

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

Tamil
National Songs



ASSA
Editions

Author's Notes

*Let us create a new Tamil world
Let us nurture our artistic talents in order
to earn the plaudits of the world
Let us embrace our time-tested
virtuous paths
Let us strive to progress with the times.*

A compilation of words and songs imbued with the richness and excellence of the new Tamil world that is moving ahead with renewed vigour.

Kavi Yogi Maharishi

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Editor's Notes

New Tamil World

Tamil National Songs. An excellent guide to the history of writers and singers of Tamil Nadu. An accurate summary of the three periods of Sangam and the life of Shuddhananda Bharati and modern Tamil National Songs of India is being published. The reading of this book will bestow new courage and impetus to a new generation. This book was printed for the 81st birthday of Shuddhananda Bharati.

*Let us look at the countries in our vicinity
Let us embrace the newness prevailing there
Let us practise Tamil music to attain success
Let us demonstrate that we are brave Tamilians.*

This beautiful Eulogy is dedicated to the acclaimed son of the soil Kaviyogi Maharshi Shuddhananda Bharati by the people of Sivagangai on the occasion of Shuddhananda Arts Festival.

One could say it is the fruit of the penance undertaken by the town of Sivagangai?

Or perhaps the grace bestowed on us by great and noble beings of former times to change the course of worldly illusion?

If one figure could embody the yoga of penance, knowledge of Siva, the arts and science in this world would it be Kaviyogi?

From where shall I attain the power of imagination – could it be from Kamban?

Could another poet have given us an epic poem like Bharata Shakti?

This book is like a pearl of the ocean that adorns the head of the Goddess of Tamil!

The more one thinks of Shuddhananda the more one experiences supreme bliss!

In conclusion, he is Vyasara who has appeared in our midst to give us the Veda in impeccable golden Tamil!

We salute and laud your immortal songs!

We eulogise the lotus at the feet of Lord Brahma!

May the world over which you reign sing your songs forever with love!

We shall continue to proclaim your fame
for innumerable years

Long live the yogi who renounced every-
thing but his love of Tamil!

Long live the pious man who has come to
show us the glory of Buddha, Gandhi and
the divine Krishna!

Long live the great man who has under-
taken a penance to eradicate the suffering
of the ignorant people!

As long as the Tamil Mother lives, may the
fame of Sage Shuddhananda – the
ambrosial fruit – endure!

Long live silence!

Composer: Blessed poet Ramasami

30-10-77

Poet Yogi Deivasigamani

The pure gem of a poet from whom flows
the river of poetry owing to the grace of
Angayarkanni.

My sincere blessings to Shuddhananda
who inhabits an exalted sphere of yoga.

Poet Desikavinayagam Pillai

The learned and enlightened Shuddhananda Bharati

Who is the gift bestowed on us by the Tamil Mother,

May you always live and flourish in our country like the lofty Himalayas.

You who has attained great renown with your talent

Can anyone partake of the feast of your poetry and fail to laud it?

The learned savant who has severed the roots of desire

The pious man who is worthy of my worship

Shuddhananda Bharati who is the embodiment of pure love

My lips can utter only words of benediction for you.

Endowed with the grace of Siva who makes the hearts of devotee's dance

You have gifted *Bharata Shakti* to the world

May you live long O Perfect One!

You who roams the streets
without partiality

You have attained the exalted heights of
penance and have nourished the Tamil
plant

You who toils day and night tirelessly to
propagate ethics and true knowledge

You who has a poetic heart like Kamban

You who has penned the epic poem
Bharata Shakti that is acclaimed by the
whole world

May the supreme sage Shuddhananda
Bharati live long!

Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai

Shuddhananda Bharati who is well-versed
in several languages enriched the world's
literature by mastering the intricacies of
Tamil and Sanskrit. He is also fluent in the
English language and embraced the deli-
cate french language.

He dedicated his life to the service of the Tamil language offering these precious pearls of wisdom to the world.

This work is a beautiful tribute written by the people who loved the Sage Shudhananda Bharati and who attended his 81st birthday party.

It is with undying gratitude that I share this gem of *Tamil National Songs* to the world.

Nature of realisation

Long live everyone!

The heart is a flower; the mantras speak
sweet words of your love

May we be blessed with your grace and
render service as worship

May the world eschew war, nurture
patience and flourish in life!

Bless us with your grace so we may always
remember your golden face and be filled
with love for you

Give me the flame of energy to serve the
world like my house

May the glory of noble learned men come
to the fore, may goodness prevail and may
everyone live happily!

Aum Shuddha Shakti

Love! Peace! Bliss of grace!

Shuddhananda Bharati

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.

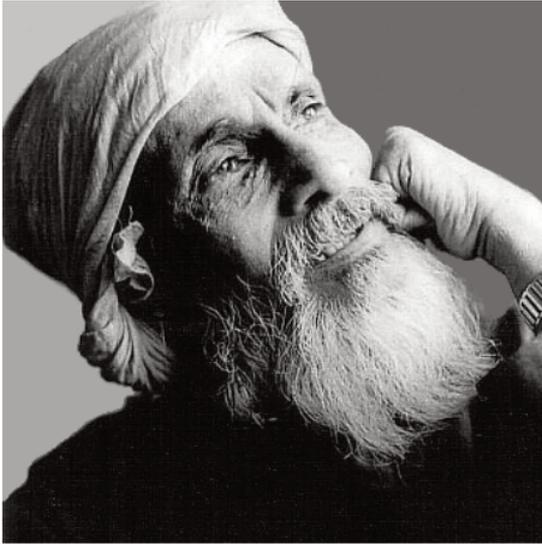
Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati is the greatest Tamil poet, having translated into this language: *Gita, Upanishads, Veda, the Bible, the Koran, Avesta, the Buddha-Dhamma-Sangha* and *Tattvartha Sutra*, the life and teachings of Lao-Tseu and Confucius. From their original languages, he also translated into 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 (Expériences 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



Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati

Tamil National Songs

I. Ancient history (Sangam)

Tamil is an exemplary language, an ancient language and one of the most beautiful languages; it is at the root of many languages. It was the Tamil Sangam of Madurai that was responsible for the growth of the Tamil language. Three Sangams nurtured Tamil:

1) First Sangam:

It had 549 poets and learned men including Aran, Agathiar, Murugavel and Mudirayar as members. Eighty-nine kings from Kaisinavazhudhi to Kodungon were patrons of Tamil during this period. Contributing books such as *Paripadal Mudhunaarai*, *Mudhukurugu* and *Kalariyavarai*, the first Sangam flourished for 4440 years before it was sadly swallowed up by the sea!

2) Middle Sangam:

The middle Sangam was born in Kapaadapuram. Patronised by 59 learned men

including Agathiar, Tolkappiar and Keerandhaiyar, 59 kings and 3700 poets who contributed their songs, it flourished for 3700 years; it contributed books such as *Agathiyam*, *Tolkappiam*, *Mapuranam*, *Isai Nunukkam* (Nuances of music) and *Boodhapuranam*. The sea of arts that was Kapaadapuram was also swallowed up by the waves of the sea. Probably the sea had a thirst for Tamil! Only *Tolkappiam* was salvaged.

3) Last Sangam:

The last Sangam was formed in present-day Madurai. It was patronised by 49 kings from Mudathirumaran to Ugraperuvazhudhi. The last Sangam period was illuminated by the presence of 49 learned men such as Sendham Boodhanar, Ilanthirumaran, Arivudaiyanar, Perunkunroorkizhar, writer Nallanthuvanar, Naaganaar, Nakeeranar and Paranaar. Songs were contributed by 446 persons in the Sangam. Poets prospered during this time. Contributing several books such as *Nedunthogai Nanooru*, *Nattrinai Nanooru*, *Ainkurunooru*, *Padhitrupattu*, *Kalithogai* 150, *Pari-*

padal 70, *Koothuvvari*, *Perisai* and *Chithrisai*, it flourished for 1950 years in north Madurai. So, the Tamil language in the Sangam flourished and developed over a period of 10000 years. Books on drama such as *Gunanool*, *Koothunool*, *Bharatham*, *Sayandham*, *Muruval* etc, books on painting, *Kanaanool*, a musical treatise called *Pancha Bharatiyam*, books on reasoning, *Taralanool* and others were all swept away by the whirlwind of time. What was left? A small part of *Agathiyam*, *Tolkappiam*, *Patthupattu*, *Ettuthogai*, *Padhinenkeezhkanakku*, *Avvai Arunthamizh*. Innumerable trees in the beautiful garden of Tamil withered away. Let us wander under the cool shade of the remaining trees. Let us now look to nurture Tamil to preserve these treasures of the world .

Agathiar's *Agathiyam* was eroded by the white ants of time and was distorted. Tolkappiar who had acquired great knowledge from Agathiar devised the Tamil grammar including letter, words and meaning. *Tolkappiam with essays* contributed by great persons such as

Senavaraiyar Ilam Pooranar, Kallaadar and Nacchinaarkiniyar exists; many small grammar books have been created with its help. Some learned men had knowledge of letters, words, and knew love as a mental experience only to help them in objective themes such as war and statecraft etc, deceit, chastity, conviction, comparison. In those days books on music and dance appeared and disappeared.

The collection of *Patthupattu* (ten compositions) shines with an ever-youthful beauty. These compositions namely *Thirumurugatrupadai*, *Ponnaratrupadai*, *Sirupanatrupadai*, *Mullaipattu*, *Pattinapalai* and *Malaipadu Kadaam* are the ten gems adorning the crown of the Tamil Mother.

The greatness of Muruga, the prosperity of Tamil Nadu, the earth's resources, the characteristics of the season of chill winds covering the months of Aippasi and Karthikai, the beauty of Madurai, the good karma of kings such as Karkaar Peruvallavan and Nedunchezhiyan, the norms of domestic life, the greatness of chastity, the

qualities of the earth, mother, God, atheism and Ori – these form the subject matter of *Patthupattu*.

Ettuthogai is the garland of victory of the Tamil Mother. The *Ettuthogai* books *Nattinai*, *Kurunthogai*, *Ainkurunooru*, *Padhitrupattu*, *Paripadal*, *Kalithogai*, *Aganabooru* and *Purananooru* have been written by several learned men. The qualities of the three Tamil kings, wealth, the valour and skills of the Tamil Maravars, the charitable acts of the wealthy, people's ethics and ability, history of Tamil kings, the greatness of Tamil Nadu – these aspects are dealt with in the *Ettuthogai* books. These books depict the knowledge, compassion, grace, opinions and hospitality of the Tamil people of those times.

Padhinenkeezhkanakku is a treasure trove of morality; it is an exposition on ethics, wealth, happiness and home. *Naaladiyar*, *Naanmanikadikai*, *Inna Narpadhu*, *Iniyavai Narpadhu*, *Kaarnarpadhu*, *Kalavazhi Narpadhu*, *Aindhinai Aimbathu*, *Aindhinai Ezhupadhu*, *Thinaimozhi Aimbathu*, *Thinaimalai*

Nootruaimbathu, *Thirikadukam*, listing of scriptural observances, proverbs, *Sirupanchamoolam* (a didactic poem), *Mudhumozhi Kanchi*, *Eladhi* (a diactic work), *Kainilai* and *Tirukkural* – it is a victory sceptre of the compilation of eighteen books. Valluvar Nayanar's *Tirukkural* alone is the universal book. See my book *Tirukkural Couplets*. Written in a metrical foot of three metrical syllables typical of 'venba' verse, these explain the principles of an ethical life clearly. Read my book *Tirukuralinbam*. People of all religions – Saivites, Vaishnavites, Jains, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians – contributed to the growth of the Tamil language.

Between the years 100 to 600 A.D. five big epic works were composed, namely *Seevagachintamani*, *Silappadikaram*, *Manimekalai*, *Valayapathi* and *Kundalakesi*. In *Valayapathi* and *Kundalakesi* only some scattered songs are available. I have done research on both and written *Valayapathi Agaval* and *Kundalakesi Agaval* in verse and also staged both of them as plays. I have included both in the epic *Bharata Shakti*. I have anal-

ysed the finer aspects of those epic poems with Jeevagan in the play *Kama Tilakan* and in *Silambu Selvam* and *Manimekalaiamudam*.

Silappadikaram is a book based on the Tamil people's culture that explains the excellence of the Cherans, Cholas and Pandyas, the sublimity of Kannagi's chastity and the good and just rule of the Pandyas. Its verses, beauty, elaboration and subject matter are written with a captivating, sweet style.

We can savour the beauty and structure of Poompugar, the power of Kannagi's chastity, the just rule of the Tamil kings, the ethical domestic life of the people and noble duties of ascetics, the ambrosial nature of *Manimekalai*, the poetic ability of the poets and the liberality of the kings in the five epic compositions.

Our gratitude and salutations to Professor U. V. Swaminathan who researched and presented us with these literary works of the Sangam period with strenuous effort!

After the Sangam period, the Tamil political scenario deteriorated. Poetry was afflicted by poverty.

After Tiruvalluvar, some people such as Adhigamaan, Kapilar, Avvaiyar, Karaikal Ammaiyar, Tirumoolar, Idaikaadar and Kallaadar appeared on the scene and demonstrated their powers of divine yoga. Some revered poets such as Angavai, Sangavai, Boodhapandiyan Devi, Nappasalaiyar, Nanmullaiyar, Gandhiyar, Kamakanaiyar, Velliveedhiyar, Keerandhaiyar, Masaathiyar and Naagaiyar were also prominent at that time.

Buddhism and Jainism flourished in Tamil Nadu for innumerable years and they blended with our arts. Koolavanigasaathanar praises the Buddhist religion in his *Manimekalai*; making compassion for life flow from the lips of *Manimekalai*, he provides an inexhaustible feast of literary food. Ilango was a Jain ascetic. He has bequeathed his *Silappadikaram* that is an epic poem of prose, music and drama as artistic wealth to us. All the religions of

those times such as Saivism, Vaishnavites, Buddhism and Jainism are included in it.

Tiruthakkadevar's *Seevagachintamani* is an epic poem that is wholly Jain in nature. *Seevagachintamani* marries multiple times, becomes acquainted with the nature of the world and becomes an ascetic. Great poetic compositions such as *Nariviruttham*, *Perunkadhai*, *Neelakesi*, *Soolamani*, *Udhayanankaadhai* and *Merumandiram* spoke movingly about the mores of Jainism.

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Editions ASSA

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
