

English (Hons) Part-3 Paper-7; Unit-Poem; Topic-
"Transformation": Lec-Seri-1235 by - VIJAYESH KUMAR.

Transformation: Sri Aurobindo!

About Sri Aurobindo:

Sri Aurobindo, born on 15 August 1872 as Aurobindo Ghose, was an Indian nationalist, freedom fighter, philosopher, yogi, guru and poet. He joined the Indian National Movement for freedom from British rule and for a duration became one of its most important leaders, before developing his own vision of human progress and spiritual evolution.

The central theme of Sri Aurobindo's vision is the evolution of human life into life divine. According to him "man is a transitional being. He is not final. The step from man to Superman is the next approaching achievement in the earth evolution. It is inevitable because it is at once the intention of the inner spirit and the logic of nature's process".

Sri Aurobindo synthesized Eastern and Western philosophy, religion, literature and psychology in writings. Aurobindo was the first Indian to create major literary corpus in English. His

works include philosophy; poetry; translations of and commentaries on the vedas, Upanishads, and the Gita; plays; literary, social, political, and historical criticism; devotional works; spiritual journals and three volumes of letters. His principal philosophical writings are "The Life Divine and The Synthesis of Yoga," while his philosophical poetic work is Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol.

Transformation: Critical analysis:

Like many other poems of Sri Aurobindo, this present poem entitled 'Transformation' is also a mystic poem through which the poet has shown the union of his soul with the Divine soul. The little word 'Transformation' means the change of the form or substance. Here it refers to the change of the poet's heart from mortal and immortal shape.

First, the poet says that the poet's 'breath' that means poet's life, is like a stream and all his limbs are filled up with the divine spirit. His heart is devoted to spiritual thought

and he is mad of spiritual lofty thought as a drunkard is of wine. The world for him is a stage and his days on the earth is a drama which he has been playing since his birth. All his limbs are illumined by God's spirit and this spirit has changed his nerves and makes a channel to communicate with the divine soul and thus his heart fills up with excessive joy not earthly but divine.

Secondly, the poet says that as his heart is spiritually uplifted so is his soul, it is now not a slave to his flesh. Instead, his soul is a slave to nature or the Divine soul. His heart is widened to infinite. The poet believes that his soul arrives at immortality. The divine soul has entered into his heart and hence his soul itself becomes a source of light.

The mystic thought expressed in the poem is the highest stage of spiritual thought. But the mysticism is not possible to be perceived by all. Only a heart full of piety can perceive it by means of meditation on God and poet has

succeeded in perceiving it fully.
The language of the poem is simple.
It has some poetic phrases as -
illuminated cell (for spiritually lefty
limbs). The God unknown and the
supreme (for God); God's happy
living tools (for human body) etc.

The poem is in sonnet form,
divided into two parts, the
first having eight lines and
the second of the remaining
six lines, octave and sestet
respectively. The rhyming scheme
is abba abba cdc ede.

—xx—xx—