That is why a long-standing illness which had been evading a cure for years gets cured in a few days or a few weeks when the concerned devotee brings it to the attention of the Mother. Long-standing debts getting cleared in no time and long-delayed promotions and marriage alliances materializing quickly all become possible because we are in touch with Mother's consciousness of instantaneous accomplishment. Devotees who rise from an income of a few thousand rupees per month to a few lakhs per month in less than 2 or 3 years of coming to Mother are also the beneficiary of the time-abridging effect of Mother's consciousness. They would say that if they had not come to Mother getting such an increase in their income would have required hard work for 15 or 20 years and possibly more. Many devotees have seen that certain favorable government orders which would have required lots of bribes and interminable waiting and delay come in a matter of a few days or at the most a few weeks when they bring their problem to the Mother's notice through a prayer. I have so far explained what is it about Mother that makes Her Grace special and its effects extra-ordinary in the lives of people. Now I will try to explain the different ways in which we can relate to Her and

make use of Her Grace and Force to solve our problems and accomplish and fulfill our aims and wishes.

1. The first method and most popular one is to simply pray to Her and request Her to act on our problem and get rid of it and deliver the solution we want.

Most primary level devotees do just this. That is they voice a particular prayer for a particular solution and when they get that solution they are happy and they give an offering either before or after seeing the result. It may be a prayer seeking relief from an illness, prayer for a good job, and income, admission in a school or college, prayer for a good marriage alliance and relief from debt burdens and so many other things. Apart from giving offerings and repeating their prayer to Mother now and then the person may start offering flowers also such as Prosperity Flower, Luck flower and Grace flower in the hope that these flowers will expedite the result. They may take extra efforts to improve the cleanliness of their house as they learn that clean surroundings make a person more receptive to grace. Beyond doing these things primary-level devotees don't generally try to make themselves more fit to receive Mother's grace and solve their problems by doing such things as correcting their wrong behaviour, wrong personality traits such as laziness, lying, jealousy, irresponsibility, incompetence, impatience and greed and fear etc. People at this level believe that grace is unconditional and so expect their prayers to be granted without any serious inner correction on their part. As grace is unconditional even prayers voiced by primary-level devotees are also answered but at a minimum level such as curing an illness, getting a good job and getting admissions etc. Since the person sees even the minimum result as something very big he or she is perfectly satisfied with the result obtained and leaves it at that.

2. The second method of prayer meant for more serious devotees and resorted to only by a few is the method of surrender and consecration. It is very powerful and can accomplish a great deal more than simple prayer. Though powerful it is equally difficult to practice also and therefore not many resort to this method.

When a devotee prays he or she wants a specific result for a specific problem. For example when a devotee has fallen ill or is looking for a good job that can fetch him or her a good income, the person prays for relief from the illness and securing a job as the intended result. The devotee has made a choice and insists that the Mother delivers the intended result as the reward for the prayer that has been voiced. But in the method of surrender and consecration the devotee does not insist on any specific result and leaves it to the Mother's choice. In other words he or she surrenders the problem that they are facing into the hands of the Mother with the hope that She knows better than them what is good for them and will arrange it accordingly. The Mantra given by the Mother which says, "Let Thy Will be done and not my Will" demonstrates the principle behind such an approach.

It is easy for us to ask for a specific result such as a particular type of job and particular range of income we have in our mind or a particular type of marriage alliance that we are looking for. But it is not so easy to leave the choice to Mother and keep quiet. That requires a lot of faith and complete surrender to the Mother's Will which is not possible for many primary-level devotees. They may fear that Mother may choose what is good for their soul and not for their ego. As most primary-level devotees are ego-centered they cannot give up pleasing their egos and give Mother the

freedom to develop their souls. For example it is normal for a person who comes out of college taking his or her degree to have some specific idea in their mind about the job that they want and the income that they hope to get. A graduate with a B.Com or M.Com degree may want a bank job as he or she believes that their education has equipped them for such a kind of job and also because the person believes that a bank job may give them a very good income in the range of 30 or 40 thousand rupees. So such a devotee will find it very natural to voice a prayer to Mother that he or she should pass the bank exam and be selected in the interview and be appointed as a bank clerk or bank officer whichever post they are aspiring for. Now if the same person has an attitude of surrender they will not voice a specific prayer for a bank job. What he will do is that he will tell Mother that he has finished his education and needs a job and income. He will inform Mother that She can give him whatever job She thinks is good for him and whatever income she thinks is good for him also. When left to Mother's choice She may give him a bank job, a government job or a private company job or none of these at all. She may decide that instead of becoming a salaried employee the person is fit to become a self-employed entrepreneur who can earn many lakhs of rupees per month and not be confined to 30 or 40 thousand only. Simply because a devotee wants a bank job it does not mean that is the best accomplishment he or she can have in their life. The Mother may see a hidden talent for entrepreneurship that the person is totally unaware of. He or she may choose a salaried job like a job in a bank simply because their father was such a bank employee and most of the people in their relative circle are only in salaried employment and nobody in their circle of relatives had ever thought of taking up self-employment. Now how can The Mother bring out the hidden talent for entrepreneurship in the devotee unless he or she adopts the approach of surrender and leaves the Choice open to Mother?

3. The 3rd method of accomplishment which can yield as good results as the method of surrender and consecration is the approach whereby the person opts to reverse his attitudes and qualities so as to be helpful to grace as it tries to solve their problems or make their efforts to come up in their lives yield the desired results.

Reversal of attitudes is a powerful method for solving problems since most problems faced by people are generated by wrong qualities and wrong attitudes only. A man with a debt burden beyond his capacity for repayment develops that problem because he is not financially disciplined and likes to spend beyond what his income will allow. Neither does he have the discipline to trim his spending so as to be within his income limits nor does he have the ability to raise his income to the level of spending that he wants to do. Without doing either of these he opts for what he thinks is an easy way out which is to borrow from neighbours and friends promising to repay as early as possible. When he is not able to repay as he promised and creditors start pressing him for their money back he feels the burden of the debts he has accumulated and comes pleading to Mother for relief from his problem. It is at this point that the person must realize that the source of his debt burden is his tendency to spend beyond his means. So if he realizes that this is the source of his problem he must come forward to give up this weakness and promise the Mother that till She clears his debt burden and gives him the higher income he wants to comfortably manage his expenses he will put himself under discipline and will not borrow more and more and increase the burden. It is such a realization and willingness to give up one's fault that is called reversal of attitudes. It is a powerful method and if the devotee is sincere in what he tells the Mother and keeps his promise to Her he will be offering a very valuable cooperation to grace as it starts working on his debt

problem. Similarly many people pray to Mother and ask her to provide them with opportunities to come up in their lives. She obliges and gives them unheard of opportunities. It may be an opportunity to go abroad and work or it may be an opportunity to go to places like Delhi and Mumbai and work there or it may be an opportunity to start some self-enterprise or it may even be a marriage alliance that is way beyond the devotee's social status. Accepting such opportunities requires that the person rise to the occasion and change his way of functioning and values to suit the new in-coming opportunity. Even if a high-paying job waits for the devotee in Delhi or Mumbai some devotees are unwilling to go away from their parents or they are so attached to their eating habits that they cannot switch over to chappathi and dal from rice and sambar. Starting a self-enterprise demands a lot of hardwork and one has to take considerable financial risk in investing money and taking loans to get the business going. So such opportunities for progress will become real only when the concerned devotees agree to go away from their families and come forward to put in the extra hard work necessary and take the extra financial risk necessary. Those who insist on receiving more prosperity and more opportunities by remaining what they are and where they are cannot accomplish much in life through Mother's grace.

4. Those who believe in values and those who practice values can accomplish a lot thru Mother. Appa has described values as spiritual skills and therefore they have a magnifying effect on Mother's grace and help to make the results of grace acting in the devotee's life thousand times more than what it would be if the devotee does not follow any values.

There are physical values like cleanliness, orderliness, punctuality, perfection in details, perfection in accounts, soft speech and silence etc which are very appealing to Mother. Then there are psychological values like Self-giving, Goodwill, harmony and humility which make the devotee become very receptive to Mother's grace. Then there are mental values like Power of Organisation, and appreciating the Other Person's point of View and then ethical values like honesty, truthfulness and sense of justice etc. More than all of these the most powerful values that can help a devotee accomplish immensely through Mother are spiritual values like Faith, surrender, aspiration, Silent Will and equality etc.

Though spiritual values like faith, surrender and Silent Will and Equality are very powerful in their effects, it is difficult to develop these values and practice them since they require a drastic change in our way of functioning and our outlook on life in general. People normally believe in their own capacity, their money power and power of post and social contacts to get their problems solved or to acquire what they want from life. More over they believe in such things as going to a doctor when they are ill, going to a lawyer when they want justice and going to a bank when they want loans etc. Our mind puts its faith in its own capacity for accomplishment and in such external things like money, power and social contacts and doctors and lawyers and banks for getting problems solved. He who wants to develop faith in Mother must come forward to give up all such other faiths and that is not easy. If a person's mind tells him that his present capacities and present social circumstances will not permit him to raise his income to one lakh per month in the nearby future he takes his mind's suggestion as final and he cannot come to believe that Mother's grace has the capacity to deliver that prosperity in spite of his mental reservations. If a doctor says that a man's disease is incurable or if a lawyer says that his case cannot win in the courts because of lack of evidence he takes these comments as final and gives up hope. This is to be under the control of

our physical mind and people who are under the grip of their mind cannot achieve much through Mother. Faith adopts an exactly different approach. It says that what is not possible for human mind and human capacity is definitely possible for the power of the Spirit since the Spirit is a greater power than the human mind. Therefore people who develop such a faith in the power of Mother's grace take that as the final and start viewing money, post, government authority, social status, medicine, doctors, lawyers and legal systems all as only instruments and means for grace to act and deliver the results and not as the final deciding factors. When they wean themselves from the control of their physical mind and shift their faith to the power of Grace such people enhance their accomplishments immensely and achieve what they would never think of attaining had they not come to Mother.

The spiritual value of surrender goes hand in hand with the value of faith. We can confidently say that he who is capable of faith is also equally capable of surrender. Even in ordinary life people are practicing the value of surrender when they place their trust in somebody and believe that other person can solve their problem. When a patient believes that a particular doctor can cure his illness he says that since he trusts this doctor he has surrendered his illness into the hands of the doctor and cooperating with him and accepting all the treatments that the doctors is giving him whether he likes it or not. When a woman believes that a particular man will take good care of her she accepts him as her husband and proudly says that she has surrendered her life into his hands and will do whatever he says since she believes that whatever he makes her do will be only for her good. If a doctor and a lawyer and a husband can be trusted so fully what prevents a devotee from trusting Mother completely and surrendering all his problems into Her hands believing that whatever She does will be for his good only. Devotees who have offered such a surrender to Mother do find their current problems vanishing like mist under the touch of the morning sun.

The third spiritual value most useful for Mother devotees is the spiritual value of Silent Will. We are so used to asking for things that we want that it is difficult for us to believe that what we want will come to us more quickly if we refrain from asking for it. When we want a job or a marriage alliance or a help and favour from somebody the most natural thing for us to do is to find out by asking whether we can get the job or the alliance or the help from the particular person we are approaching. Those who follow the principle of Silent Will do something different. They tell the Mother what they want since in their understanding they have handed over charge of their life into Her hands and therefore whatever they need it is only proper for them to tell her and then keep quiet. She takes the responsibility of inspiring whoever is in the vicinity of the devotee to give the particular help or favour asked for whether it be a request for job, money or support and help of any sort. For example when a devotee needs loans from relatives to conduct his daughter's wedding his natural impulse will be to go and ask his relatives for money. If he believes in the power of Silent Will he tells Mother of his need for loans and refrains from asking the relatives and friends he knows. What will happen is that the Mother will inspire the relatives with money to call on the devotee in need of money and make them enquire if he needs money for marriage expenses and if so they are willing to give whatever amount he needs. The same will be true whether it be a need for recommendation to get a job or get admission in a school for the child or even a need for physical help such as the need to borrow a friend's car to go somewhere. The power of Silent Will will work in the same way irrespective of what is the problem and what is the help needed. So many devotees have seen the power of Silent Will operating in their lives and so many letters have come to my

father and so many incidents have been reported in meditation centers that devotees will be perfectly familiar with this principle.

The final spiritual value that is very helpful for devotees is the spiritual value of equality. Equality refers to the ability to be not disturbed by any outward happening. It is a divine quality since we find that the divine is not disturbed by anything that happens here on earth. He is not flattered by the worship that devotees offer to him neither is he disturbed by the denials of the non-believers nor by the abuse of the god-haters. The Divine Mother possess such a spiritual equality from her very birth otherwise she would not have been able to do this yoga and withstand its rigors. If we want to be always receiving Her Blessings and the benefits of Her Grace common sense tells us that we also must develop something of that spiritual equality even if it is not at a very high level. We must not get excited beyond measure by the good news we receive. Similarly we must not also get disturbed and upset by the bad things that happens to us like getting sick, losing job or being abused by somebody in a quarrel etc. When we receive the good news with a calm disposition what that good news brings will get stabilized in our lives. Similarly when we receive the bad news calmly also, what that bad news brings fails to get a hold on us and will leave our atmosphere as soon as possible.

So in the end what I would like to say by way of concluding remarks is that inconceivable accomplishment and progress awaits all those devotees who decide to lead their life along the lines Appa has envisioned for Mother devotees and if they base their work and career on the foundation of such spiritual values as faith, surrender, Silent Will and equality then there is no limit to their achievement.