PREFACE

At the time I was finalising this study I came upon a little pocket classic 'Mount Analogue', the unfinished work of René Daumal. The point that he makes on focused perception is the point from where I took off years ago when I began my study: 'keep your eye fixed on the way to the top, but don't forget to look right in front of you. The last step depends on the first. Don't think you've arrived just because you see the summit. Watch your footing, be sure of the next step, but don't let that distract you from the highest goal. The first step depends on the last'.

To undertake a study as intensively extensive as the mind of J. Krishnamurti, though wonderfully exhilarating is not entered upon lightly, as it demands tremendous intellectual vigour which I had to be sure I would sustain with continued enthusiasm and a spirit of adventure, as I balanced on the threshold of my own 'search' for the meaning of life, after the death of my six year old son who battled with cancer.
As I look back, I realise how difficult this task has been and how impossible it would have been to achieve had it not been for the crucial role of Dr. A.V. Afonso, in this venture. He was more than a guide because he inspired the possibilities in this study, opening up windows to ever newer dimensions. When I stumbled on the ambiguity of Krishnamurti's mind (which happened often enough!) Dr. Afonso with a stretch of imagination dared me, in one wide sweep, to cover the field of philosophy, the field of psychology, and that of education (in a wholistic way!) as the only possible means of coming to terms with an understanding of Krishnamurti. This was the last step in the endeavour of work. I am deeply grateful to him for helping me take the first step. The last step depended on this.

Not everything that was written at the beginning of this study can be repeated unaltered without a second thought. But again, I have been pleasantly surprised to discover how much of it I would repeat again today not only with the same conviction but with even greater awe!

Although nothing is absolutely conclusive in this study
(Krishnamurti himself never wanted to be grounded! in conclusions and theories), my feelings are quite strong on many of the aspects discussed here and I am even more convinced that the process of subjecting educational questions to empirical analysis will always have to be in the foreground of any educational programme. It is with this in mind that I visited the Krishnamurti schools in Rajghat, Varanasi; Madras and Bangalore to actualise the experience of Krishnamurti's educational experiments.

The function of education is to help one face the world in a totally different and intelligent way. It is not simply what education teaches us directly, but how well it prepares us to learn ourselves, that is the ultimate measure of its value. This is exactly how Krishnamurti has been re-orienting our minds. I was impressed at the way his schools and "The Study" at 'Vasant Vihar' Madras are run, and this is a testimony to his greatness. The Archives of the Krishnamurti Foundation of India has systematically and intelligently computed all of the writings and talks by Krishnamurti and writings on Krishnamurti, to facilitate research students find assess even to unpublished/verbatim reports. Dr. Parchure was kind enough to permit me to use the archives without any restraints.
The recognition that this study is not in itself complete, nor entire, is in itself humanizing and it grants me the possibility of any error. This has been purely a students exercise and even as such, only touches the periphery of the mind of Krishnamurti. He has pointed that there cannot be a philosophy, there cannot be a theory without humanity. It is this humanism that is seen in his schools and institutions. And it is precisely this element that gave me the freedom at every stage of my work.

It is to be mentioned here that no authority is claimed for, in this study and the attitude at work here, was for me different things at different times, that is, sometimes enlightening (in a very personal way) and sometimes exasperating (at the sheer content and volume of work!). And yet while it was this and that over the last five years, it has always pushed me, one step at a time, towards this end. But is this the final step? There is a cliche that puts the whole effort in a nutshell: 'what began as a journey into another man's mind ended in an unfinished journey into mine'.

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