

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Gandhi's Story in
singing style

Kalatchebam

Set to music and performed by
Kaviyogi Maharishi
Shuddhananda Bharati



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

Every day, men write history, their own history, that of their commune, canton, country and for some the world.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar and assassinated on January 30, 1948 in New Dehli, is one of the men who embody through them a mission, a precise work to be carried out on the Earth.

With unstinting energy, these Karma Yogis carried out, with the divine force within them, the work to which they were predestined. Thus, following the work of Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi liberated India from the British, and on 15 August 1947, India's independence was proclaimed.

To his great dismay, he had difficulty to accepting the separation of his country. At the end of his life, he thought of marching again to reunify the country, and he was assassinated in his garden, in Birla House in New Dehli.

The independence of India and Pakistan is proclaimed on 15 August 1947. Long negotiations with the British, but also among Indians, took place. At the end of the 1930s, the different Congress parties were competing with each other, resulting in many different interests. On the other hand, the Muslim League called for a real Muslim state, Pakistan. Its leader, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, rejected the idea of a collaboration with the future Indian Union. On 8 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi retorted in a speech that would become a landmark: "Leave India".

From 1946 onwards, confrontations increased. The British then entrusted the leadership of a provisional government

to Jawaharlal Nehru, a loyal friend of Gandhi. In February 1947, London sent Lord Louis Mountbatten as viceroy to negotiate the terms of independence.

Thus, two separate states became independent. India with the autonomous Indian princely states and Pakistan. A wave of chaos followed the separation, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, and between 10 and 12 million people were displaced, mainly Muslims who joined Pakistan.

From autumn 1947, relations were strained between the two new states over Kashmir, whose Hindu prince had opted for the Indian Union.

On 30 January 1948, only six months after independence, Mahatma Gandhi, who tried in vain to ease tensions, was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist who accused him of being responsible for the "Separation of Mother India".

A warm thank you to Kumar Srinivasa Nagaraja Rao for the beautiful translation and his melodious Prefaces. He had, with his meticulous work, been able to help me to express fully the thoughts of Kavi Yogi Maharishi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati about *Gandhi's Story in singing style*.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Gandhi's Story in singing style* to you. Thank you, Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Gandhi's Story in singing style*.

With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

God is Love!

Christian Piaget

Foreword

The *Harikatha Kalakshepam* (an Epic or story narrated in singing style) elevates the culture of our Society. It encourages the people's discipline. It develops the devotion to Nation and God. I have been saying frequently that we should make and spread all over our Country an exposition (Kaalakshepam) on the sacred life of Gandhi, a Godly person who lived in front of us.

This *Kathakalakshepam* by Kavi Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati fulfils this eagerness, I have been knowing Kavi Yogi and praising him since long. He is a born ascetic. Leading a life of Yoga. A Poet of multiple languages. A Seer with mystic power. Worker for the World. Tireless worker. One with wealth of knowledge. Divine Poet. He is one who has travelled to several countries and spread the culture of India. He is a sculptor of thoughts who composed beautiful poems in English, French, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil. His songs motivate devotion to God, devotion to Nation and valour of morality and valour of deeds.

Kavi Yogi has been performing service to the Nation since 1907. He had closely moved with great men like Lokamanya Tilak, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, Va. Ve. Su Iyer, Mahakavi Bharatiyar, Yogi Aravindhar (Sri Aurobindo), Ramana Maharishi, Mahatma Gandhi. He was the Editor of several lofty journals like *Balabharati*, *Samarasa Bodhini*, *Iyarkkai* (Nature), *Suyarajyam* (Self-governance). He had done National service on Print and on Stage.

For 25 years, observing silence, remaining in a state of supreme bliss he gave to the World along with the great Epic *Bharata Shakti* 200 rare Books. Still being in the Yoga of penance he is conducting the sacrifice of knowledge.

Since 1915 he had close link with Mahatma Gandhi. Shuddhanandar, who had scooped and drank Gandhi's writings and immersed himself in Gandhi's moments of Satyagraha has given this beautiful musical book called *Gandhi's story in singing style*.

This Book is a simple, beautiful, musical composition. A wonderful life sketch of the immortal Explaining till the end the test of truth by Gandhi in a simple style so that all can sing and get benefited, this wonderful exposition Book ends with the Sarvodaya sound of 'Jai Jagat' of Vinobha Bhave. I appreciate and welcome this book, which is the pulse beat of Gandhi. This can be said as the 'Arrival of Satyagraha' itself. Gandhi's hundredth birthday celebration is going on well all over the country. I would like the exposition on Gandhi to go on resoundingly everywhere as its special programme. This book, with no party differences, common to all explains Gandhism. I appeal to all to study this book which gives a rare support for the love of the Country and for our culture.

Kavi Yogi himself has come forward to do the exposition (Kalakshepam) on Gandhi with musical instruments. I welcome with pleasure Kaviyogi and his Book *Gandhi's story in singing style*.

M. Bhaktavatsalam

Honourable M. Bhaktavatsalam, former CM of TN

Chennai, 4.3.1969

Preface

The unique and charismatic leader of India Mahatma Gandhi's name is synonymous with India's Independence. It is our fortune to learn about that Mahatma through this Book authored by the revered Kavi Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati, a born ascetic, who led a life of Yoga, a Poet of multiple languages, a Seer with mystic power, a worker for the World, a tireless worker, one with wealth of knowledge, divine Poet, one who had travelled to several countries and spread the culture of India.

Here is a Book bringing out yet another talent of the versatile Swamiji, Storytelling in singing style with Swamiji himself setting to music the entire Story. Gandhi's Story is replete with a wide display of mixed emotions and Kavi Yogi Maharishi Shuddhananda Bharati has brought all those before our eyes in his simple yet distinct style!

The Foreword to this Book by Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam former CM of TN gives a comprehensive good value to this very valuable Book on Gandhi.

Swamiji, through his simple but powerful songs depicting the plight of the labourers in particular has covered exhaustively of Gandhi's deep compassion for the working class of South Africa when they were subjected to inhuman treatment and torture and of Gandhi's great sacrifices, his mental courage and determination to succeed against all odds. Kavi Yogi has brought out in text and in Poems, in an elaborate manner, the extreme tolerance shown by Gandhi even when he was attacked physically

and had suffered grievous injuries. Any heart will melt while reading those incidents in this Book.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude we have to place our appreciation of Editions ASSA led by the indefatigable Editor & Publisher Christian Piaget and his dedicated team who have spared no efforts in bringing in elegant print the life story of a Mahatma as composed by the revered Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati. This precious book written by Swamiji is a very rare Book which every Historian would like to add to his or her collection of Books. It is such a precious Book, that has been presented to us by Christian Piaget, who has preserved and presented to us the original Book in Tamil for translation into English. A very commendable effort indeed and a noble service too!

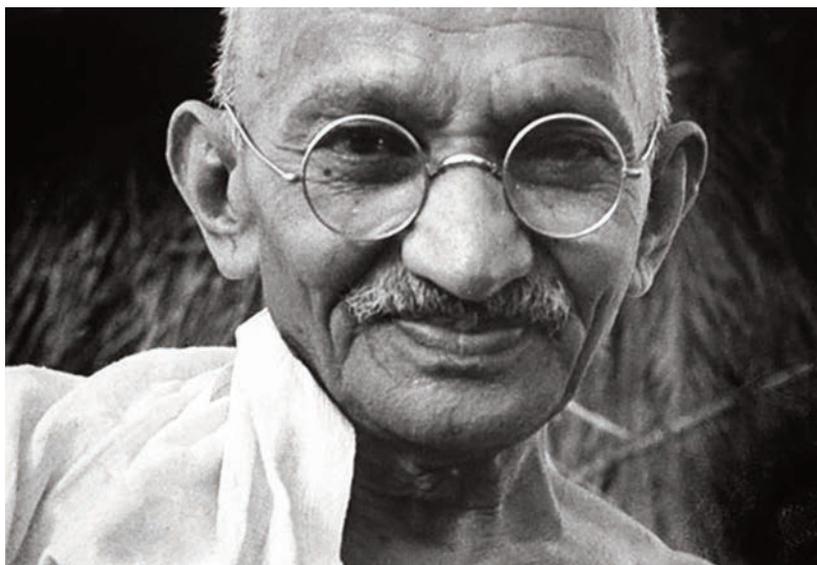
It is my privilege to translate such a wonderful Book which gives a total picture of the entire life of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation, right from his birth up to his attaining martyrdom, traversing the trials and tribulations he underwent in the quest for Independence and for equal rights for all human beings. This book needs to be preserved for posterity and propagated to all to know what peak a human being can reach, sacrificing everything for the sake of his Nation and for the wellbeing of every toiling worker!

Salutations to the Kavi Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati who has written meticulously the details of Mahatma Gandhi's life in a unique, singing style, set music for the entire Storytelling and also touched the hearts of all his followers as well as the avid readers of the World.

This Book is all the more special since it comes from Kavi Yogi Maharishi Shuddhananda Bharati who had lived in the same era when Gandhi lived and interacted and impressed Gandhi with his writings and singing too. So, this is a Story as seen by Kavi Yogi and not just a Fiction! This aspect adds great value for this Book "*Gandhi's Story in singing style*", a really rare Book.

To savour this wonderful experience here is the unique Book, "*Gandhi's Story in singing style*".

Kumar Srinivasa Nagaraja Rao



Photograph by Henri Cartier-Bresson,
January 30, 1948, a few hours before
Gandhi's assassination.

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)*

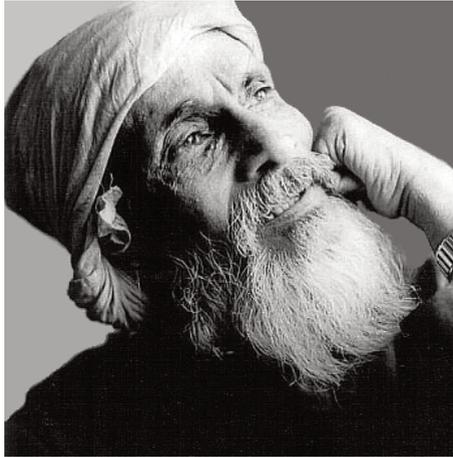
*The good in you is good for all
Your life is life for all
The God in you is God for all
Your love is love for all (Peace for all)*

*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



Kavi Yogi Maharishi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

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. 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 one of the greatest Tamil poets, 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

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Christian Piaget



Gandhi spinning Noakhali

Gandhi's Story in singing style

(Gandhi Kalatchebam)

I. Salutation

1. Salutation

(Raga: Naatai – Tala: Aadhi Taal)

Aum Supreme Being! Salutation, salutation

Oh! The flame of Truth, salutation! Salutation!

Oh! The One which the precious *Veda* knows as true

With love we bow, may You grace us with goodness

Oh! Rama with dark black cloud like face,

Salutation! Salutation!

Oh! Krishna with colour of black cloud, salutation

To sing the fine story of Gandhi of world fame

Along with song, colours of beautiful Tamil, may You bestow!

Oh! The light of Truth, Oh Gandhi, the great Soul

The Himalaya of peace, Gandhi the great Soul

Like Buddha and Jesus and Appar

Performed virtuous deeds he, praise the great Soul!

The wonderful being of mystic power

Who conquered lovingly, the force of weapons, with the force of Soul

Who cured the diseases that were tormenting

Motherland!

Of morality, of wealth of mercy, Gandhi the great Soul!

Long live long live Gandhi, the great Soul,
May he live long for human race to gain prosperity!

2. Gandhi takes birth (2.10.1869) (Raga: Sindhubhairavi – Tala: Aadhi)

The Country ruled by Lord Sri Krishna it was
In Kathiawar peninsula,
In Porbundar where richness and fertility were growing
in abundance.

The eminent person in the Vaishnava dynasty
In Kuchelapuri, in Kuchela Street
Adjacent to the Temple
The famous Gandhi family glittered
As good people to all

The fame of the noble Kaba Gandhi
Shining as the Minister for the King of that place
A person of good qualities and fortitude
The world was aware

The Sun of Bharat, he was
Who he got through his wife Putli Bai
The wealth of attributes, of truth, ever calm
Gandhi, the great Soul worshipped by the World

Through the path of the mother who shined
With Sun fasting and pure good conduct
The honest, precious Son of good attributes grew up
Worshipping God, every day

As good to all
With compassion to precious lives
As a pure person in in words and in actions
Shined he, the Gandhi, the great Soul
With fearless heart, sought he
The grace which protects morality,
In young age with big thoughts
Faultlessly lived he.

3. School Days

(Raga: Punnaagavaraali – Tala: Tisra)

In School Days – with no attention
To studies, Gandhi
Will worship – the inner God only
Saying 'Hari *Aum*', he – saying 'glory to Ram'
Used to chant, he
Used to go to Temple he – will worship
Graceful Almighty, he
Hated ego, he – with controlled
Mind always used to conduct himself, he;
Was nurturing shyness, he – was
Supporting the good things, he
Was resolving – the sufferings
Of poor and weak, he
The noble being he was
Who came obtaining boons, in unbroken lineage

4. Name of Rama

(Raga: Khand-Tisra Ekam – Tala: Aadhi)

For ending fear – followed as life, he

The chanting of the name of Rama

Uttered by the woman

Named Arambai

Raghupati Raghava Rajaram

Pateeta Paavana Sita Ram

Uttering Sri Ram Jeya Ram Jeya Jeya Ram

Every day he chanted intensely, he

It is the sacred Vedic hymn – uttered by Narada, Valmiki

The Vedic hymn for victory

Told by Ramadasar to the valiant Shivaji

The essence of *Veda*, the divine Vedic hymn

As *Aum* Jeya Ram with every breath

Lived the great Soul, Gandhi!

5. The vow of Truth

Saw, with his Mind melting

The story of Harischandra, the embodiment of truth –

Gandhi

Held in his Mind the eagerness

Of protecting such truth

Like Saravanan, who lovingly did precious service,

For the blind parents,

To perform service of parents as penance

Took tireless fast itself, he

Giving great importance to
The song Vaishnava Janate
Composed by Narsinh Mehta
Shined in the excellent conduct, Gandhi

6. Who is Vaishnav?

(Raga: Behag – Tala: Aadhi)

The one who realises the distress of others – he only
Is the blemish less Vaishnav
The One who is without even a bit of ego – the one who
considers
Troubles of others as his own, and remove mercifully
Will think goodness for all, he – will
Slander not anyone, he
One of purity in words and in actions – long live
The mother who refined him
Will respect other women as his mother who gave birth
to him
The one who is calm with no greed
Will not think of other people's things even in his Mind,
he
Will utter no lie even forgetfully, he
The one with firm Mind, with no lust, he
Along with excellence, the one with no fraud, he
Doing bhajans on the name of Rama
The one of good fortuitous character, he was
Sacred was his body, sacred was his life

His entire lineage sacred
Sacred, seeing him too is sacred
The one pleasant natured to friends, he was

7. The vow of Ahimsa

(Raga: Bhairavi – Tala: Aadhi)

[Because of contact with an evil man, Gandhi ate meat, smoked and for his expenses sold gold by scraping his golden bracelet. His conscience pricked him. Confessing to his father about his misdeeds he reformed and took vow to practise non-violence]

Gandhi: Thinking strength is needed
For driving away the Englishmen
Ate meat in the shop of a lowly man,
Caused hurdles to mercy, I

Smoked cigar with undesirable briskness
Curse me, shame, shame
Stealing gold, used it for evil deeds, I
Wretched me, I got spoilt

The dream of goat tortures me
Oh! I made a mistake;
Releasing myself, took the vow
Of Non-violence, dear father!

Father: Pardoned you, my son
Now onwards eat not meat
Do not steal gold and smoke
Do not practise falsehood

Gandhi: Shedding drops of tears again and again
Mohandas Gandhi
Will adopt vow of truth and vow of Non –
violence
For ever

Put an end from today onwards, me, to meat
and smoking
Whole heartedly said I
Woke up, I, took on the vow of Non-violence
Will successfully protect, I

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La Frêtaz 2
Es à la Ligne
CH-1453 Bullet – Suisse
Phone : +41 24 454 47 07
Fax : +41 24 454 47 77
Email : info@editions-assa.ch
Web : www.editions-assa.ch
