

Sri Aurobindo : Overhead Poetry

U.G. Sem II

CC - 07

Unit 1 (F)

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Overhead poetry" is a term coined by Sri Aurobindo, the Indian philosopher, yogi, and poet, to describe a special kind of poetic inspiration and expression that comes from higher planes of consciousness beyond the ordinary mind.

Sri Aurobindo developed an "overhead aesthesis" (aesthetic theory of poetry) in the 1930s, particularly while guiding disciples and writing his epic Savitri. He identified several higher levels or planes from which true poetic inspiration can descend:

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Higher Mind — clear, wide, luminous thought

Illumined Mind — vivid, flashing light and vision

Intuitive Mind — direct, revelatory flashes

Overmind — the highest among these, a plane of comprehensive truth, harmony, and mantric power (where words become almost incantatory or spiritually transformative)

Poetry arising from these "overhead" planes (above the normal mental level) is what he called overhead poetry.

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Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz Alam