If there is one quality, one virtue, one characteristic trait that lies at the root of the selfless contributions that we at A4A have been receiving from friends of Auroville over the last 7 years, it is nobility. Without nobility, other things - such as collaboration, devotion and goodwill to the cause of Auroville - would not exist. In this and future issues of our quarterly letter, we will be presenting some examples of this nobility of human character and generosity for building the City of Dawn. Here’s the first donor aspiration that we are very pleased to share:

Bertrand Turatsinze

Bertrand is a Belgian national. Nobody ever told him about Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, nor about Auroville. He had not read any of the existing books or literature on Auroville. However, he did come across certain videos about Auroville on the internet and was deeply touched and felt his deeper connection with the place. As a result, he started donating frequently to A4A (over 30 times to date). One day we asked him: “Bertrand, what if Auroville fails to live up to the image and expectation you have in your mind seen from a distance? What if Auroville disappoints you in the future? Will you not regret having donated so much of your hard-earned money?” Bertrand replied: “It is not my expectations that must be lived up to. I am just happy that a symbol like Auroville exists and that I can somehow support it. No more, no less. No expectations, no judgements, no disappointments, no regrets. Simply.”

Please note that Bertrand has written word *symbol* in italics meaning that he sees Auroville as a representative of a universal movement since time immemorial for a better world - what Winston Churchill called “broad sunlit uplands” of human civilization, or what Dr, Karan Singh called “an arrow shot into the future.” Also, by calling Auroville a *symbol*, Bertrand is stressing the immeasurable importance of keeping Auroville up and bringing the Auroville reality closer to the vision.

As yet another of our donors once wrote to us: “*When we give, the world lights up, like the Sun, so that we can see one another.*” Indeed, the steadfast and selfless collaboration of friends like Bertrand Turatsinze – and so many others - makes us see the nobility of the human soul. Auroville is fortunate to have such friends - they ensure a bright future not only for Auroville but for the human race itself!

With trust in Auroville’s bright future,

Aryadeep  
Mandakini