

# ENGLISH SCRIPT

## “Auroville on the path of utopia”

Directed by Fred Cebron

COLOR CODE

**Bold black:** Commentary

**Black and grey:** Map

**Blue:** Voice over

**Black and yellow:** Title

**Orange:** Opening and Final credits

### 0’02’’ COMMENTARY

**Nestled in the heart of a tropical forest, with a spread of over 20 square kilometers, Auroville is a unique township in the world, the fruit of an extraordinary human adventure.**

0’10’’- India map

### 0’11’’ COMMENTARY

**It was founded in southern India near Pondicherry on the Bay of Bengal in the wake of protest movements at the end of the 1960s.**

**Dozens of youths, inspired by a profound desire for change, decided to leave Europe to participate in the birth of a city where people from all over the world could live together in perfect harmony.**

### 0’34’’ COMMENTARY

**The pioneers arrived on a barren plateau washed by the muddy waters of the monsoon.**

## **0'40'' COMMENTARY**

**At the time Janaka was 28 years old.**

## **0'44'' Janka**

**Thus began our great adventure and at the same time unheard of difficulties. Unheard of. Because Auroville is no camp for scouts! A place where one says, You, you do this; you, you wash the dishes; you, you cut the wood . . . Here it's more like, everybody is free to define what they must do, to determine their own actions . . . Everybody is free, but so free that in the beginning nobody wanted to do a thing, and on top of that, nobody wanted to receive an order from anybody else.**

**0'46'' Janaka - Aurovilian since 1969**

## **1'13'' COMMENTARY**

**Far from being discouraged, the pioneers worked together to bring this new city up from the earth. They planted over two million trees to transform the arid plateau into a tropical forest.**

**Fifty years later, while other utopias have lasted but a few years, Auroville has succeeded in perpetuating itself.**

## **01'35'' COMMENTARY**

**Today there are 2500 Aurovilians from 53 different countries who continue to construct an ideal city for living together in the best possible way, whatever their social, cultural, or religious differences. An experiment in which each and every one is both researcher and guinea pig.**

## **02'08'' Opening Credits**

**A coproduction**

**Cinétévé**

**Magic Bus Films**

**With the participation of Voyage**

**02'22''**

**Produced by**

**Fabienne Servan Schreiber**

**Estelle Mauriac**

**Fred Cebron**

**02'33''**

**A film by**

**Fred Cebron**

**02'41''**

**Auroville**

**On the path of utopia**

**02'57'' COMMENTARY**

**Anandi is Spanish. She arrived at Auroville 30 years ago.**

**Twelve years ago she founded the store «Pour Tous» (For Everybody), taking a major step toward a social economy of solidarity, one without money in circulation. Over 30 people accompany her in her activities.**

03'18'' Conversation between Anandi (A) and a man (M) who works in the grocery

A : - I was thinking even the pasta from Aurofood. Why dont we put them like that?

M : - Because pasta get soft after

A : - You think ?

M : - They solften

A : - I don't think. We have to try.

A : - At least, once we try we can fill every day half of it

03'34'' Anandi

I feel very proud that we have the complete organic rice from Auroville and the red rice from Auroville which is the most healthy rice. And we produce it all here and it's been previous for everybody. You come here and you take just a little, you take 100 grams or 200 grams for the week. You don't need so much. The advantage is that we don't stimulate the excessive consumerism. We just try to make people realize what they really need. Here, you aren't gonna see any price at all because we want that people's minds are free from these choices according to the price which is very deceiving. In Europe, I have seen it even here in India. It's all these flashes about the price which is hiding so many things behind. So we try to relink what the items are, what the people need from what they cost.

3'37'' Anandi - Aurovilian since 1987

04'30'' Woman with glasses in the grocery

And also, it's also a way to learn not to buy more than what you need.

04'34'' Man with a big beard in the grocery

Why do I come here? Because everywhere else, they don't let me in without a t-shirt.

04'42'' Anandi

The original idea of Auroville was: we all come here invited to join this « magnifique » adventure and you leave all your energy, all you have and then the collective, Auroville takes care of you. We have been trying different things and we are still trying. Auroville is to make experiments so we are trying one more based on non-extended money between us and and not making commerce on what the other aurovillians need for the normal life. The aurovillians receive for

maintenance for their daily life. And everybody gets the same so all of us who work on services, in school, in the hall center, in the kitchen, we are all getting the same. Right now in cash is 500 rupees and 1400 more or less is in kind. One part of that maintenance comes to the common pot and from there we purchase, we purchase for everybody, it's a kind of purchase in service and it's like a big, big, big family, no?

05'45'' Korean woman

I came from Korea. I made « kimchi », Korean traditional pickles.

Sometimes I make green papaya kimchi in Auroville.

06'02'' Anandi

This beautiful Lady brings lemons for free, so we them out for people to take

Lemons, lemons, gifted lemons...

### **06'20'' COMMENTARY**

**For Anandi the goal is to reach a balance between financial member contributions and donations and that which is actually consumed. Every Aurovilian uses an account number to keep track of the value of their purchases.**

06'28'' Conversation between Cashier(CA) and Customer(CU) in the grocery

CA : - A code number ?

CU : 3122

06'36'' Customer W1

The idea is to have a bit of conscience about what one buys. Not just buy anything, in any manner, or too much because the money is unlimited with a credit card . . . Because we also share this sum of money, but all together, so if I spend too much, others might suffer as a result. So the idea is to just think a bit more collectively.

07'01'' Anandi

This is one common account for everybody but we put out every month, three times per month, a statement that shows how much want to participate to this collective effort. How much you participate, how much you take. So in a collective, your effect on the collective would matter, no? And then from there we buy for everybody and to give the freedom for everybody to take. It happens very often that people tell me « But if don't use for myself all that money, what happens, it gets lost? ». So I always say « Nothing is lost in our collective is being redistributed and that's the beauty of it. » But we have to be ready to let go. It is not always easy.

**07'47'' COMMENTARY**

**Aurovilians have not yet entirely rid themselves of money but they are attempting to find other forms of economy. Experimentation with a basic income is one of these forms. They have free access to food, culture, healthcare, water, electricity, and education. But in Auroville, above and beyond economic life, it is living together that is the most important.**

**08'20'' COMMENTARY**

**Working on oneself is primordial to being able to join the collective.**

**08'38'' COMMENTARY**

**Ribhu was born in Auroville 35 years ago, of an Indian father and a Dutch mother.**

**As every afternoon, he goes to be pick up his youngest daughter, Amiya, age 2, at nursery school.**

08'57'' Conversation between Ribhu (R) and his daughter Amiya (A)

R : It's your bag ?

R : So you've made stickers today ?

A : Yeah, the teacher helped me.

A : Ah, the teacher helped you !

09'08'' Ribhu

So yeah! Taking kids on a bike like this is not safe but we drive slow, especially with the kids.

### **09'24'' COMMENTARY**

**Moksha, Ribhu's eldest daughter, is 5 years old.**

**Like many Aurovilians, Ribhu completed his studies abroad. He met his wife Natasha in Holland. After a brief professional period, he convinced her to come and build their life together here.**

09'46'' Natascha

When he told me about Auroville, he told me « Listen, I think I really love you but I want to go back to this city, I want to go back to Auroville ». So for me it was more like... this guy. He was 18 when I met him. And the fact that he wanted to go back where he came from was intriguing for me. I was just intrigued by the fact that he was so young and so conscious of what he wanted in life. I didn't have experience with people of that age. But obviously coming with Ribhu, I feel very blessed that he took me here. And I feel privileged to be here. It's not always easy to be here but I guess that's everywhere in the world, no? We were working, we were having a good life, friends, family, we were making good money and everything but there was something not...it wasn't the life that we knew we were gonna lead for 40, 50 years. Here we are all connected with each other so if there are things in your being that have to be dealt with, it's not something you can run away from. In another places you might be able to be more anonymous. You know... You can easily, like ok, step away from that and then go on but here if you don't deal with it today, it will come back in a later time.

10'00'' Natascha- Aurovilian since 2009

11'25'' Natascha

The first time when I came to Auroville, for me there was a really big realization and that was I really want that my kids to grow up here.

11'46'' Ribhu

So in Auroville we don't own any possession. That's the goal. So this house doesn't belong to me. Actually this house was renovated by a friend of mine and I'm hosting it for her. So she gave me the key, she said there's no rent. I can stay in the house. I maintained it so I painted, I fixed things and when she comes back, I would give her the key. She is the steward of this house but even she isn't the owner, the owner is Auroville and Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. So you're as much as an honor as I am of this house. And I think that's quite liberating because when you're not stuck to personal possessions, to building up a house, to owning something that feeds your ego, that makes you feel good and successful in life. That's not a requirement, we need shelter, I need shelter for my family. And so once I have that shelter, let's taking care of. The rest of my energy, my focus, my concentration can go to what I love to do. The land belongs to the Auroville foundation which is a unique registration with Parliament. And all these assets; the houses, the land, the vehicles, everything belongs to humanity as a whole.

11'46'' Ribhu - Born in Auroville

13'04'' Conversation between the Director (D) and Natascha (N)

D : - So Natasha, what is the most difficult to deal with in Auroville ?

N : - Myself. Yeah, myself. Absolutely. There are a lot o tools that can help you to grow and to improve so it is myself waste work on that difficulty or challenge because at the end of the day nothing is difficult. Everything is possible.



13'44'' Amiya

Lady and gentleman, let's the show begin!

13'50'' Ribhu

Yes, the show! The show!

13'56'' Ribhu

So this is Mira Alfassa, the Mother who add this dream, the vision for Auroville. And you know a lot of people thought that within 10 or 20 years we'd be 50 000, we'd be complete, this we'd be realized and I think it's a lot harder work and that's why we are only 2500 people because it's tough work to overcome your ego, to work on developing yourself and to try to find real human unity. It's hard work. And so it's not like another city where we build an apartment block and someone cuts the ribbon, then everyone moves in, and we suddenly have the population. I keep the picture because it reminds me, in these difficult moments, to take perspective, to take a step back.

#### **14'42'' COMMENTARY**

**Auroville began in February 1968—at the time Mirra Alfassa was 90 years old. With the backing of UNESCO and the Indian government, this French woman residing in India called on volunteers to participate in the construction of a new township— with the ambition to create a place of unity for all of humanity.**

**This town was meant to be a laboratory where everything would be possible, a bridge between the past and the future, a site for spiritual research, and also new technologies.**

#### **15' 15'' COMMENTARY**

**This solar bowl is 15 meters in diameter, presently the largest of its kind in the world. It has been functioning for 20 years. It produces steam which is then used for cooking. Gilles is responsible for its conception. A graduate of the École polytechnique of Zurich, this**

**engineer credits Mirra Alfassa's technological challenge for attracting him to Auroville at the end of the 1970s.**

**15'44'' Gilles**

**Today they do the cooking for 1076 people. Just as in southern India the rhythm is to cook with steam, all vegetables can be steam-cooked. Steam cooking is a good idea. So why not produce as much steam as one needs with the sun. And the idea of the kitchen was to make life simpler for Aurovilians: to make it so that those who do not wish to shop, cook, wash dishes, etc. can simply come to eat. This frees them from things that take up a lot of time in daily life so that they can spend more time on higher concerns.**

**15'59'' - Gilles - Aurovilian since 1981**

**16'38'' COMMENTARY**

**At its origin, Auroville was conceived around a physical and spiritual center, the Matrimandir, symbol of individual and collective transformation. It is considered to be the soul of the city.**

**16'55'' Gilles**

**How can we live together? How can we work together, be united? We can do it if we share the thing that is most important for all of us. And the thing that must unite us is our aspiration toward a higher consciousness. Which is to say that as long as we have our noses to the ground, we will never make it. We have to appeal to a higher awareness. And that is what the Matrimandir represents to us and because it represents our aspiration toward a higher consciousness it is thus the cement of Auroville, the main force, its cohesive force. But I must say personally that all houses of gods that are at the center of all the**

villages in the world— —whether they be a pagoda, a church, a temple, a mosque, or whatever— —also fulfill the same role, a unifying role that brings people together. The only difference here is that it is not devoted to any single god.

#### **17'44'' COMMENTARY**

Like Gilles, many Aurovilians participated in this building site. It took nearly forty years to bring this impressive edifice of 30 meters in diameter out of the ground.

#### **17'57'' Janaka**

We took forty years to build the Matrimandir because we did not make it with millions of dollars but with the consciousness of living beings. So as long as these beings were not ready for any eventuality— —an architectural concept, a choice of material, whatever— —if the community as a whole was not in agreement over this or that decision, well then, nothing was done. And when things were done, that meant that beings came to an agreement amongst themselves to get things done. That means that we matured and then we moved on to a higher level.

17'58'' Janaka - Aurovilian since 1969

#### **18'34'' COMMENTARY**

Everyone can come here to concentrate on himself, because the main objective of this utopian city is to allow man to evolve.

#### **18'44'' Gilles**

We are not at all the last word on evolution. Not at all, by a long shot. I like to quote the Austrian naturalist Konrad Lorenz, who said: "I found the missing link between the monkey and man— —it's us." We can accelerate this process by working on our inner self. By trying to raise our individual consciousness. In India that is called a yoga, what is called

yoga is the union with one's inner being. That's what it means. So Auroville is a place where we try to do that. We try to change ourselves and our society. Which is to say that it is an individual and a collective yoga. The collective yoga is to change the society we are in. And society first changes through education. Education is a fundamental pillar everywhere in the world. It is the future.

#### **19'36'' COMMENTARY**

**In Auroville, ten schools welcome children until the end of their studies. Most of them are based on conventional methods that allow them to obtain a certified diploma so that they can pursue higher education abroad. Other schools are more experimental, like "Last School", a free-progress school. Here, the pedagogical approach is based on personal creativity and development.**

#### **19' 58'' COMMENTARY**

**The day begins with a minute of collective concentration. Deepti is the school's principal.**

20'18'' Deepti

What is so interesting in Auroville is that before almost the first thing that Mother started was the school. And the first building was called *Last School*. Now, in the place like this, what should education be? It's very easy to say what it shouldn't be.

20'20'' - Deepti - Aurovilian since 1980

20'42'' Deepti

The last few 100 years which has been an age of individualism has ended up creating a human personality which is selfish, self-centered, egoistic. It's what is destroying the world, this kind of personality because it's been a very aggressive pursuit of success, pursuit of career, pursuit

of money but these are not educational aims. Even the word itself « educate » means « to bring out from within ». And that is the most powerful tool in education.

21'32'' Deepti

When you look at the industrial age school system which is outdated already, the very things they take out immediately because what is important is the logical subjects, the subjects that can be structured easily, all the subjects that are subjective, that are normative, that are formative of personality are the first to be removed. That is everything that is creative, music, art, painting, literature, poetry, theatre but these are the very subjects that form the human personality. They should at all cost not be taken out.

22'27'' Osher

For me, my goal is used to be selfless, just to progress. And it doesn't really matter like if this year I progress this much and my friends progress this much. Then maybe next year I'll progress this much. It's just an unending progress in a way.

22'29'' - Osher - 16, student

22'47'' Eden

It adapts to every person in a different way like... It's not just like blocks it's more like waves and you can take the path that you want to go.

22'49'' - Eden - 16, student

**22'57'' COMMENTARY**

**Jean-Yves is French. He co-directs the school and teaches French, History, and Sanskrit.**

**23'10'' Jean-Yves**

**We try to individualize the course study for each student and to give him space to find himself— —so we have no a priori take on subjects and fields he may wish to explore. When he starts doing that, when he finds what he wants, he puts his all into it. There is no longer any need to concern oneself over whether he is learning or not, that happens as a matter of course. We call that free progress because we give the freedom to progress. We are rather demanding— —we ask students to give the best of themselves whatever that best may be, it will be theirs, but they cannot give up on their best.**

**23'13'' - Jean-Yves - Aurovilian since 1997**

23'58'' Deepti

They don't need teachers anymore for information. The internet revolution has made show that any kind of knowledge, any kind of information, if you truly seek it, it's there on the World Wide Web. So what do you need teachers for? You need a teacher to give you a psychological sense and meaning for the direction of life.

24'30'' Deepti

What is it called? Yes! It's called deductive reasoning. Deductive.

24'41'' Deepti

Each one, each being on earth has something extraordinarily wonderful about him. You are not less, you are not small, you are not underdeveloped. You just may miss a certain amount of information which can be given to you but you are a wholeness. So when you are treated as being a wholeness from the beginning not something empty to be filled up, I think that forms you in a different way. My sense is that if you become a light then you will automatically light up others who touch you.

25'27'' Jean-Yves

The task of the educator is not to render the child employable in the labor market. All the more so because we do not know. In the next ten, fifteen years there are jobs that are going to disappear and new ones that will be created— —we don't know what these are. So we don't know what to prepare them for— —which is why we have to prepare them to be themselves, fully, so that they can adapt, adjust, and reinvent themselves whatever the situation. We know that we must measure ourselves in relation to considerable difficulties on a large scale and that we must be very creative— —and so we need people who are able to face this growing uncertainty with their inner certitudes, their inner force, their inner faith, and all the skills they have been able to develop along the way.

26'16'' COMMENTARY

The Indian Thinker Sri Aurobindo, Mirra Alfassa's spiritual companion, is the inspirer of the Auroville philosophy. He forged the concept Integral Yoga, a work on the self without becoming isolated from the world.

26'33'' Gilles

Classically, from a traditional point of view, there have been two denials. There is the Western denial that is a denial of the spirit, or rather the spiritual, and there is the Eastern denial that traditionally has been a denial of the material. For Sri Aurobindo, both the spiritual and material are real. We live on earth because there are things to do on earth, without which there would be no need, and so it our aspiration to place consciousness in matter and create harmony. Meaning, to find a divine life here on earth.

26'35'' - Gilles - Aurovilian since 1981

## **27'02'' COMMENTARY**

**In Auroville, the work on oneself also takes place through a professional activity: a minimum of 6 hours per day, 6 days a week, is required to benefit from the basic income.**

**Nearly all professions exist here: from baker to the most specialized engineer.**

**Ribhu and his sister Chandrah created Wasteless. Together they develop games to increase children's awareness about waste management.**

27'34'' Ribhu

The goal in Auroville is not to work to earn money. We're very free in Auroville to chose what type of work we want to do. And the goal is to find work that helps to improve yourself. And by improving yourself, you improve society. And this is really important to find what you need characteristics and we all have them that add value to society. But in Auroville because our basic needs are meant and we live in this utopia I can jump into this world, I can go full-heartedly and try and experiment. And this is something that I get energy from and I'm continuously learning, education never stops.

27'35'' Ribhu - Born in Auroville

## **28'08'' COMMENTARY**

**Wasteless is currently in talks with the Indian government to have their games distributed in all of the nation's schools. This would involve 600 million children.**

28'18'' Ribhu

This is more like the plastic industry standards are, we want to avoid this type of plastic touching food, so we to go to plastic free packaging, we will choice stain steel or wood more.

## **28'30'' COMMENTARY**

**In Auroville, Ribhu has the luck to be able to test his games directly in the schools.**



28'35'' Ribhu (R) and a teaching group from Deepanam School (G)

G : - What is packaging ?

R : - You guys have any answer

### **28' 42'' COMMENTARY**

**Today they are organizing a workshop with children from the Deepanam School. Their purpose is to investigate ways to reduce packaging that pollutes the environment.**

### **28' 57'' COMMENTARY**

**After theory, practice! The class makes a trip to the store «Pour Tous» (For All).**

### **29'10'' Ribhu (R) and students (S)**

R : - You guys, can you tell me the name of the battery ?

S : - AA

R : - AA. Ok. Very important. And that's the size. Double A. Tell me where is that made?

S : - Made in China !

R : - Made in China.

29'24'' Ribhu

So the children are studying about packaging and the idea is that they become conscious of the product that they need and use everyday and that they start to think about how these packages are made.

29'42'' Ribhu

Chocolate chips.

Wow! Look! Chocolate chips. She's buying it! So you want to ask her questions? Ask her where it is made.

29'52'' Ribhu

This is where the waste is generated. This is where the products that we need are purchased or got. And so when they're conscious of where they come from, they can reduce waste, they can close the top on waste before it's even created.

### **30'07'' COMMENTARY**

**What planet will we leave to our children? Ribhu is dedicated to training tomorrow's children. Ecology and the protection of the environment play a fundamental role in the activities of Auroville, in particular in the international research center.**

### **30'28'' COMMENTARY**

**Tency is Belgian and has lived here for 47 years. Though he is a graduate of sociology, he devoted himself to researching renewable energy sources and the treatment of waste water.**

30'44'' Tency

CSR which stands for Center for Scientific Research from the beginning concentrated in trying to integrate for the community the aspect of sustainable devices: energy, water, building technologies. We find also that there is a lot of interests from the outside to share that product. It brought us the possibility of earning money which in turn helps us to develop part of Auroville.

30'47'' - Tency - Aurovilian since 1972

### **31'20'' COMMENTARY**

**Notably, the CSR has invented sewage treatment systems such as the Vortex which is suitable for an individual house or small buildings. This system is sold throughout the world.**

### **31'42'' COMMENTARY**

**From the beginning of Auroville, the human body has been the object of much attention. The wellbeing of the body is an integral part of spiritual evolution. Healthcare is provided for Aurovilians free of charge.**

### **32'00'' COMMENTARY**

**One of the most appreciated is the Watsu, a fusion of water and shiatsu.**

### **32'11'' COMMENTARY**

**Guido, Belgian, manages one of the four Auroville healthcare centers, all of which make use of a variety of healthcare techniques.**

32'27'' Guido

Watsu is a therapy that works on all levels of the being: physical, emotional, mental, spiritual. It's a holistic comprehensive modality which fits very well into the concept and the vision of Auroville itself. Even if people don't expect it, it often gives them an experience of something deep in themselves.

32'28'' - Guido - Aurovillian since 1997

33'21'' Guido

The temperature is around 24, 25 degrees so the temperature also allows you to relax but also to have that warm feeling which we almost have experienced when we arrived in the world. So quite a number of deep experiences happening during Watsu sessions.

34'00'' Guido

There are people who say « I have never felt actually so peaceful ». And some people told me even that « ok, for years I have been meditating or trying to meditate and it's difficult actually

for my mind to quiet and to become silent, here it was so easy. It happens naturally. » Other people say « I felt so close to myself, I felt so close to my inner being » So there are a number of reactions from people who show that it really works.

### **34'48'' Laure**

**A lot of tenderness. It is very, very pleasant. Very pleasant. And a lot of rest and relaxation. It is rather deep. One really has the feeling of having been on a journey. It's interesting.**

### **35'08'' COMMENTARY**

**Raising one's consciousness has nearly become an injunction in Auroville. It is here that a method recognized the world over was conceived— —Awareness Through the Body, or ATB. Aloka, who helped conceive the method, has lived here for 30 years. Spanish in origin, she has had 2 sons with her husband Kratu. One is a pianist and the other builds houses. Today is Sunday, the occasion for a family meal.**

### **35'39'' Aloka**

**Cooking. Today I'm cooking for the family. I don't cook on other days because cooking leaves me no time to do anything else.**

**35'41'' - Aloka - Aurovilian since 1991**

### **35'49'' COMMENTARY**

**She fled Franco's Spain in 1972 to settle in Pondicherry before discovering Auroville.**

### **35'58'' Aloka**

**I had just turned 20. What I really wanted was to find the means, I don't know, to live differently, more harmoniously, free, aware. You know, it's like flowers: each find its**

**place to grow. And me here, I grow well. It is both an individual and a collective endeavor, at the same time. And that is what is so interesting, I think. Because if one comes here and wants to make a unified humanity without working on oneself, it will never work. We must first try to find unity in the different parts of oneself. Then, afterwards, bring that work on the inner self to the collective work that we do.**

### **37'16'' COMMENTARY**

**At the end of 1990s, Aloka created ATB with Joan, also a Spanish. In the beginning they worked with schools in Auroville on a method that would help children improve their self-confidence and increase their learning abilities. Joan was a physical therapist at the time. Aloka was already working with children as a dance instructor.**

37'42'' Joan

Talking about sensation, or feeling or sensitivity, the first thing is going back to the basics. One has to build it from the inside out. It's each one individual experience of how we sense, how we perceive, how we feel things. For example, what is attention? It's a basic thing. How can people come to feel attention and if I am out of thinking, I have to pay attention? It's not a thought, it's something you do from the inside.

37'44'' - Joan - Aurovilian since 1991

38'20'' Joan

Feel the passage of weight and feel the soft breathes going on somewhere inside your body. Some of you may feel it in your belly, in your stomach, in your chest, whatever works for you.

39'06'' Aloka

If I was asking you to describe these impressions, these perceptions and sensations that you get of yourself as a weather report, how would be this weather report?

39'23'' Aloka

When you go in and start listening and when I say « listen » I mean we listen through our fingers, with our whole being, through our fingers and then this brings us into another space. We communicate.

39'58'' Aloka

Close the eyes, check quickly weather. How is the weather? Did something change? And where it changed?

40'10'' Joan

When you start appreciating things and when you start sensing and when you start feeling and when you start being from different levels and you relax of the outer being then you start getting into different spaces when you get in touch with people when you see people in a different way you don't see people through your thoughts or your nervous reaction so...

40'32'' Aloka

It's another level of consciousness and at this level of consciousness, unity is easier.

#### **40'45'' COMMENTARY**

**Fifty years after the founding of Auroville, the experiment still attracts people of all ages from all over the world. Every year, there are around 200 people who settle here as “new arrivals.” But only half of them will become Aurovilians. A two-year trial period allows them to find out whether Auroville suits them and whether they are right for Auroville.**

41'13'' Jessie

My name is Jessie and I'm from the residence « a simply service » which is a service of the resident assembly. And today we're here for a general meeting, that's what G and M stand for, on entry to present to the community, to everyone here, the latest version of a revised entry

policy. The policy that governs or informs or guides the way that we welcome new people into the community.

#### **41'43'' COMMENTARY**

**Since its creation, Auroville has changed and its entry conditions must be regularly re-considered. Today it is Mandakini, who arrived 5 years ago from the north of India, who leads the discussion.**

41'57'' Mandakini

I don't know how much better it can get if better meant to satisfy everybody here. This is the best it can get, it won't be able to satisfy the pragmatic person, the one based on values, the one based on the vision. It is so far an outcome and an expression of our collective state.

42'27'' Mandakini

It's easy to come to Auroville. You can take a train, a cab, fly from another country, come from Pondicherry. It's easy to come to Auroville but whether to stay here and stay here permanently and stay here permanently and contribute toward manifesting the dream that it's very difficult.

42'30'' - Mandakini - Aurovilian since 2012

42'42'' Mandakini

The decision making process in Auroville is toward a consensus based decision making process so everybody who's part of Auroville decides. There is not just on person, there's not one group. It's not a top-down system, it's more like a flat pyramid. So, in Auroville we ask to be able to decide by consensus or gentle meeting like this it's an example to show how the residents get together toward making an approval.

43'12'' Jessie

Please tell us: How you think it could be improved or modified to address your concern?

43'19'' Woman with green t-shirt

The question that I really have, is: isn't that a bit of cop out?

43'27'' Mandakini

Well, there is a dream and it is the goal toward which we have to go but on the way it's not accomplished yet. So it is a utopia in the making. It's not there yet. It's a fight between the values and what the mind tells you to do is the best way to welcome people. The more the collective consciousness rises, the less the rules and regulations will fall.

43'54'' Jessie

Any questions, comments?

**43' 58'' Janaka - Aurovilian since 1969**

**43'58'' Janaka**

**The difficulties of Auroville . . . for example, they say it has been 48 years that Auroville exists and there are still only 2600 people . . . but I often say that is a measure of our success, it means that we have worked seriously, because otherwise Auroville should be finished, but we did not build Auroville with money, we built Auroville with a conscience, and an individual awareness that, added one to another, became a collective consciousness.**



#### **44'25'' COMMENTARY**

**Just as detaching oneself from money, detaching oneself from traditional notions of governance and justice demand daily efforts. Despite an aspiration toward human unity and mutual respect, conflicts do exist in Auroville.**

**L'aura (Laura) studied non-violent communication. To deal with situations of crisis, she decided to apply what she has learned.**

#### **44'55'' L'aura**

**I was born and then I left for school in Canada. My mother is Canadian. And when I came back— —it has been 15 years now, something like that— —not right away, but after a while my mother wanted me to have the house. So I have this big, pretty house.**

#### **44'57'' L'aura - Born in Auroville**

#### **45'18'' COMMENTARY**

**The method she chose to experiment with in Auroville was developed in the favelas of Brazil. It is a process known as a Restorative Circle.**

#### **45'28'' L'aura**

**Apparently— —of course I don't remember— —it seems that I was born here, and its kind of funny, because when I sit down for group work and all that, I usually sit here.**

#### **45'43'' COMMENTARY**

**This evening, L'aura is hosting a workshop at her home to train other Aurovilians in the process.**

45'50'' - L'aura

So many people say « well, we don't need a justice system in Auroville » you know because they think « ok justice system comes from the old world and we have left that » and I'm like « oh I'm sorry but we have a justice problem ». Because even when, when there really is a problem you know with money or with responsibilities in your job or with property or with whatever and we have some big problems you know and then there are groups that investigate and give us their recommendations, how people should change their behavior. Often time they are not followed and we have no recourse, we have no way of enforcing...recommendations not that I want enforcement but it just to me shows ok we don't have a justice system.

**46'34''**

#### **COMMENTARY**

**In two years, restorative circles have been successfully used some 17 times.**

46'42'' - L'aura

The principles of restoring circles are actually based really on the principle of non-violence communication. That is really about coming back to our essence and deep down we're good human beings and deep down we want to be connected and we want to belong. And when that connection is broken that's why we do things that create harm and so how we do restore that connection.

#### **47'07'' COMMENTARY**

**To resolve a conflictual situation any Aurovilian can solicit L'aura and form a restorative circle with the concerned parties. It is a voluntary process, without a limit on the number of participants.**

47'24'' - Femme wearing flowered shirt

I know she needs help and I don't know what to do. Other than to referring to the RC, and through here we can help.

47'32'' - L'aura

The process has 3 stages and I would say that probably the essence is this deep listening, and being able to hear meaning and what each other says. So it's really that every person gets to be heard fully and the dialogue goes crisscross and what happens when we get to be heard enough, something start to shift and then the dialogue deepens into a deeper space so we're no longer on this, you know, kind of superficial just mutual understanding of trying to understand each other, it goes into a place of self responsibility.

48'10'' - Woman wearing striped tee-shirt

And it has created a lot of frustrations in this community because people don't feel heard, they feel there is a big distance between the decisions taken from the working groups and the individuals.

48'24'' - L'aura

But that you have unexperienced any forward movement from there and it's kind of just like you're supposed to give in and why haven't you give in yet?

48'34'' - L'aura

And then automatically the circle ends up in the action plan and that again it's not because the facilitator says « ok now we are going to action plan », it's a natural emergence as the conversation deepens and people start to feel touched, that creativity in collaboration start to immerge. So it's really about restoring communication, restoring community, restoring trust, restoring connection, it's not about resolving the problem because in this process we see that is so much more complex. Even though on the surface it's a space to receive conflicts, you know to sort

out conflicts, it's actually also much, much deeper process and although Auroville is extremely alternative in many ways and we do already, we do conflict resolution in a quite alternative way it's touching and yet for me we're not at all where we could be.

#### **49'28'' COMMENTARY**

**Far from being achieved once and for all, the utopia as it is conceived in Auroville is built day by day through the individual and collective work of all. According to Mirra Alfassa, the most important thing is not to attain the goal but to be on the path of attainment. In Auroville, while paths are multiple, they all head in a common direction.**

#### **50'00'' COMMENTARY**

**Today Moksha, the eldest daughter of Ribhu and Natascha, is celebrating her birthday. She's 6. Her grandfather Angad is there. Three generations of Aurovilians are reunited.**

50'18'' - Ribhu talking to the children

You guys want cupcakes or part cakes?

50'25'' - Ribhu

The world needs a change. It's clear. And people, all around the world, are making changes. And I think a big difference about Auroville is that we are together, collectively, trying to consciously bring about these changes. And humans are humans, we aren't perfect and there's no difference in Auroville but I think one of the things that's different is that we together we wake up every morning and collectively we conscientiously try to work and overcome these imperfections.

50'41'' Ribhu – Born in Auroville

**50'58'' Final Credits**

**52'12'' Girl 1**

**You write what you want. There were three texts, you choose the one you want. You put it on someone's doorstep, you knock, and then you run away!**

**51' 24'' Girl 2**

**It's a surprise. It turns round and round, and then it comes back to you.**

51'32'' Teacher

Next time you think of beautiful things, don't forget to count yourself in

51'38'' Girl 3

I feel good when I be kind to someone

51'41'' Boy 1

If you give kindness to one person, you get kindness back

51'46'' Boy 2

Happy thoughts flying your way to say have a great day