

Sri Aurobindo : Overhead Poetry (2)

U.G. Sem II

CC - 07

Unit 1 (F)

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

It carries:

- A unique light, vision, or spiritual truth
- Inevitable rhythm and wording (the right word in the right place, with precise sound and design)
- Profound inner resonance, undertones/overtones, and a sense of infinity or vastness
- A "mantric" quality at its peak — words that have spiritual force and reveal deeper realities

It differs from ordinary poetry (which may come from the vital/emotional level, imaginative mind, or intuitive mind alone) by originating from these elevated spiritual regions. Sri Aurobindo emphasized that overhead lines bring a special illumination or power, even if the poetry isn't necessarily "superior" in conventional literary terms to great works like Shakespeare — it's simply from a different, higher source.

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Key Characteristics Sri Aurobindo Highlighted

- The inspiration flows pure when the outer mind is passive, acting as a transmitter.
- It often features precise, unalterable expression — "the right word and no other."
- It embodies soul-vision rather than just intellectual or emotional thought.
- In his epic Savitri, many passages are considered supreme examples of overhead poetry, especially from the Overmind.