

SRI AUROBINDO ON SHAKESPEARE

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ABSTRACT

In this essay, Sri Aurobindo's criticism of Shakespeare has been considered, using mainly his The Future Poetry as the primary source. The present essay endeavours to foreground the effort on the part of Sri Aurobindo, patriot turned prophet, to 'Indianise' Shakespeare in a special way. By delving into the psychology of burgeoning nationalism and spiritual revivalism in general and Sri Aurobindo's conversion to mysticism and his philosophy of integral yoga and life divine in particular the ideological implications of such a critical effort to 'Indianise' Shakespeare has been sought to be investigated. Sri Aurobindo elaborated on Shakespeare's insistence on internal action with reference to the ancient Indian distinction between several strata or levels of universal being and brought in the two names used by the ancient rishis to define the objective and subjective aspects of this being: Virat and Hiranyagarbha. Aurobindo has effectively dismantled the traditional conception of criticism as an exercise devoted to the objective decoding of the meaning supposedly immanent in the text and has attempted to respond creatively to the subtle nuances of Shakespeare's creations.

KEYWORDS: *Sri Aurobindo, Ideology, Indianise, Impressionistic Criticism, Spirituality*