

## ***Time and Eternity***

*The day was still young when on December 1979 I was crossing a boulevard off Revival Square downtown.*

*Most unexpectedly, perfect silence pervaded me, as if someone had switched off a source of an unceasing noise deep within. Like never before I could hear external noises crystal clear. Time seemed to have stopped and if it were, I found myself in Eternity. The world around – people, cars, trams and all, me within – went on moving as ever before, yet no longer in time but in Eternity. I was no longer bound to anywhere. I was no longer going anywhere. I was simply at the heart of a world of eternity, quiet and bliss.*

*All of a sudden I found myself at a barber's. I went in and asked for a haircut. Next I visited a close friend (and later, my best man) who was into occult gifts. Opening the door for me, he exclaimed: "What've you been up to, Andy boy? My, you seem to be a saint!" Next, for a couple of days he brought over small jars of delicious white beans, especially cooked by him with a view – according to experts – to bring me back down to earth.*

*What impressed me was that during the above-related experience my poor mind went thoroughly out of order and started to generate most chaotically various quotations from the Upanisads. Much later, when things calmed down and I no longer "radiated saintly light" or ate white beans, I realized that my mind had lapsed into non-functioning just because it could not recognize such an utterly new and unknown experience and could not place it in any of its numerous drawers.*

*Somewhat later I came upon a profound book on similar experience of the author as "dawning on cosmic consciousness", and I came to realise they most naturally occurred to people of eminence, such as the poet Walt Whitman, as well as to the humble likes of you and me.*

*Ever since I came to study various doctrines on man's path to spiritual awakening. It was only recently though, a year or so ago, that I achieved inner maturity. This has by no means been due to my merits; therefore, I am not to propose particular methods of a faster growing into inner maturity.*

*Now I am thoroughly at peace and bound for nowhere. I feel no need to be either enlightened or saved by anybody. I am perfectly ready to face death any day with the utmost good will and trust because I fully recognize the fact that death is natural and - imminent.*

*I witnessed the conversion of former atheists and materialists into would-be religion or rather superstition. I also know believers having lost their faith. All that seemed to have been so superficial that it moved me nothing at all. Now, “when I am hungry I eat, when I am thirsty I drink, when I feel sleepy I sleep, when I am asked questions I answer, when I am offended - I forget”.*

*So, my only concern is to offer the experience of a lifetime to hopefully make the answers I’m asked understandable, useful and apt to the point.*

***From “Beyond Time”***