

# The Religious Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo

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**Abstract:** *The Religious Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo centres on Integral Yoga aiming for a spiritual evolution of Consciousness etc. Sri Aurobindo's philosophy synthesizes Eastern spirituality and Western thought. Key concepts include Sachidanand (the Absolute), the Super mind (divine consciousness), and a purposeful evolution from matter to spirit, moving beyond mere individual liberation to transform humanity and society into a divine life, integrating knowledge, devotion, and action.*

**Keywords:** Auribindo, Religious, Sachidanand, Super mind, knowledge, and devotion

## 1. Research Methods

Detailed of the Research Development have been given below:

### Core Concepts

- 1) **Spiritual Evolution:** Reality is a purposeful unfolding of consciousness (Sachidanand) from matter through life and mind towards a divine, super mental state, driven by pressure from above and impulse from below.
- 2) **The Super mind:** A divine consciousness between the unmanifest Brahman and the manifested world, representing the key to transforming life into a divine one.
- 3) **Integral Yoga:** A path to achieve this transformation, combining different yogas (Jnan, Bhakti, Karma) for holistic development, focusing on an "unconditional surrender to God" and the "creation of divinity in the whole man".
- 4) **Unity of Existence:** The finite world and matter are not separate from the infinite God but are veils of spirit, requiring integration rather than negation.
- 5) **Divine Life on Earth:** The ultimate goal is not just individual salvation (moksa) but the spiritual transformation of the entire human race bringing the divine nature into earthly life.

### Key Ideas

- 1) **Synthesis:** Blends Eastern spiritual wisdom (Upanisads, Veda) with Western Philosophical ideas (idealism, pragmatism) for a complete understands.
- 2) **Practical Spirituality:** Emphasizes integrating spiritual realization into daily life, culture, and social action, not just in tellectual belief.
- 3) **Aspiration and Grace:** The process involves human aspiration from below meeting divine grace from above to bring about transformation.

In essence, Aurobindo sought to realize the divine within and without, creating a spiritualized world by evolving human consciousness to its highest potential.

### Does Aurobindo believe in God?

In the words of Aurobindo God is **beyond good and evil** not below them, not existing and limited by them, not even above them, but in a more absolute sense excedent and transcendent of the ideas good and evil.

### Can one pray to Jesus as a Hindu?

His answer is yes A Hindu can absolutely pray to Jesus, as Hinduism is generally open to other paths, viewing Jesus as a divine figure, an avatar, or a spiritual guide, with Hindus seeing no conflict in praying to multiple deities or spiritual leaders. You can pray to Jesus for guidance or help, Seeing Him as a manifestation of the universal divine (Brahman) as a powerful, compassionate being who helps all who call on him.

### Three Principles of Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo believed in three main principles of teaching that nothing can be taught, the mind should be constantly consulted in its growth, and teaching should progress from near to far.

### Sri Aurobindo's Philosophy on Teaching

The Bhagwat Gita does not mention Jesus. It was written anywhere from two hundred to five hundred years before Jesus was born. At that time the Bhagwat Gita was written in India, and is a text sacred to Hindus. His teaching was philosophical based on facts, experience and personal relations on having the vision of a seer or Rishi.

### Do Hindus love Jesus?

Hindus believe that Vishnu manifesta himself on earth as an incarnation in human form to save mankind in its hour of need. Therefore, for Hindus to accept Jesus as the son of God or an Avatar seems quite logical and appropriate.

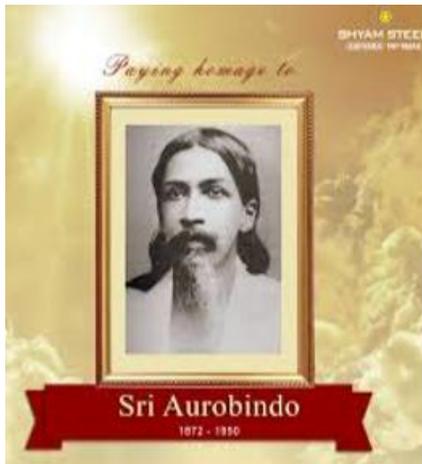
### Best quote of Sri Auribindo

There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the minds immobility and thought free illness. When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence. The great are strongest when they stand alone. A God given might of being is their force.

### Who is Krishna to Jesus?

It is said that Krishna representative son of God and spiritual master relationship with Krishna. As Lord Jesus Christ says, we should hate the sin and not the sinner.

### Photo of Sri Aurobindo



### Sri Aurobindo

Born Aurobindo Ghosh, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1872 Calcutta Bengal Presidency British India.

Died Aurobindo Ghosh, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1950 (aged 78 years) Pondicherry French India.

Atma mater – University of Cambridge

Occupations – Yogi, Philosopher, Poet Nationalist

Known for – Integral Yoga, Supermind Founder of Sri Aurobindo Ashram spiritual collaborator – Mirra Alfassa (The Mother)

### Aurobindo's Mother Photo



### Sri Aurobindo's Mother

Born in Paris on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1878 – Died 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1973 (aged about 95 years)

Works – The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, Savitri.

Aurobindo studied for the Indian Civil Service at Kings College, Cambridge, England. After returning to India, he took up various civil services under the Maharaja of the Princely State of Baroda. He became increasingly involved in nationalist politics in the Indian National Congress, and the consent revolutionary movement in Bengal with the Anushilan Samiti. He was arrested in the aftermath of a number of bombings linked to the revolutionary group he was associated with. He faced charges in the public trial for treason in Alipore conspiracy and then released, after which he moved to Pondicherry and developed a spiritual practice he called Integral Yoga and Synthesis of Yoga which deals with the principles and methods of Integral Yoga. In 1926 he and Mirra Alfassa founded Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

### Jesus in Sanatan Dharma

Within this framework Jesus Christ is seen as enlightened master, savior, and mediator toward divine experience. His

reverence does not entail the rejection of other forms of Hindu devotion but complements and enriches spiritual practice.

### Oldest Religion

The word Hindu is an exonym and while Hinduism has been called the oldest surviving religion in the world, it is also described by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the term Sanatan Dharma (lit, eternal dharma) Vaidic Dharma (lit Vaidic Dharma) and Arya Dharma are historical endonyms for Hinduism.

### Was Aurobindo a Rishi

Yes, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh is consistently referred to as a Rishi, Yogi, Philosopher and spiritual master by his followers, scholars, and mentioned in various texts. The term Rishi (seer) and Brahmo Rishi denote different levels of spiritual attainment. The title acknowledges his profound spiritual insights, the development of his philosophy of Integral Yoga, his scholarly work on the Vedas and Upanishads, and his life dedicated to spiritual pursuits. He embodied the qualities of a Rishi, which in his own words is an “inspired creator of thought and civilization and a” seer of truth.

### Difference between a Rishi and Brahmarishi

The difference lies in the degree of spiritual realization and mastery over the ultimate truth.

In essence, a Brahmarishi is a Rishi of the highest order, one who has achieved complete union with the understanding of the Brahman, the supreme Universal Power. The term “Rishi” is a broader designation for any great spiritual seer or master.

### Schooling of Sri Aurobindo

Swami Sivananda in his book “Lives of Saints”, a biography of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh has stated that he was an accomplished, scholar, an apostle of Indian Nationalism, who was awakened to the divine mission, the practice of yoga and who built his Ashram at Pondicherry and got his mahasamadhi there. His old head master of the Loreto Convent School at Darjeeling when he was four years old observed “of all the boys who passed the rough my hands during the last 25 or 30 years, Aurobindo was by far the most richly endowed with intellectual capacity”.

From school Aurobindo went to Kings College, Cambridge, where he distinguished himself as a student of European Classics. He passed the Indian Civil Service Examinations with great credit in 1890. He was exceedingly popular with the general public Sri K. M. Munshi, one of his students admired and loved Aurobindo. Aurobindo became a veritable god by them and he was called as “Aruda” meaning “elder brother Aurobindo”. Aurobindo married Mrinalini Devi. He was an accomplished scholar in Greek, Latin and picked up a little of German and Italian to study Dante and Goethe in the original. He was also a lover of vedic scriptures. He was a genius in history and poetry, a scholar in English and Latin.

### Apostle of Indian Nationalism

It was in 1893 that Aurobindo came back to India. He drew a salary of Rs.750/- in the Baroda Educational Service. In 1893 to 1906 he drank deep from the fountain of Sanskrit

and Bengali literature, philosophy and political sciences. He resigned his job and joined the Bengal National College on a salary of Rs.1505/- He plunged headlong in the revolutionary movement. Sri Aurobindo edited the English daily "Bandey Mataram" and wrote fearlessly and pointed editorials. During the next few months, he started the English weekly Dharma. He spread the message "Our ideal Sevaraj is absolutely autonomy, absolute self - rule, free from foreign control.

### Awakened to the Divine Mission

The famous Alipore Bomb case was a turning point in Sri Aurobindo's life. For a year Aurobindo was an under trial prisoner in solitary confinement in Alipur Central Jail. It was in a dingy cell of the Alipur Jail, that he dreamt the dream of his future cell, the divine mission ordained by God.

Aurobindo bore the rigours of the imprisonment, the bad food, the inadequate clothes, the lack of light and free air, the strain of boredom and the creeping solitariness of the gloomy cell. He utilized the period of incarceration for an intense study and practice of the teachings of Bhagwat Gita. Chittaranjan Das defended Sri Aurobindo, who was acquitted after a memorable trial.

### His practice of Yoga

Sri Aurobindo began his yoga in 1904. He had no helper or guru in Yoga till he met Lele, a Maharashtrian Yogi in Baroda: and that was only for a short time. Meditating only for three days, Aurobindo followed the Yogi's instructions for silencing the mind and it from the constant pressure of thought.

Sri Aurobindo himself once wrote in a letter of Yoga. "I began my Yoga in 1904 without a Guru. In 1908 I received important help from a from a Marathi Yogi and discovered the foundations of my Sadhana. He started yoga by himself, getting the rule from a friend. A disciple of Brahmanda of Ganga Mutt. It was confined first to residuous practice of Pranayama for six or more hours a day. Aurobindo practiced and meditated on the teachings of the Gita and the Upanishads.

### The Greatest Rishis of all times

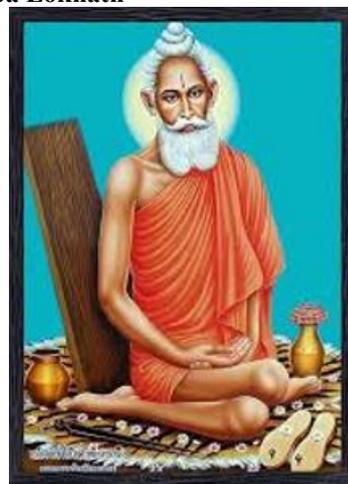
The greatest Rishis of all times as mentioned in the Rg Veda are Angirassa, Kanva, Vasistha, Vishwamtra, Atri, Bhrigu, Kashyapa, Brtsmanda, Agasthya, Bharata. The Rg Veda has records of over 500 Rishis and Rishi dynasties whose songs and commentaries have been recorded in the Veda or the Smriti/Purana. Swami Bholananda Giris birth is not known but he died 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1929 Swami Trilanga, a renowned yogi lived for 280 years 1607 and died in 1887 both are significant spiritual figures in the broader Indian landscape. Besides these, Baba Ramadev is widely regarded as a Yogi. He is also a prominent businessman with Patanjali and as of late 2024 / early 2025. He is 59 years old and is still living Many people turned 60 in December 295 consider him to be a Rishi (sage) due to his deep knowledge of Vedic

texts, Sanskrit, and Yoga, and his dedication to promoting traditional Indian wellness systems (Yoga and Ayurveda).

## 2. Conclusion

The label "rishi" is subjective. He embodies aspect of spiritual teacher and a business leader, making him a contemporary figure bridging spiritually and commerce. The ancient name of Ramdeva was Runicha was renamed Ramadeva in honour of Baba Ramdevaji, a famous fold deity. The temple of Baba Ramdevji is located in Ramdevra, which is in the Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan. Patanjali yearly turnover varies by entity with Patanjali Ayurveda seeing total income near Rs.9, 335 Crore of Financial Year 1924 while the larger Patanjali Foods (Former Rich Soya) reported a substantial Financial year revenue of over Rs.31, 900 Crore, aiming for 1 Lakh Crore groups turnover by 2028. The groups Financial figures are consolidated across Patanjali Ayurveda, Patanjali foods, and Patanjali Gramodyog.

### Photo of Baba Loknath



### Baba Loknath

Mention can also be made of Baba Loknath who was a Brahmachari and Yoga Rishi and siddha purasha who lived for 160 years and who was in the Himalayas and did geat Tapasya. He had unlimited power and helped his disciples to follow the spiritual path. In Bengali there is an image of him and in his honour temples were built where people worshipped him like God. He was born in 1730 in an undivided Bengal and died in 1890. He was also known as Brahma Rishi. His Yogic period began in the year 80 – 90 and the god Nirbikalp samadi. He was also called the living Gita because his life was full of knowledge, Karma, Devotion and was in tatality he was Astanga Yogi.

A list of all the Greatest Rishi and Bramha Rishi of all times is given below. They were all born between 1980 and 1990 (all dead):

S. No.	Name of the Rishi	Place of Birth	Born	Dead	Age at Death
1	Sri Aurobindo	Calcutta	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.1950	78 Years
2	Mother	Paris	13 <sup>th</sup>	1973	95 Years
3	Baba Loknath	Calcutta (undivided Bengal)	16 <sup>th</sup> July 1832	1928	160 Years
4	Swami Bholanand Giri	Village in Punjab	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec.1832	16 <sup>th</sup> June 1928	95 Years
5	Swami Nirmalanand Giri	Kerala District	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1896	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1961	64 Years
6	Swami Ajamananda	Calcutta (in channar)	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan.1863	Oct.2011	85 Years
7	Swami Vivekananda	Calcutta	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan.1893	4 <sup>th</sup> Jul.1902	39 Years
8	Satya Sai Baba	Perttapurthi	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov.1926	Oct.2011	85 Years
9	Sai Baba of Shirdi	Maharashtra	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.1838	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.1980	142 Years
10	Swami Ranjan	Vijaybada	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec. though debated	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1988	120 Years
11	Thrialanga Swami (walking Lord Shiva)	Vazinagara Residence at Varanasi	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov.1607	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1988	280 Years
12	Baba Ramdeo Patanjali Ayurveda	Village in Jasalmer District of Rajasthan	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.1965	Living	60 Years
13	Swami Ramkrishna	At Kumespukur	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb.1936	16 <sup>th</sup> May	86 Years
14	Sudin Kin Mitra	At Giridih Founder of Matri Sangha Allahabad	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb.1919	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.1984	64 Years
15	Bible Genesis Noah Lined for 969 years oldest		969 years	350 years after food	350 Years
16	Mother Teresa Founder of Missionaries of Charity		Bom August 1910 in skopji	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept.1997	87 Years
17	Nostradamus	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.1503	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1566		57 Years

It would be noticed from the above list of Rishis who were dead that the youngest was Swami Vivekananda at 39 years and the oldest was Trialanga Swami at 250 years. Baba Loknath for 160 years and the only living saint is Baba Ramdeo who is living at age 60.

Though God has fixed the limit of man's life at 122 but we find that man has outwaded his countention by 160 years (Baba Loknath). Swami Trialanga by 250 years and Satya Sai Baba by 142 years. It seems that though some Rishis of the world lived for long but all of them had to die because death spares none. Death had its last laugh. It is the most powerful of all.

### Abstract

Death is more powerful though all the great Gods on earth during 1980 and 1990 were very powerful with their miracles, speaking with God and with Goddess Kali, Shiva etc and attained an unbelievable age but everyone had to bow down before the cruel hands of Death because Yamraj is standing at the door to pick him up so Death is powerful against death. Though, it is said that Atma (according to Gita) is very powerful. It does not die and cannot be cutting to pieces (Quotation) to give though it cannot be proved.

### 3. Summary and Conclusion

It is clear from the details furnished above that Aurobindo's main philosophy explains about the spiritual evolution of consciousness and the key concepts include Sachidanand (The absolute) and the super mind (Divine consciousness) and a powerful evolution over matter to spirit moving beyond mere individual liberation to transform humanity and society into a divine life integrating knowledge, devotion and action.

### References

- [1] Spiritual Mind
- [2] Super Mind

- [3] Integral Yoga
- [4] Unity of Existence
- [5] Divine
- [6] Life on Earth
- [7] Beyond Good and Evil
- [8] Son of God
- [9] King's College Cambridge
- [10] Mira Alfassa