



THE BIRTH OF THE GNOSTIC CENTRE 29TH FEBRUARY, 1996

February 29th: It was a serene and quiet winter morning when the Centre took birth in the physical. The last few days had been an intense period of action. All of us had pooled in our energies to finally create the first brochure of the Centre, which contained the concept of what is now called THE GNOSTIC CENTRE.

With the outer definition of the Centre developing, something far more significant was happening. We were also beginning to understand and work upon our inner attitudes and growth. In fact we were aware that this was more a training and preparation for our future vision and work, than for any lasting or eternal work we were presently doing.

In keeping with the spirit and goal of the Centre, we prepared an inner guideline sheet reproduced below. This first phase was to last up to end 1997.

*“ In Peace, in Silence and in quietness the world was built.
It is in peace and silence that it must be done. “*

1ST PHASE : INNER - GROUP

- * Concentrations and meditations around the idea of developing a Centre.
- * Aspiring for Their* direct guidance and intuition.
- * Working upon, refining and discussing, until there is absolute clarity and light.
- * Meeting as often as possible for this purpose.

1ST PHASE : INNER - INDIVIDUAL

- * Removing and rejecting all strands of selfishness that looks for personal satisfaction, rather than the satisfaction of serving the Divine collectively. Removal of egoistic reactions and thoughts : no sense of my idea as opposed to another's.
- * Realising that the real work begins when there is a change of consciousness. Pitilessly and relentlessly recognising and altering the lower impulses, thoughts, words and actions. Never repeating a mistake twice.
- * NO LAZINESS.
- * Absolute faith in the work that has to be done.
- * Inner consecration and detachment.

* Refers to Sri Aurobindo & The Mother



THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION: 15TH AUGUST, 1996

The 15th of August: the birth of Free India and the auspicious birthday of Sri Aurobindo - we could not have found a more fitting date to mark the spot where His future work would begin.....

It was 6am on a misty monsoon morning, and we (Ameeta, Anuradha, Ritika and Seema) were gathered together at the proposed site where the Centre would be built. A small brick path had been laid in the slushy mud, to reach the banyan tree, under which the foundation stone was to be laid. Ameeta carried the engraved marble on her left shoulder and head, and the other three followed behind. Ritika first laid the blessing packets kept in a plastic folder and then the four of us held the foundation stone from four corners and placed it quietly above them. We were rooted by an overwhelming experience of sublime concentration and thanksgiving. We felt like the 'labourers in the quarries of the Gods'.



"All can be done if the God-touch is there."

Seema wrote describing the experience: "We were not sure about the site or even our own requirements which became clear only after a series of discussions and perhaps some drawing exercise on my part. Then the search began for the right architect and finally Sanjay Prakash was appointed as the architect. With only 10 days left, the foundation stone had to be bought and engraved. With the Grace and Sanction of the Lord, everything was managed on time though with great difficulty. Due to time constraints, the base for the foundation stone had to be prepared on the 14th only - and it was pouring that day! The land was soft and muddy. The mason was unwilling to work - but, after an umbrella was arranged and a tarpaulin hung from the tree to form a canopy over the stone, he got inspired looking at our effort and did the job."



THE FIRST ACTIVITIES

The first activities that the Gnostic Centre planned were a series of workshops on Education and Self-Development, with the aim of developing in future, study courses, and a core faculty. As we are a group of young professionals, who were contributing from our own resources, we also had to make sure that our workshops and courses would be self-sustainable.

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

An Integral Perspective

Facilitator: Anuradha

August 9th-11th

August 30th-1st September



- * To arrive at a preliminary understanding of Integral Education - the Need, the Concept, the Implications and the Practice.
- * To seek for change in education - personal and collective.

The Study Groups followed naturally as some of the participants felt a need to go deeper.

COMMUNICATIONS

From alienation to communion

Facilitator: Partho

August 24th-25th

September 14th-15th



- * To reach deeper and more authentic levels of communication through a journey in self and interpersonal awareness.
- * To understand the nature and dynamics of communication.
- * To see communications essentially as an expression of self in the world.
- * To learn to communicate effectively and meaningfully as a conscious act of self-expression.

ESSAYS ON THE GITA

Facilitator: Ameeta Mehra

October 6th onwards (6 sessions)

January 18th onwards (6 sessions)

Understanding the basic concepts of Karmayoga (Perfection in Work).

FIVEFOLD EDUCATION

Facilitator: Anuradha

February 7th onwards (5 sessions)

Exploring further the concept and practice of Integral Education.

THE JOURNEY

Self-development & Mastery

Facilitator: Ameeta Mehra

September 7th-8th

September 21st-22nd



- * To experience an actual shift - open a new horizon.
- * To look at oneself objectively.
- * To tap into one's inner strength when confronted with adverse circumstances.
- * To bridge between the inner self and the outer day-to-day reality.

We were into the new year and we felt the need to reach out to more and more people. Newsletter was seen as one of the ways to do so. And thus began 'The Awakening Ray'.





THE RISING SUN

After the workshops and study groups, from November 1996 to March 1997, the concentration of the group shifted to the planning and construction of the building. Seema had been working hard on completing the building according to schedule, and there it was - all ready for.....

THE INAUGURATION : 28TH MARCH, 1997

*The Gnostic Centre was inaugurated on a cool peaceful evening
with a modest gathering of 85 people
who joined in a beautiful invocation and meditation,
followed by a talk on the purpose of the Centre
and tea.*

*The atmosphere was charged,
and it seemed almost like the heavens approved,
sending down their blessings
with a gentle shower,
which settled dew-like on the grass.*

*The building with its innovative architecture
and the detailed execution and interiors
looked fit to inhabit the gods.*

*The green rolling paddocks,
grazing horses,
and the golden-red sunset
provided a picturesque backdrop.*

*There was a feeling that a seed had been sown,
and a quiet far-reaching work begun.....*

Ameeta Mehra



Visitors and participants began to frequent the Centre, and our activities and workshops expanded. A library developed, with a resource database, and special readings and meditations began to be held regularly.

THE GNOSTIC CENTRE



A research centre for the growth of consciousness, registered as a non-profit trust, started in 1996, Delhi. The Gnostic Centre is a pioneering effort towards the university of tomorrow and attempts to create a bridge between Matter and Spirit. Such a radical advance in higher life education has been long overdue and the Centre is a response to this growing need.



We invite you to participate in the following:

A LIBRARY & MEDITATION CENTRE

“... an intellectual sanctuary where one comes to find light and progress.”

The library offers a personalised service - should you need guidance.

Timings: 10am-6pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

WEEKLY MEDITATIONS

A quiet and meditative environment has been created for those who wish to spend time in this atmosphere.