

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Songs of Vishnu

Vishnu Geetham

Vishnu is everywhere
Vishnu is everything
Vishnu is my heartbeat



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

Songs of Vishnu is a collection of devotional songs composed by Kaviyogi Shuddhananda Bharati. These songs have been sung in many temples dedicated to Vishnu. In holy places such as Azhagarkovil, Srivilliputhur, Alwartirunagar, Sri Vaikuntam, Padmanabam, Sabarimala, Srirangam, Tirupati, Brindavan, Gokulam, Dwaraka, Ayodhya, Rishikesh and Badrinath, Maharshi Bharati sang these songs and prayed for the grace of Vishnu-Narayana. Many of these songs were based on his personal experiences. Also these songs filled with devotion reflect the spirit of the *Gita*, *Ramayan*, *Bhagavatam*, *Bharatam*, *Alvar saints*, *Ramanuja* and *Mahadesikar*.

The silent ascetic that he was, Shuddhananda recounted the distress and sorrows inflicted on him by the ignorant world His love and grace to overcome them. These songs have immense power. The Pure bliss mentioned in these songs refers to the pure divine bliss experienced as a result of conscious yoga.

These songs bestow purity of thought, spiritual awakening and divine grace.

Shuddhananda Bharati went from village to village to sing these songs and spread the message of devotional yoga. In 1924 when Kaviyogi was engaged in Pamani village service, he sang these songs every night and invoked devotion to God and patriotism in the hearts of the people.

Among the wealthy men of Pamani who stood by him, Ranganatha Mudaliar was an exceptional devotee of Vishnu. Rama's name echoed forever in his heart. It is our

hope that musicians will perform these songs all over the country and propagate the practice of devotion to God.

Devotion is Shakti; devotion is enlightenment!

We will find in this book 151 new pleasing compositions.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Songs of Vishnu* to you. Thank you, Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Songs of Vishnu*.

With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

God is Love!

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

Shuddhananda's Secret of devotion to God

The path of surrender alone is devoid of risks. To start with, the practitioner must bow in worship of God in his heart with a pure mind by saying '*Aum Namō Narayanaya*'. The second step is to surrender by saying '*Narayanam Charanam Prapadye*'. Thirdly, all forms of righteousness and unrighteousness (*Sarva Dharman Parityajya...*), thoughts and doctrines must be abandoned, and the practitioner must live in a spirit of complete surrender to Sriman Narayana without a shred of arrogance. This would complete his devotion to God. In that state, no other thought except God would exist inside and outside. '*Maam Egam Charanam Varaja*' (Surrender only to me), says God. This is also known as unique surrender. This includes the destruction of mental activity, the mind, illusions and sorrows. A practitioner engaged in developing his devotion to God will become a divine being. A truly divine being will attain the unlimited bliss of peace. A state utterly devoid of 'I', He is everything, I am nothing without Him – that state of supreme devotion to God is the practice required to attain complete devotion to God.

A man is well advised to deposit money in a bank instead of carrying it on his person; it is even better if he were to make use of the money to accomplish a noble service. A beautiful daughter must be married to a good man and told to lead her life. He who travels in a vehicle stores his baggage in it and travels peacefully. The path of surrender is similar in nature.

After analysing and studying in depth the *Vedas* and the *Agamas*, books on Vedanta and the *Secrets of Yoga*, this method of spiritual practice gave me peace of mind.

Service to guru

Service according to the scriptures, worship with offerings and recitations of mantras, meditation on God, surrender, submitting to His will – sacrificing one's desires; to become one with God, to believe everything is an embodiment of Vasudeva (Sarvamithi), to live consciously as a supreme devotee of Vishnu - these are the eight spiritual practices of devotional yoga.

Recitation of sacred poems

Now let us commence the worship of Sri Narayana. After taking a bath, wearing clean clothes and applying sacred ash on the forehead, one should light lamps and invoke the image of Vishnu followed by the singing of the sacred poems of *Thiruvaimozhi*.

Meditation

God of the heart, universal God,
Supreme God, You who is the expanse of the sky!
You who is inseparably linked to me, I surrender to You.
Omnipresent God, You who dwells in the heart
and bestows supreme bliss,
Light of the universe, You who dwells in me.

Object of meditation, object of yoga,
Hari Aum I surrender to You
Like the tender crops that look to the sky
Like the bee that seeks honey
Like the child that looks for its mother
Like the soul that searches for a body
I depend on You
Look at me O beautiful One, You who is grace!
This and that, inside and outside
Everything that shines in the world is
but Your divine play of grace
Its pleasing quality also emanates from You,
O God of melody!

Many, many years

For life to flourish for many, many years
Practise ethics and grace for many years!
May the well-being of the devout be ensured
for many years!
Sing the glory of the Supreme Being for many years!
May the noble souls of the golden age prosper
May the path of the sacred *Gita* attain glory
May the devotion to perfect yoga flourish and grow
May the virtuous of the land prosper
May the protective grace of Shakti endure forever!
May the celestial light of Vishnu shine forth!
May the well-being of divine beings endure!
May the sound of the conch of surrender boom!

Worship of Narayana

Aum Supreme Soul, You who measured the world
Nectar of light that emanates from the heart's deep sea
Primal God, You who reclines
 on the divine serpent
Anantha (Sesha)
God of the *Vedas*, Krishna of the *Gita*,
O pure One, You who showers compassion
 on good people, I surrender to You
Praise be to You, You who assumed the forms of a fish,
 tortoise, pig, dwarf and lion in turn
 to exterminate demons
O Supreme God who dwells in the temple of the heart
God who shines as the light of the pure soul
Please bestow Your grace so we may dedicate
 our lives to Your service
May Your will prevail always!
God, please make me the object of Your grace,
 I bow my head in Your worship, Narayana.
With independent yoga like Dhruv
Perfect devotion like Narada,
Pure wisdom like Sukar
The peace experienced by Nammalwar,
The supreme devotion to a guru like Madurakavi,
Vibrant fervour like Andal
Humble courage like Baanar
Unswerving love like Mazhisai
Pleasing quality that a Brahmin prayed for
Service to Narayana like Thirumangai
Pure love displayed by Kulasekaran

Profound knowledge possessed by Bhoothathalwar,
Poigai Alwar and Peyazhwar
Precious victory like that achieved by Periyazhwar
Righteous conduct like that of Udaiyavar
Spiritual knowledge like Desikar
The boon of fame like Tulasi
Poetical talent like Kamban
The substance of Vyasara's Ramayana
The detached inner peace possessed by Kabir
The love for Giridhar like Meera
Realisation of powers due to recitation
and penance like an able guru
Rapturous devotion like Paramahansa
Calmness attained by mind control
like Ramana Maharshi
Devotion to duty like Gandhi
Spiritual power like Aurobindo
Please endow me with these qualities and guide me
on the virtuous path, Lord of the universe praise be!

Appeal

You who is the embodiment of all the worlds
You who is everywhere, Supreme God!
O Lord Vishnu, You who bestows grace on good people
You who is the star of those who repose their faith in You!
O sacred One, You who destroys evil
May I succeed in rendering optimum service and win
respect, O embodiment of wisdom!
May the music flow from Your flute!

Offering

The food we eat is Yours!
The clothes we wear are Yours!
The thoughts we think are Yours, O Lord
You who dwells in the shrine of the heart!
The work we do is Yours,
The fruit of the work is also Yours!
O most beloved Krishna
Shower the nectar of Your compassion on us
The body is but Your temple
The heart is Your shrine
An unruffled mind is Your throne
The soul is Your slave
All animate life in this world is but Your daily worship
Bestow Your compassion,
O God enshrined in the heart's temple!

Worship with lamps

Aum divine light, Aum pure light,
Aum Jaya Shakti light, Aum light of ten sacred laws,
Aum conscious light, Aum light of enlightenment!
Aum life-sustaining light, long live the light within!

Shuddhananda Bharati

Songs of Vishnu

1. Nectar

Raga: Kaanada – Tala: Aadhi

Let's partake of the nectar
The nectar that permeates
and flows from the songs of Vishnu Hari
Let's partake of the nectar...

Devoid of tamasic attributes in the mind
Adding sattvic¹ cow's milk, the honey of knowledge
that brings peace and the grace that flourishes in love
Let's partake of the nectar...

Removing the rust of arrogance
Adding the juice of sugarcane
And the sweet juice of fruits
All of us in pure bliss
Let's partake of the nectar...

2. With calmness

I surrender at Thine feet Nataraja
Thou are my supreme Guru
Lord I surrender at Thine feet

O supreme God of shining light
I meditated always on Thee with the beautiful Shakti

¹ Gunas, the three gunas – Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. See 'Sattvic'.

by Your side
Lord I surrender at Thine feet!
Reaching the divine court with a pure mind
Singing with a conscious mind immersed in meditation
Dancing to the beat of 'thathimi' in a delirium
of devotion
I sought only the boon of supreme bliss;
Have mercy on me, bless me with Thy grace
Be with me and in me always!
Lord I surrender at Thine feet!

3. Music of the flute

Raga: Kamaas – Tala: Aadhi

The music of the flute is heard...
Music from Gopala Krishna's flute
Like the prattling of children, parrots and a gentle breeze
Gokulam's Madhava plays on His flute
The music of the flute is heard...
Engrossed in a dream of melody
All the living beings in the world remain frozen
Like upright paintings in all the eight directions
The divine play halts the march of time
Fascinated lovers are engulfed by pure bliss
The music of the flute is heard...

4. Those who see

Raga: Vasantha – Tala: Aadhi

Those who see are unable to forget – Krishna
Those who attain You are unable to leave You

O magnetic enchanter, You who has consumed my soul
Those who see are unable to forget...
Like a blue moon is Your face
Lit up with a pearly-white smile
With eyes like a spear replete with compassion
Your beauty is like a garden flower
An allye with captivating divine fire
Please assume Your form that enchants the universe
Your protective grace that brings pure bliss within is a
sight to behold
Those who see are unable to forget...

5. He showed the way

Raga: Gowlibandhu – Tala: Desadhi

He showed the way
Varadaraja Perumal
He showed the way...
I who had fallen into a deep pit of sin
He raised me with love,
filled me with profound devotion
He showed the way...
Not knowing the true entity
I took the world to be God
In a state of false arrogance
I trampled on knowledge
The blissful One dispersed the darkness of karma with
His grace
He offered succour with His hand
and fed me the nectar of love
He showed the way...

6. Search O mind

Raga: Senchuruti – Tala: Aadhi

Search O mind – look for love O mind
Look for Lord Vishnu's love O mind!
Search O mind...
Sing O mind, dance in delight O mind
Pray for the grace of benevolent Narayana O mind!
Search O mind...
Sing nightingale, reach out nightingale,
Call out the name of Govindaraja O nightingale
Pure bliss shall fill the soul
Gopalakrishna is playing in the garden
Seek Him out O mind...

7. Govindaraja Perumal

Raga: Bilahari – Tala: Aadhi

Govindaraja Perumal shall bestow His grace
To ensure success in one's endeavour
and happiness in life
Govindaraja Perumal shall bestow His grace...
Thillai Nataraja who is worshipped by devas performs
His cosmic dance
Witnessing His dance with glee is Govindaraja Perumal
With melodious music from His flute entralling hearts,
Krishna satisfied the spiritual craving of cowherdesses
To inspire Vijayan who was caught in the coils of deceit

He narrated the *Gita*, the source of all knowledge
from the *Vedas* to Vedanta
Govindaraja Perumal is He...
Confronting a million strong army of demons
With His bow He slew them and put an end
to their lineage
Wilting righteousness He strives to elevate sky-high
He protects Shuddhananda with compassion
Govindaraja Perumal is He.

8. He alone is a Vaishnava

Raga: Sindhubhairavi – Tala: Aadhi

He alone is a Vaishnava
He who sees Hari in all living beings
He alone is a Vaishnava...
Siva Narayana Allah Jehova
There is only one God, says he fervently
He alone is a Vaishnava...
A lover of truth, he serves ascetics with devotion
A virtuous man who sees his mother in all women
Practising devotion in a spirit of bliss
His words and actions are always in harmony
He alone is a Vaishnava...

9. Hari's devotee

Raga: Bhairavi – Tala: Aadhi

When you see a devotee of Hari, O mind
Salute him everyday by saying 'Hari Hari Aum'
Good attributes shall increase, the heart will melt

Good karma will come, grace will flow
When you see a devotee of Hari...
His face reflects wisdom; his heart is filled with devotion
To serve the world is to serve God
Silent is his mind; his hand is extended to donate;
Going beyond the three attributes
He is mature in mind
To conquer lust is learning;
 recitation of divine names is speech
Krishna's grace alone is immeasurable wealth
Like the sun and the moon
 he shall live with righteousness
He alone is an apt companion for Shuddhananda.

10. Spiritual oneness

Raga: Mayuradhwani – Tala: Aadhi

Spiritual oneness prevails in the whole world
Like the smile of newly blossomed flowers
Hari Hara Mahadeva Allah Christ
There are those who worship you as Mother Shakti
Old or young, man or woman
Shuddhananda takes care of all with affection.

11. I turned into love

Raga: Suradi – Tala: Rupaka

I turned into love
As I saw You everyday

I turned into love...
Madhava Hare... Krishna
Jaya Manohara
I turned into love...
As soon as I heard the music of the flute
I craved for more
Abandoning bashfulness and fear
I sought Your feet, enchanter of the universe
I turned into love...
O Supreme Soul You who is the essence
of the four *Vedas*
Shuddhananda yearns to embrace You
and experience bliss
I turned into love...

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