

Sri Aurobindo's Poetics and Poetic Theory

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Sri Aurobindo himself has once declared that he had been first and foremost a poet, that the poet was the earliest side of his personality, the primal aspect. Nalini Kant Gupta has well observed that he was born as a poet and he is a born poet. His poetic career spreads over a period of sixty years from 1890 to 1950 during which he has enriched the realm of letters by a royal quantity of quality. In the words of V.K. Gokak, he is undoubtedly, "the most outstanding Indo-Anglian writer for volume as well as variety". Sri Aurobindo's poetic career born in England developed in Baroda and Calcutta and reached to perfection at Pondicherry. "The poetry of Sri Aurobindo gives us the impression of a great mountain range prolific and verdant in the lower ranges, its top neighbouring the sky and clothed in eternal snow and light". The two volumes of 'Collected Poems and Plays', the multi-aspected epic '*Savitri*' with its 24000 lines, narrative poems, a large body of Philosophical Poems besides the cultures of lyrics present the creative effort of about sixty years and give the impression of the enormous poetic stature of Sri Aurobindo the poet.