

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  
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 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 sattvic<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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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