

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

Fasting and Divinity
Vratha Vairagyam

A short play



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati really deserves his title of Maharishi, great visionary seer. So many years have passed since this book was written but it is still current today. Take care of yourself, your body, physical and mental, what is the way to get there, how to be aware? There are a few keys in this beautiful play, happy discoveries.

The masterly artistic drama written by Sri Aurobindo indicates the quality of the work.

A warm thank you to Ms. Sindhu Madhusudan for her help for the page making and her beautiful translation. Ms. Sindhu Madhusudan has, with her meticulous work, been able to express fully the thoughts of Kavi Yogi Maharishi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Fasting and Divinity* to you. We have much to learn from this wonderful text! Thank you to Kavi Yogi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Fasting and Divinity* to us. With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

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 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 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 three 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 of peace, happiness and prosperity! Let the beauty and greatness of soul of Dr. Bharati Shuddhananda bloom and scent the entire Earth of its divine message and his spiritual and unifying benefactor!

Editions ASSA

The master artist on drama

“The day when we get back to the ancient worship of delight and beauty will be the day of our salvation. The ancient Indian critics dignified the essence of poetry as Rasa and by that word they meant a concentrated taste, a spiritual essence of emotion, an essential aesthetic, the soul’s pleasure in the pure and perfect sources of feeling. The essential and decisive step of the future art of poetry will perhaps be to discover that it is not the form which either fixes or reveals the spirit, but the spirit which makes out of itself the form and the word. The spirit creates perfectly because it creates directly out of self and is spontaneously, supra-intellectually all-conscious.

A spiritual change must equally come over the intention and form of the drama when the age has determined its tendencies. The drama of the future will differ from the romantic play and tragedy because the thing, that which dramatic speech will represent, will be something more internal than the life-soul and its brilliant pageant of passion and character. The external web of events and action, whether sparing or abundant, strongly marked or slight in incidence, will only be outward threads and indices and the movement that will throughout occupy the mind will be the procession of the soul phases or the turns of soul action. The personage of the play will be the spirit in man diversified or multitudinous in many human beings, whose inner spiritual, much more than external, life relations will determine the development, and the culminations will be steps of solution of those spiritual problems of our existence which after all are the root of and include

and inform all the others. It will not be limited either by any old or new convention, but transmute the old moulds and invent others and arrange according to the truth of its vision, its acts and the evolution of its dramatic process or the refrain of its lyrical or the march of its epic motive. This clue at least is the largest and the most suggestive for a new and living future creation in the form of drama.”

Sri Aurobindo



Preface

Swami Shuddhananda Bharati (Shaanthan)

Aananda Gaana Sabha begins its blessed task with *Vratha Vairagyam* (steadfast determination towards abstinence). It has vowed to breathe a new life into the Tamil literature; inculcate a sense of devotion to God in the Tamil world; and to teach spiritual love to Tamilians. Aananda Gaana Sabha is more than a willing leader when it comes to publishing stage-plays as novels; and to serve the language of Tamil through creative interpretations with the support of educated, righteous and lively patrons. *Vratha Vairagyam*, a short play, is the first stage enactment to be presented by the Sabha. This was published initially by Janamithran. All the plays written by Shri Shuddhananda Bharati have appeared in Janamithran as a series. We thank Janamithran for so dedicatedly publishing them.

V. Venkattaraman, Advocate

Shrivaikundam February 20, 1933

Characters

1. Rukmaangathan – the king of Vidharba
2. Dharmaangathan – Rukmaangathan's son
3. Sadhaanandha – a sage
4. Minister, members of the assembly
5. Marudhu, Mullai – gardeners
6. Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
7. Yama, Kaala, Paasan
8. Narahari Shashtri, Murahari Shashtri - youngsters
9. Sandhyavali – Rukmaangathan's wife
10. One who conquered the sky
11. Valli – the queen's maidservant
12. Celestial beings – 4
13. Servants, guards, soldiers etc.

Aum Shuddha Shakti

Vratha Vairagyam

PART 1, SCENE 1
(Location: garden)

Sage Sadhaananda:

*I hail the Lord
Who transforms into the life-giving air,
Who sprouts from the land as crops;
Who is life, the cause and its effects;
And, who, as knowledge and health,
Belongs to one and all.
Whose consort is Mother Shakti,
And who lives in constant bliss.
Hail the knowledge!
Hail the bliss!*

(Four celestial damsels alight, singing, as flowers rain on them)

The celestial beings sing:

*Long live the abodes of the skies,
Blessed with fortunes and splendour
Long live this enchanting kingdom
Blessed by Lord Shiva Himself!*

(Long live...)

Thilagam: Friends! We are in the holy land, the heaven on earth that nurtures knowledge, love, bliss, fortune and abundance. Just look at its greeneries, the rivers that flow perennially on it! Look at the happiness that glows on the

faces of its people, whose lives are saturated with devotion to the Almighty!

All of them: *(hurriedly plucking flowers)*

*The greeneries that smile upon us – the river of knowledge that flows unabated,
The ocean-like reserve of music, beauty, and enchanting appeal...*

(Long live...)

Thilagam: How beautiful this garden is! This looks like the garden of Lord Indra! Friends, what shall we compare the beauty of this garden with?

All of them: The beauty of this garden can be compared only with the noble rule of its king, Rukmaangathan. Long live Rukmaangathan. Long live the guardian of dharma and righteous living!

Thilagam: Friends, it is Ekaadashi today (*Note: 11th day of waxing or waning moon*). We have gathered enough flowers to offer to the gods. Let's go away before the sun rises!

All of them:

*With Vedic ashrams, and mountains of penance,
Let this land gain prominence and continue to outshine the rest
of the world!*

(The celestial beings start to ascend into the skies and disappear)

[Behind the stage – early morning songs sung during irrigation are heard]

*With plough as our mighty weapon
Let us till the soil
And raise the crop of knowledge, love and prosperity.*

*With God as our saviour,
Let's drive away the evil called arrogance.
With the Almighty God as our protector
Let us spread bliss all around!*

The land has been irrigated well. Come; let's now gather some flowers for the queen!

(Mullai and Marudhu enter. They look around)

Mullai: Brother! What's this? There's not even a single flower in the garden! What kind of sorcery is this? Yesterday night, the garden was full of blossoming jasmines, Arabic jasmines, roses, pomegranate flowers, champaks, night-flowering jasmines, and chrysanthemums...

Marutham: This is the fifth time this evil magic has happened. I have no clue! The queen is going to be very angry!

Mullai:

*Like the smile of an infant,
The wild jasmine had blossomed*

Marutham:

*Beautiful golden flowers
Dazzled the eyes,
Like clusters of stars in the skies...!
Alas, where have they all gone now!*

Hey Veerayi! Anbaayi! There is not even a bud left! Mullai, let's inform the king about this!

Mullai: This was not our fault! Come, let's hurry!
(They exit)

PART 1, SCENE 2

(Location: Rukmaangathan's court; the king makes a curt bow to the entire gathering of ministers and assembly members. The members bow to him)

The gathering, in unison: Long live the king!

(The king greets the assembly and sits on his throne)

The members of the assembly:

*Let the protector of justice live a thousand years!
May the stories of his success reach the heavens!*

Long live King Rukmaangathan!
(The members of the assembly and ministers take their seats)

Rukmaangathan: With the blessings of Lord Narayana, may bliss and happiness reign all over the universe! Minister, does peace prevail over my kingdom? Without being haunted by poverty and sorrow, are my dear people living in abundance and joy?

Minister: When this blessed land has a king who treats himself like one of the commoners; who knows the needs of his subjects and does what is required and who fiercely protects and follows the principles of righteousness, what could go wrong, oh beloved King? There is only prosperity everywhere! There's only brightness and glow. There is only prosperity and health all around us!

Rukmaangathan: The crops too are dear to me like my subjects. Are the plants getting enough water? Are the subjects well-fed?

Minister: *(reads from the scroll report in his hand)* The farmers are caring for the crops like they would their own children. The ploughs, the mills, the weaving looms, the wheels, the factories and all the machines are functioning as smoothly as the Honourable King's Ajna Chakra. Each household in the kingdom is like a school of knowledge and an industry. Villages are the lifelines of a kingdom. Life in the villages is also prospering, with qualities like peace, honesty, unity, prosperity, and devotion flourishing.

*We have to only take what is required
From all the gifts that Mother Earth lavishes on us.*

In accordance to this pearl of wisdom, your subjects barter their produces with each other, consume everything in moderation, and continue to live selflessly without falling prey to poverty, ego and greed.

“Being self sufficient ensures that the wealth of the nation continues to stay with its citizens,” isn’t this right? True to this adage, everything that the kingdom requires is being produced by our industry experts, who are all trained in the 64 different kinds of arts. After meeting all our internal requirements, the products that are in excess are being exported to other kingdoms by our overseas traders. They return home with heaps of gold! Oh King, everything is fine under your benevolent rule!

Rukmaangathan: I’m pleased! Just rule should prevail. The masses must be protected from the demon called Sin, who has poverty and ignorance for his limbs. Is the wealth of education spreading everywhere?

Minister: (*reads from the scroll*) Oh nurturer of poets! When it comes to imparting education, you are like the father and teacher to us all. Of the total revenue collected by the state, half is being spent for education, health and essential services; and one-fourth is allocated for maintaining law and order, the kingdom’s army, the prosperity of the masses, the development of art, music and literature, and for beautifying the kingdom. The remaining money is being spent on administration expenses. Proper ashram-based education is being provided to all at no cost. Since everybody is involved in mastering their

favourite subjects, there is no illiteracy or ignorance anywhere in the kingdom!

From the ashram-based system of education, in addition to knowledge of the subjects, students are also taught self-discipline, technical expertise, music, literature, performing arts, courage, valour and devotion to God.

(Dharmaangathan enters, from his gurukulam)

Dharmaangathan: Salutations to you, Father!

Rukmaangathan: My beloved child! At the pious feet of Gnanananda, are you acquiring qualities like love, humility, morality, perseverance, determination, wisdom, knowledge, and a faultless character?

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Editions ASSA
Grand'Rue 180 – 1454 L'Auberson – Switzerland
Phone : +41 (0) 24 454 47 07
Fax : +41 (0) 24 454 47 77
Email : info@editions-assa.ch
Web : www.editions-assa.ch
