

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Stories
of great Persons



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

When stories of great persons are narrated by a great person, can we ask for more? Yogi Sri Shuddhananda Bharati is a great Tamil scholar - a sage who follows the pure spiritual path; a Kavi Yogi; an impartial enlightened man; he knows no distinctions of caste and religion. Wherever divine grace, greatness of love, sacrifice, courage, knowledge and ability are found, his heart will also be found there. The lives of great persons in this world are enshrined in the heart of this great person.

By narrating their life stories and great sayings in a fervent style, he has rendered an invaluable service to the Tamil language and to the world.

This book contains profound and clear information written in a fluid and easy style. Each great person's life concludes with an apt verse that is of immense benefit to our lives.

Christian Piaget

Courage!

*The night is through,
The chain of slavery
It is already broken –
I am full of courage!*

*Peace in the morning,
A golden sun rises
Like a lion superhuman
To accomplish my dream.*

*A hopeful smile,
Docile as a child
Who plays in the infinite
With a fiery star.*

*My journey is over;
I enjoy time;
The universe is my nest;
Of eternal spring.*

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)*

*No idle rich, no more beggars
All are equal workers
No more tears, no more fears
The heart is full of cheers (Peace for all)*

*No atom scare, no fat mammon
No room for war demon
Like leaves in trees, like rays in the sun
We are one communion,
One Divine communion (Peace for all)*

*The good in you is good for all
Your life is life for all
The God in you is God for all
Your love is love for all (Peace for all)*

*For he or she or it or the rest
This collective life is best
This Universal Life is best
North or South, or East or West (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
11th May 1897 – 7th 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 gasoline 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.

This work was completed and appreciated by Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Romain Rolland, Annie Besant, Bertrand Russell, George Bernard Shaw, Dr. Suzuki and so many others. It installs the author among the great, men such as Dante, Homer, Racine, Shakespeare, Vyasa, and Valmiki.

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati is the greatest Tamil poet, having translated into this language: *Gita*, *Upanishads*, *Veda*, the *Bible*, the *Koran*, *Avesta*, the *Buddha-Dhamma-Sangha* and *Tattvartha Sutra*, the life and teachings of Lao-Tseu and Confucius. From their original languages, he also translated into Tamil *The Divine Comedy* of Dante, the tragedies of Racine, the comedies of Molière, the dramas of Corneille, Shakespeare, Goethe and the novels of Anatole France, Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas and others.

Shuddhananda's works are innumerable. Malcolm Macdonald, who chaired the Congress on the Unity of the Conscience in Singapore, said in his short speech about him: "He is such a remarkable man, having such a diversity of raised gifts, that it is difficult to know where to start and where to finish when one speaks about Kavi Yogi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati.

Few men have achieved as many things in only one human life." His name appears moreover in the Encyclopaedia of the World's Great Men, which says: "Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati is the author of literary works of varied styles: works epic and lyric, melodramas, operas, comedies, pastoral, romance, novels, biographies, commentaries on famous works and texts.

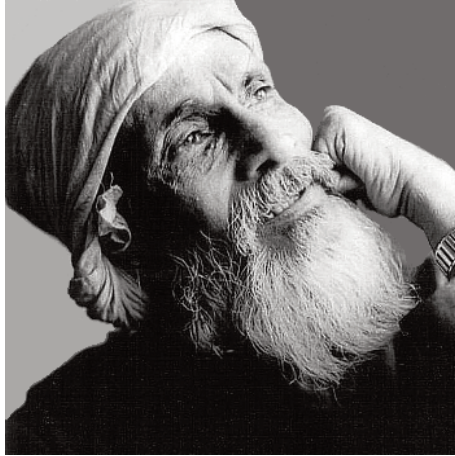
Bharata Shakti is his magnum opus." He had a presentiment that he would receive the Nobel Prize for Peace or for Literature but did not live to see it.

His commitment is summarized in his book celebrating his life, "*Experiences of a Pilgrim Soul (Expérience d'une Âme de Pèlerin)*."

God I loved and lived in him,
Making His commandment
Leave to Man his entire talents
This is my will!

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Editions ASSA, Christian Piaget



Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati

Independence Day

Raga Suruti, Tala Jamba

We have accomplished our work –

We have accomplished our work of public service

Warriors of karma came together in the world

They worshipped the Supreme God and

they accomplished the work

The drum of brave independence is being sounded

It is drowning out the uproar of differences

A nation full of fiery warriors is born

The gathering of divine offspring spells excellence

The sound of art reverberates through the streets

The music of prosperity is heard in every house

There is great harmony amongst all the castes

The caste and religious wars are quietening down

From needles to aeroplanes

Native entrepreneurs are making and selling everything

National education is flourishing

The wealth of the mother tongue is increasing

As unity has taken root in the heart

The stratagems of enemies have lost steam

The country goes from victory to victory

It is celebrating its Independence Day today.

Stories of great Persons

1. The country that protected the marriage badge

Thennankudi was a famous town in the Pudukottai kingdom. It was once ruled by a king called Thennan.

Enemy armies invaded the country and started to plunder it. Thennan picked up his sword and started out to destroy the enemy forces and do good to the people. His wife Mangaladevi shed tears and entreated him, "My lord, I cannot live without you even for a second. Please allow me to accompany you to the cruel battlefield and render service to you." Thennan replied, "Mangalam! You have to take care of the home; I must look after the country. You must remain here. Your compassionate eyes should not light upon the bloody battlefield. O beautiful goddess, you will not be able to bear the experience of cruel barbarous wars. I shall vanquish the enemies and come back. Here, take this flower and keep looking at it. I shall return before it wilts."

The wife placed the lotus flower given by her husband at the feet of Lord Siva and prayed thus, "Father, You must bring him back safely." Two days passed. There was no news of her husband. The flower was starting to wilt. The wife's heart also wilted. At that time, someone with a beard and moustache arrived and speaking in a shrill voice, he said "Mangalam, your husband was my friend and at the time of his death he asked me to take care of all his belongings and wealth." Glaring at him with her eyes full of wrath, she said, "To whom do you dare to speak in

this manner? Get out!" She turned towards the fire pit that was already prepared and saying, "My lord! I shall come with you. I am the body; you are its soul. When you are no more, what use have I for this body? I served you here; I shall serve you there also," she stepped forward to descend into the pit. The man said, "Mangalam, why are you doing this? You must live for a hundred years." The chaste wife replied, "I shall live only with my lord." "Look at me, who am I?" Pulling off his beard, Thennan stood before her. "Dearest! I enacted this drama only to test you." At that moment torrents of rain fell and extinguished the fire. On hearing about this incident, people of the town celebrated the greatness of the chaste wife and created a big tank at the spot where the fire pit had been dug and supplied the water for the town's use. Even today that town is known as the town that safeguarded the marriage badge.

Just as water is indispensable for the lotus and soil for growing crops

*One must cultivate in harmony with nature
The fire of chastity is the heartbeat of women
The love for chastity can accomplish miracles!*

2. Offering to the poet

Enmity developed between Kamban and the Chola king on the subject of son Ambikapathi. The Chola king deported Kamban from his country. "You have but one country, the poet has the whole world at his disposal" said Kamban as he departed and reached the Pandya kingdom

and stayed as the guest of the Sivagangai Zamindar. The Vellalas of Sivagangai welcomed Kamban and rejoiced in his recitations of the Ramayana and Erezhupathu. Considering Kamban to be their community member, they collected an amount from each family and offered the money to Kamban. They also provided Kamban with a palanquin on which he travelled from village to village. En route, devotees collected money and offered him the amount in tribute.

This practice was also continued in the border areas of Pudukottai. Vellalas occupied a prominent position in the two countries of Kanadu and Konadu in that area. After receiving many rewards in the villages of Konadu, Kamban arrived in Kanadu. Enmity prevailed between the two countries at the time. Kamban praised the Konadu people and the honours they bestowed on him to the skies. This created jealousy in the minds of the Kanadu people. They said, "O king of poets, as you consider the Konadu people to be the best, it is better if you stay with them. We have no money to offer you."

When the Konadu people heard this, they sent a message asking, "Do you dare to insult the Tamil poet? To insult the poet is to insult art and to insult art is to degrade the country itself! Will you honour the poet? What is your answer?" The Kanadu people did not reply. The Konadu people left immediately with swords and sticks. The Kanadu people became frightened and agreed to pay the tax. "No; if you do not strive to please the poet, Konadu will cease to exist," said the warriors twisting their moustaches and displaying their swords. One of them said,

“Listen, if you do not pay what is due to the king of the land, only your head will go; if you refuse to pay what is due to the king of poets, the community will perish; the shame will endure as long as the world exists! So honour the poet by paying his dues.” The obdurate people yielded after refusing initially and paid double the due amount as offering to Kamban and partook of the poetic nectar. Kamban sang *Erezhupathu* and lauded the perseverance of the Vellalas and said, “Look, the Vellalas shall protect.”

Even if you refuse to pay your dues to the king of the land

*Do not fail to pay what is due to the king of poets
The country that fails to preserve its aural wealth
And fails to help its poets
Is bound to perish.*

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