

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

Sri Aurobindo's Light

“The world is a stage for God's dance
All life is but a form of yoga”

Aravinda Pragasam



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Foreword

Precious light of yoga

Kaapi Rupakam

O precious light of yoga glowing in the Aum-filled hall

O beautiful eternal light – may you light up the heart with your smile

O true glowing light in the heart's lotus – may you spread the protective light to eradicate the fearful sorrows

O Siva's flaming light on the Himalayan snow

Like the immortal Ganges – shall your energy not dance and flow?

O meditative light immersed quietly in eternal silence – may you spread your golden fire to illuminate the true path

In order that the divine smile blooms even in this physical body

You who is the gushing stream of Vedic meaning – may you flow and chart your course

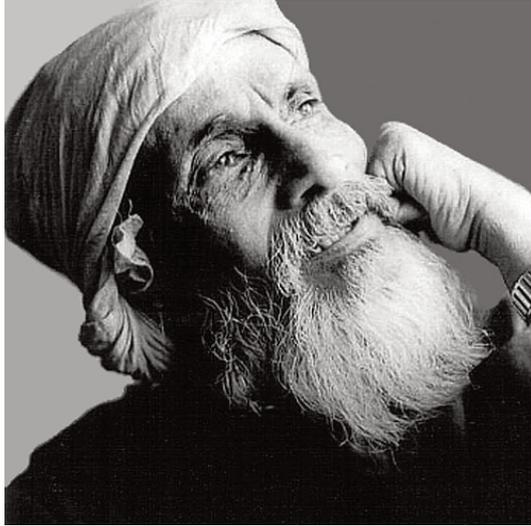
To enable human life to achieve a scientific change in this world

May you dance and rejoice with lilting music

With a clear mind and free of religious dogma

May you show the way forward to mankind, like flowers in the woods!

Shuddhananda Bharati



Swami Shuddhananda Bharati

*There is but one God for the whole world
All bodies are but temples of God*

Editor's Notes

An eternal world without interruption, a human journey towards divine life, personal and with a real force of change, to promote the independence of his country and thus actively help the development and evolution of Mother Bharat (India).

The Light of Sri Aurobindo opens the way to a higher consciousness, the supra-consciousness.

Shuddhananda Bharati, who has lived for 25 years in Pondicherry, participated with all his heart in the development of this great Master. He helped translate Sri Aurobindo's work into the Tamil language.

In this book, Shuddhananda Bharati reveals his immense Love for Sri Aurobindo, and thus reveals a path that is perceptible over time for all of us. To open one's perception of unity, the unity of consciousness while keeping in oneself and developing one's self, one's own individuality. With gratitude and fullness! Aum!

A warm thank you to Savitri for his translation from Tamil to English and to Madeleine Matter for her help on the preparation of this book.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Sri Aurobindo's Light* to you. Thank you to Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Sri Aurobindo's Light* 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



Yogi 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. 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





Sri Aurobindo abroad



Sri Aurobindo



The Mother



Sri Aurobindo Ashram

Sri Aurobindo's Light

1. New sage

India is a blessed country. The Hindu way of life confers immortality to the human race. The Indian community is an eternal Kalpaga tree which is rooted and flourishes in the wisdom of sages. Many divine fruits have ripened in it in the past as well as in the present. This Kalpaga tree will stand firm and unshakable in the face of any storm unleashed by time or any blow of fate. India is the world's light-house. The human ship can reach a safe harbour only by looking at the illumination from this light-house. Sages have lived here from times immemorial to stoke and propagate this light. One such new sage in our midst is Sri Aurobindo.

The blue sky bestows sunlight, rain and wind to enable vegetation and mankind to flourish in this world. Spiritually enlightened sages bestow spiritual knowledge, the glow of peace and a joyous life to humanity and enable it to attain divine qualities. Only the spiritual strengths of the truly great sages can ensure the resurrection of mankind, not Napoleon's sword or a uranium atom. The world can attain peace only with Krishna's Gita, Christ's sacrifice and Buddha's compassion.

Sri Aurobindo is such a visionary; Vedic sages had initially attempted to establish a heavenly regime and immortal life in this world. These efforts are now being replicated by Sri Aurobindo who has discovered a scientific energy for this purpose. Science is a vast source of knowledge, a

very powerful tool. Sri Aurobindo is a scientific force capable of destroying all the worries and sorrows of mankind which is trapped in the darkness of mental illusions.

Sri Aurobindo has expounded on his scientific yoga philosophy in many books of which three are very important: *Life Divine*, *Synthesis of Yoga* and *Essays on the Gita*. Just as *Brahma Sutra*, the *Upanishads* and the *Gita* are indispensable lifelines in the study of Vedanta, the above-mentioned books may be said to be fundamental guides to Aurobindo's philosophy.

Sri Aurobindo is a person of exceptional energy and intelligence. Once experienced, his divine presence only evokes a desire for more of the same; the body and mind is energised by the force of his yoga; his utterances evoke an enduring thirst for more. Sri Aurobindo is an exceptional human being. His radiant looks, intelligence, love, ability and divine speech are all captivating... I am paying homage to a great human being with my words and am meditating on him with my writings.

2. This miracle

Man lives in ignorance; he must instead live rooted in science; he must convert his feelings into spiritual realisation; he must convert his physical body which is subject to disease, ageing and time's vicissitudes into a divine body. Human life should become an immortal life. Human life at present is confronted with fears, darkness, obstacles and worries; instead, it should be filled with peace, divinity, beauty and prosperity. Everyone should live in a state of spiritual independence without obstacles, anxiety and

worries. Some people look heavenwards saying “The world is illusory and full of sorrow”; this should not happen. Heavenly joy, a divine life and heavenly rule should be established in this world itself, in this life and in front of our eyes. The human race should become a divine community by obtaining scientific powers beyond this mind... what a profound vision! Can this miracle take place?

“It will happen” says Sri Aurobindo. “Consciousness surges; it must rise above the mind and attain an elevated scientific state. If a scientific power is acquired, then the miracle mentioned above will happen; this world will become heaven, the human community will become a divine community; heavenly rule will prevail in this world.” Sri Aurobindo reiterates this truth in all his books and in each line of his books. His words are profound and to turn his words into reality, he has created and proposed a supreme energy. I bow my head to this supreme energy which is the mother of this world.

3. Fountainhead of experience

If we write the word “Nectar” on paper, it will not taste sweet; even a beautiful description will not suffice to provide the taste of sweetness; only by eating can the taste of nectar be experienced. In the same way, a sage’s greatness can be realised only by experience and spiritual bonding. Sri Aurobindo is a fountainhead of experience, a sea of knowledge whose depths are beyond the language of the mind. His books are but some pearls gathered from those depths. Aurobindo’s life is like a Kalpaga tree which drew

its initial sustenance from European culture and then flourished with the help of the Vedic ganges of our country. Branches of courage grew, the flowers of wisdom blossomed and today it is full of the fruits of yoga. The outside world knows Sri Aurobindo as a poet, a learned man, a good author, as one who made sacrifices and as a patriot; beyond these aspects, he is a yogi and a pure entity and above all, he is a great human being possessed of a new form of energy. He is energy personified. His life story is but an exposition of scientific energy. This book will acquaint readers with his powers, the way in which he acquired them and the exemplary benefits they can bestow on mankind. The book will also throw light on mundane details of his life such as birth, education, sacrifices, speeches, writings, travel etc.; is it not a fact that he who aspires to climb to the top of a mountain also needs to cross the foot of it? Let us likewise go beyond the waves and delve a little into the depths of the Aurobindo sea and gather the wonderful pearls of experience hidden in its folds. Speech is thought; thought is man. Assuming Aurobindo's poetry, letters, journals, discourses, learned speeches, profound yoga treatises and timely counsel provided by him to spiritual aspirants to be gold and gems, I shall sculpt this loving pendant called *Aravinda Pragasam* with their help.

4. Light of India

India is a blessed land, an abode of great sages, a fount of spiritual energy, a divine garden of wisdom. The highest spiritual aspirations of human life can be fulfilled only

here, as the powerful fire required to achieve the goal is found here. Even in the midst of raging storms and crashing waves, the gems hidden in the depths of the sea are not destroyed. Similarly, no matter how politics in India change and how many foreign forces clash here, the flame of India will not be extinguished. The sun and the moon cannot be swallowed up by the formation of multiple clouds nor can stars be made to fall. In the same way, recurring clouds of poverty, ignorance and slavery will not succeed in dimming the divine light of this country. Great sages are born here every now and then to make this light glow brighter. This divine spark continues to light up the path for the Indian people; it possesses the power to purify and bring fullness to human life. Vedic sages, Buddha, Mahavira, Adi Shankara, Ramanuja (Udaiyavar), Madhva, Chaitanya, Gura Nanak are all great sages who fed this divine spark.

The rise and fall, the highs and lows of human life follow one another like night and day. India's divine light shone at its brightest and then gradually lost its sheen. There was darkness again; obstacles, worries, old cruel deeds, degeneration of ethics, foreign oppression – all these contributed to the country's decline. But the soul of India is not affected by the body's decay. The strong and majestic Indian flame continued to burn bright despite the decline faced by the country due to bad times. Just as devotees undertake a pilgrimage in darkness, the flame of India progressed on its path to a divine state. This progress was made possible with the infusion of new energy provided by sages. This divine voyage began from the seat of feminine power that was Calcutta (Kali's abode).

5. New lights of India

“Like Hari!” so rose a spring of love. Its waters came from a Chaitanya well. “Everything is God; everyone belongs to one community”: this was the refrain heard on the conch; that was the dawn conch signalling our resurgence; this conch was sounded by Raja Rammohan. Tamil Nadu’s own nightingale sang soulfully, “Come, the divine light is shining, let us overcome death and live.” The same period also witnessed the advent of another majestic personality – Dayananda, who raised his voice on behalf of Indian *Vedas*; he routed the casteist forces and united the Hindu community around the fire ignited by the Vedic sages. Dispelling the ash which had settled on our community owing to bad times, Dayananda talked about the real embers. “Aum Shakti,” a new mountain breeze rose and blew to swallow up the differences and stoked the embers to a fire which created a new force in our country. This new fiery force was born in the divine abode of Mother Kali; it was nurtured in the triangular crucible of devotion, wisdom and duty and the man to nurture it with ardour was Ramakrishna Paramahansa. That great fire was *Bharata Shakti*; it was also India’s backbone; the lion that was Vivekananda rose to explain this to the whole world.

“A long period of darkness is coming to an end; our sorrows will be wiped out; that which was a stiffened corpse is now awake; a new divine voice can be heard; our motherland is an infinite storehouse of wisdom; it is full of love and talent, peace and determination. Its promises are being fulfilled; the worn-out bones and muscles are being given a new lease of life like the refreshing sensation car-

ried by a mountain breeze. There is no more lassitude. Mother India has woken up from a long deep slumber. She will not sleep hereafter; foreign forces and alien strengths can no longer shackle her; she is omnipresent, majestic – our Mother is awake and standing tall – Arise! Be aware! Be determined! Realise the truth! Work till you achieve your desired goal!” This speech by Vivekananda – who was on a tour to propagate Indian philosophy – before the victory column erected by Bhaskar Sethupati became the rallying cry of a new resurgent India.

Thereafter, the new India was celebrated by the Rabindra Veena; Vivekananda conquered the world by wisdom; Rabindranath did so by his art. Vivekananda spoke to stoke the awareness of the country. Poet Rabindranath prayed to God for the country’s resurgence and for its people to be imbued with a fearless mind, upright demeanour, unity without division, dedicated service, new life and divine qualities. His *Gitanjali* is a bouquet of flowers offered at the altar of new India.

The country experienced a new awakening; in spite of threatening thunderclouds, the sun rose to continue its march; in spite of a thousand obstacles, India’s light is continuing its onward march; its aim is to bestow a divine aura to the human race.

We are witnessing an astounding resurgence leading to the flowering of many blossoms. One such divine flower is Sri Aurobindo. “Divine Life” is an expression often heard these days; this was given to us by Sri Aurobindo. It is the throne of India’s resurgence and India’s light reposes on it; a resurgence festival is being celebrated.

6. North and south

The north and south have joined forces in this resurgence. The north has more material wealth; it promotes research, has infinite life; it has mechanical powers transcending time and place; it has the power of karma. The south is rich in divine wealth; promotes divine arts; has an expansive spiritual life; it is replete with spiritual energy to control the inner faculties including the mind, reason, will and egotism; it is rich in spiritual wisdom. Mankind should make progress with the union of these two like body and soul. Europe is the repository of physical energy; India is the fountainhead of spiritual energy. Both these energies flourished during Aurobindo's period of life.

Rajnarayan Basu

Rajnarayan Basu was Aurobindo's maternal grandfather. He was well-versed in Hindu, Christian and Sufi arts and a poet with mastery over the English, Sanskrit and Persian languages. He had worked closely with Devendranath Tagore (father of Rabindranath Tagore) in the first Brahma Samaj; as a person, he was highly motivated by and deeply rooted in Hindu ethics and culture. The youth at that time was becoming increasingly enamoured by all things English and worldly pleasures. Educated youngsters preferred to follow European modes of demeanour, dress and behaviour and were inclined to dismiss the country's spiritual heritage as blind beliefs.

Rajnarayan spoke about Hindu ethics to the youth; he explained the greatness of our divine arts to them and succeeded in driving out their foreign fixation and in instilling

nationalist feelings in them. They were asked to support goods made in India; he organised a Hindu conclave and promoted our country's handicrafts industry. He set up camps for the youth to learn boxing and sword fighting. He wrote many books and rendered valuable service to Bengali literature. He wrote his autobiography and played a key role in the formation of a new Bengal. His daughter Swarnalata Devi was Aurobindo's mother.

Sri Aurobindo's father was Dr. Krishnadhan Ghosh. He was a product of foreign education. Having obtained his medical degree in England, he attained fame through his work as a civil surgeon in Bhagalpur, Rangapur and Khulna. Although his comportment and dress were European, he was a pure Indian at heart. He earned and spent money generously, distributing largesse to friends and poor people. He even neglected his own family in the course of his work which affected his children studying in England. His grandfather's passion for Hindu ethics and his father's traits of generosity were reflected in Sri Aurobindo's divine poetic talent.

Aurobindo's birth

Calcutta witnessed an auspicious event on 15-8-1872: in the tamil year of angrasa and on the first day of the tamil month of aavani, on a thursday with star moolam and in kataka lagna – before a beautiful new day dawned, another sun rose – Sri Aurobindo was born. There is a saying "Moolam star in the month of Aavani is born to rule." The same day marked the passing away of Majini. But Aurobindo blossomed with a divine glow, destined to charter a new course for the world to follow.

7. Training in the arts

A young seedling is at first nurtured with soil and then watered; the Aurobindo plant was nurtured with European culture before it drew on the Indian fount of wisdom. The father desired to impart only an English-style schooling to his children; at the age of five years, Aurobindo was admitted to St. Paul's School in Darjeeling. After two years, he travelled to England with his family. His father returned to India after entrusting his children in the care of a priest's family called Drewett in Manchester. Aurobindo studied in a local school there for five years before joining St. Paul's School in London in 1885; he obtained excellent grades and was lauded by his teachers; he also received 40 pounds (Senior Classical Scholarship) to pursue higher education. In 1890, at the age of eighteen years, Aurobindo joined King's College, Cambridge. Since he did not receive proper financial support from home, he somehow made ends meet with his scholarship money and concentrated on learning the arts.

8. Father's letter

We have managed to get hold of a letter written by Sri Aurobindo to his father at that time. His father Krishnadhan mentions it in a letter he wrote to his wife's brother Yohan. This letter reveals his feelings.

My dear Yohan,

Khulna, 1890 December 2

I have managed to groom my three sons into exceptionally accomplished human beings. Even after my passing, my

sons will continue to make you feel proud with their achievements. They will embellish your country and light up your name. Who can foretell the exploits of the next generation?

What more fulfilment can I expect in the span of my life if my three children distinguish themselves in their fields of endeavour? Benoy will be like his father in all that he undertakes; he shall be known for his sacrifices. But he shall perform every task with patience. Mano will retain his father's sensibilities, eschew narrow minded thinking and embrace one and all. He will also be a poet like his grandfather Rajnarayan. Auro (Aurobindo) will bring laurels to his country with his exceptional administrative skills. I shall not live to see all this; if you do, then think of this letter. Thanks to his talent, he is now studying in King's College, Cambridge.

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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
