

Dr. Shuddhananda  
Bharati

Poet  
Nightingale

Subramaniya  
Bharathiyar

Life story of Bharathiyar



ASSA  
Editions

## Editor's Notes

Subramaniya Bharathiyar was born on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1882 in Ettayapuram, which is now part of Thoothukudi District. He died on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1921.

Bharathiar was educated at a local high school where his talents as a poet were recognized even at the age of 11. He had a voracious appetite for learning ancient and contemporary Tamil literature and had a gifted intellect to derive astonishing truths from ancient poems.

He was also one of the prominent leaders of the Indian independence movement. His national integration songs earned him the title "Desiya Kavi" (National Poet).

His patriotic songs emphasize nationalism, unity of India, equality of men and the greatness of the Tamil language.

It is a real and great pleasure for me to present this nice treatise on *Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar* to you. Thank you, Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having

transmitted *Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar* to us. The first edition of this book is dated 1955 in Tamil.

Christian Piaget



Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar



## Song of Unity

*Unite. Unite, Unite, Oh Souls  
Unite and play your roles  
Unite in mind, unite in heart  
Unite in whole, unite in part  
Like words and tunes and sense in song  
Let East and West unite and live long  
Trees are many; the grove is one  
Branches are many; tree is one  
Shores are many; sea is one  
Limbs are many; body is one  
Bodies are many; self is one  
Stars are many; sky is one  
Flowers are many; honey is one  
Pages are many; book is one  
Thoughts are many; thinker is one  
Tastes are many; taster is one  
Actors are many; the drama is one  
Nations are many; the world is one  
Religions are many; Truth is one  
The wise are many; Wisdom is one  
Beings are many; breath is one  
Classes are many; college is one  
Find out this One behind the many  
Then life shall enjoy peaceful harmony*

## Peace Anthem

*Peace for all, peace for all  
For all the countries peace  
Joy for all, joy for all  
For all the nations joy  
A rosy morning peace  
A smiling summer joy (Peace for all)*

*All for each and each for all  
This is the golden rule  
Life and Light and Love for all  
For all that live our love (Peace for all)*

*Work and food and clothes for all  
Equal status for all  
Health and home and school for all  
A happy world for all (Peace for all)*

*Peace for plants and birds and beasts  
For hills and streams and woods  
Peace in Home - land and air and sea  
Dynamic peace we see*

*Peace for all, peace for all*

*Immortal Peace for All*

# Presentation of Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

11<sup>th</sup> May 1897 – 7<sup>th</sup> March 1990

The wise one to the cosmic age

Although more than 90 years old, in his school in the south of India, Kavi Yogi Maharishi (great divine visionary, wise poet), Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati worked like a young man of twenty. When he was asked his age, he answered: "My age is Courage!"

The Yogi wrote several hundred works in English, French, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Sanskrit; five thousand songs, and fifteen hundred poems in French. The magnum opus of the man conscious of the presence of God in him, *Bharata Shakti*, (in 50,000 verses) described his ideal: only One Humanity living in communion with only One God in a transformed world! *Bharata Shakti* is a monumental and unique work. The Yogi depicts the essence of all the religions, of all the prophets and saints, all the approaches of Yoga and all the cultures on

an allegorical fabric. It is a book for any age which all spiritual researchers and all nations should read and meditate on.

His commitment is summarized in his book celebrating his life, *Pilgrim Soul*.

The two poems mentioned in the opening express perfectly his ideal.

His mantra, *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*, nourishes our souls and guides our steps toward the inner joy Ananda. It means: the light of Grace and power of the pure supreme Almighty bless us with peace, happiness and prosperity!

Let the beauty and greatness of soul of Dr. Bharati Shuddhananda bloom and scent the entire Earth with its divine message and spiritual and unifying benefactor!

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# Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar

## I. Verses on Bharathiyar

### A. Bharathi Panchakam

(Five verses on Bharathiyar)

1. Hail her victory, blow the conchs  
white,  
Sing the glory of the Motherland,  
in the songs of Bharathi, and  
Dance with the banners of the Mother  
all around.
2. To the defunct life of the erstwhile  
flourishing Tamils,  
Regenerating charge of lightning has  
he been,  
Emerged he to give us a rejuvenated  
life,  
That we may pray for the welfare of all  
alike!
3. Driving away fear, breaking the bonds  
of servitude,



Rooting out ignoble thoughts raised  
the nation,  
That it may reach lofty heights in the  
world,  
The immortal poet who conquered  
Time!

4. "All are one caste" proclaimed he,  
Defiling discriminations driving away,  
Arrived the immortal poet – the cas-  
cade of words,  
And a flame burst of fiery heroism!
5. We'll praise Bharathi in his own pow-  
erful words,  
And dance – men and women all  
together,  
We'll establish his unfettered divine  
art,  
And spread his glory in all the eight  
directions.



## B. Appearance of Bharathi

- a. Slim, golden-creeper-like body had he.  
Spirited, blazing bright eyes had he.  
Stirred by emotional words jumped  
he.  
Jumping and dancing singer was he.
- b. "Fright has no place!" said he.  
Sharp, sword-like moustache had he.  
Contemptible, bonded life despised  
he.  
"Ignoble, Ignoble" – feelingly cried he!
- c. "Castes there are none", voiced he.  
Drums of equality boldly beat he.  
In the streets singing, strolled about  
he.  
In a lordly gait strutted about he.
- d. The Tamil of the scholars – in the land,  
Brought into the reach of laymen he.  
For all women to walk erect in confi-  
dence,  
Boldly enunciated laws of equality he.
- e. Man of valour, exponent of knowl-  
edge,  
Harbinger of novelty, gifted poet,

Personification of heroic patriotism is he.

Thus shall we extol his glory.

- f. To the lack-lustre Tamil -  
Rendered the vigour of renaissance he.  
May the fine Tamil he fostered, live long!  
And may the fame of Bharathi soar into the skies!



# Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar

## II. Life Story

### 1. Poet Nightingale

We celebrated 'Bharathi Day' for the first time in 1924 in Tamil Gurukulam. We went round the town doing bhajan (chanting hymns) early in the morning. There was a public meeting at 6 o'clock in the evening. Iyer presided. I spoke on the theme 'Renaissance Poet Bharathiyar' for two hours. The speech was punctuated by the melodious rendering of Bharathiyar's songs. The elaboration of that speech appeared as 'Bharathi, an Elucidation'. There was once again bhajan in the night. We sang in great ecstasy Bharathiyar's compositions along with accompaniments.

Soon after the singing was over, Iyer gave a short speech on Bharathi, the 'Gifted Poet' of Tamil Nadu. Then I continued to

speaking saying, "There have been many great poets in the world and many have already been given titles such as 'Great Poet', 'Gifted Poet'. We should award Bharathiyar the most suitable title." All the people assembled there were well-versed in the compositions of Bharathiyar. Iyer sought the opinion of the gathering. My friends came out with a number of titles like 'Nationalistic Poet', 'Great Poet', 'Poet Patriot', 'Extempore Poet', 'Modern Poet', 'Regent of Renaissance', 'Lord of the Modern Tamil Poetry' and so on.

Bharathiyar is a Renaissance poet; he has breathed a new life into Tamil; it is because of him the barren land of Tamilagam has turned into a grove in spring. He is himself the nightingale of that grove. In his *Kuyil Pattu* (Songs of the Nightingale), the poet wants himself transformed into a nightingale.

Bharathiyar not only composed songs, but sang them himself. One should have actually heard Bharathi singing his own compositions. When he sang, *Jayabherigai*

*Kottada* (Beat the drums of Victory) we felt the drums of victory thundering in our ears. His singing of *Engal Muthumariyamma* (Our Goddess Mariamma) brought forth our Motherland as Muthumariyamma to our view. And when he sang *Chuttri Nillade Po, Pagaye! Thulli varugudu vel* – (Don't surround us, you Enemy! Go away, the spear of the Lord comes darting towards you!) in his powerful voice and sprang forward, it seemed that the 'vel' (the spear) itself was darting towards one.

His devotional rendering of 'Muruga, Muruga!' created the vision of Muruga Himself coming on His peacock mount and dancing before us. Bharathiyar's stirring song *Bharatha Samudayam* (The Society of Bharath) roused the national spirit among one and all.

"Thus Bharathiyar was not just a great poet, but a nightingale singing melodiously with a great depth of feeling. Hence 'Poet Nightingale' is a befitting title for him," said I.

Then Iyer also said, “Bharathi often regarded himself to be a nightingale. In Pondicherry, he enjoyed greatly roaming around in the groves where the nightingales were always singing.

## Poet Nightingale Bharathiyar

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