

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Long Live Mother!

Tamil  
Sentiment

Essays on the Tamil Renaissance



ASSA  
Editions

## Editor's Notes

We dedicate *Tamizhunarchi* for the first time in English as *Tamil Sentiment* to Mother Tamil and place it at her feet in humility. Thanks to the great seer poet scholar, Dr. Suddhananda Bharati, the author of the original Tamil version, the Tamil language, its land and its people are getting recognition at present times. This book could provide a burning inspiration for making Tamil Nadu a modern and progressive state, by enriching its traditional language, with meaningful changes, putting it on a par with the English language and spearheading all-round progress in economy, trade, industry and art, as well as in political wisdom, religion and philosophy.

It is an established truth everywhere that the seer poet, Dr. Suddhananda Bharati, has devoted many long years in the service of Tamil. We are publishing this anthology, from among the articles he wrote over a long period of time, in various Tamil magazines, to awaken the Tamil people. Tamil shrines, Tamil culture, the history of Tamils, the greatness of ancient Tamils and the place they deserve in the history of the world, the state of Tamils at present, the means to improve their language, the awakening of Tamils, the renewed Tamil state, unity of consciousness, the art of living – all these and many more treasures are buried in this book. Precious poems like 'The Tamil Hymn', 'Stand upright, Tamilians', 'Garland of Tamil Love', 'My dear Tamils' – could give courage and determination to Tamils.

Let God's blessings and the encouragement of all well wishers, give us the inspiration to carry out the programmes laid down in this book. A rare enthusiasm is found in this writing for the love of the country and the Tamil culture.

Thank you to Ms. Gowri Ramaswamy for the English translation *Tamil Sentiment* and to Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for *Tamizhunarchi*, the original Tamil version. With the energy of Shuddha Shakti!

Long live Mother Tamil!

Christian Piaget



# 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*

# 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 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!

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# 1. Tamil Hymn

Venus is twinkling, while dawn is breaking,  
Listen to the sound of the white conch,  
One can discern bird song and their screeching,  
The soft breeze is playing among the honey filled flowers,  
The bees are intoxicated by the drink of honey,  
Come fast, immerse yourself lovingly,  
in the pure nectar of Tamil garland,  
Which cools the heart, the mind, and the body.

The fragrant breeze, triumphantly blowing in the courtyard,  
Has woken you up, but you cover yourself again sleeping,  
Unaware of the spreading rays of sun piercing the darkness;  
still lazy with the remnants of sleep,  
Clutching tightly the silent dreams.  
Oh, shame on you! slender girl,  
Awake, work hard, learn the wisdom of the ages,  
Share them with the world.

The oldest of languages with three gems,  
prose, poetry and drama in its fold,  
The sweetest of the younger languages,  
Let us keep it precious, add new dimensions,  
Do not be drawn into tricky alien things,  
When you have a gold mine in your house,  
Would you depend on others? how poor are you in spirit ?  
Serve, make Tamil great.

Let us immerse ourselves in *Thirukural*,  
Adorn ourselves with *Thiruvasakiyam*,

Sing *Thevaram*, *Divya Prabhandham*,  
Wear Sangam Tamil as bracelets, *Kamba Ramayan* as crown,  
Recite the sacred verse of *Thiru Moolar*,  
Ward off evil, worship with *Thiru Arulpa*,  
Sing, dance and pray with *Thiruppugazh*,  
So, you could be blessed by God.

Let us pray for the world to bow to the Tamil queen;  
Tamil wealth to increase multi-fold,  
Tamil clan to become the guiding light,  
Tamil words to become the golden verse,  
Talents, wisdom, courage and beauty,  
Becoming the eternal spring,  
Powerful, like wind, sun and sea,  
Conquering death and reaching the eternal God.



## 2. Stand Upright, Tamil man!

1. Stand upright, Tamil man!  
Make your mother feel happy.  
Even if the mountains disintegrate  
You should not lose heart, Tamil man!
2. Learn to build the fire of courage,  
Work with moral resolve,  
Stand up with strong conviction – Tamil man!  
Win back your birthright.
3. With shoulders rising high,  
Being the friend of the whole world,  
Rule over the quick passage of Time,  
Winning victories upon victories.
4. Let us sing till we reach sky high,  
Let us hoist the Tamil flag,  
In all the corners,  
In every direction.
5. Let us sail the ship of life,  
Into the sea of Time.  
Amass all the world's riches,  
Becoming famous.
6. Even when one utters the word, 'Tamil',  
A spark of energy is born,  
With mother's love,  
The nectar of life sprouts.
7. Placing Tamil Mother on the throne of wisdom,  
Worship her all around the world,

With the twinkling stars in the sky,  
Achieve success and wear the victory garland.

8. Let us make the world bow before,  
The Tamil culture.  
Let us build the world's motherland  
In Tamil country.
9. Let us build a happy, common state,  
With no competition or jealousy.  
Work for the removal of the nation's  
Darkness and poverty.
10. Let us raise the clarion call for unity,  
Let us sacrifice our lives for pure truth,  
Let us beat the victory drum, Oh, Tamil man !  
Be courageous in body and mind.



### 3. Tamil Temple

Welcome! lovers of Tamil! Here, see the Tamil shrine! This appeared when the earth was formed. The first humans started here. Then, the oceans swallowed its vast lands. Let us build a golden shrine out of what now remains. Let us build a victory tower on it. Lovers of Tamil! You have got to work day and night, every breath of your being should be devoted to the service of this shrine. This should be modern; so that art, fine arts, sculpture, poetry, music, dance, drama, literature, religion, wealth, talents, beauty and bravery flourish in it. Let us destroy caste fights, clashes between religions, eschew arguments, disputes, differences, jealousies, meanness, arrogance, banish poverty, ignorance and sloth from this temple. Let us march ahead, demolishing the obstacles. We are the blessed soldiers of Tamil Mother! A sculptor works with great concentration to express his ideas in stone and makes a statue; that is dedication. Let us strive to make a new Tamil land.

#### Tamil Mother

Let us eliminate animosity; develop culture, realise that we are the cherished soldiers of Tamil Mother. We may have a number of religious sects; but for all those born in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Mother is common; so also the Tamil language, duty to Tamil and the Tamil state. We are all aware of how the devotional song, *Vande Mataram*, meaning "Salute to the Motherland", gave an impetus to the

freedom movement. A prayer to Tamil Mother is important, if Tamilians have to progress unitedly.

Here, see the Tamil Mother! Long live our mother! Long live our mother! Come on sculptors! Let us make a gem studded golden statue to Tamil Mother.

The daughter of Shiva endowed with superior arts,  
Leader of God's followers, long live Tamil Mother.  
Her eyes are aflame with intelligence,  
Her face looks like the sweet full moon,  
She attracts, she is beautiful.  
Her smile bewitches and dazzles,  
Her hair glows with divine light,  
Wearing thousands of immortal poems round her neck,  
Like gem studded golden garland:  
The whole of the south was her land;  
Her throne was Pandya land,  
The rivers Vaigai and Tamiraparani flowed under her feet;  
Sri Lanka supported her feet;  
The brave queen sat upon the throne,  
She held the Cauvery River in her hand,  
She hoisted the victory flag,  
Of magnanimity, truth and religion, sky high.  
Held the weapon of Shiva's Trident,  
Adorned herself with the fine arts of,  
Prose, poetry and drama.  
She had such long and dark hair,  
deceiving the peacock of god Muruga  
Into thinking they were clouds and to dance.  
Bless us with great wealth,  
Sweet music flows from every direction,

Ocean waves proclaim "long life"  
The western and eastern ghats,  
From either side give her lift,  
She sits on the cool shades of the garden,  
Surrounded by flowers, fruits, trees and gold.  
Go! all Tamilians go! one and all  
Worship her, the goddess of intelligence,  
Goddess of benevolence and beauty,  
Tamil Goddess, Long live our mother!

Let us install this Tamil Goddess in our inner shrine, Painters and poets! Take out your instruments of trade, make a beautiful portrait of this Tamil Goddess. Worship her with love, intelligence, beauty, wealth, art, literature, painting and sculpture. This is our prime duty. Keep her inside your heart and everything will become easy with her benevolent blessing. Thousands of Tamil lovers should assemble and sing her praise. This mother should have a place of worship in our temples. Before her altar, an academy of Tamil should function. There, thousands of Tamil lovers should learn the arts. They should name their children with names like Tamil Ammai, Tamil Aayee, Tamil Appan and Tamil Murugan, so that passion for Tamil will increase "I am a Tamil, all Tamils are children of Tamil Mother – my brethren – this feeling should light up in everyone's heart. The slogan "Long live my mother" should sound everywhere in Tamil Nadu". This is the first duty of every Tamil.



## 4. Tamil Culture

Let us stroll around the precincts of the Tamil temple. Here, we will learn about the culture of Tamils, their bravery, courage, kindness, intelligence, benign rule, business acumen, prosperity, and generosity. Look around! How many beautiful shrines are there! So many stone carvings! These illustrate the greatness of our warriors, kings and wise men. In these temples there are many attractive statues and sculptures; they speak of the artistic excellence of Tamils. Here, we listen to the great works like *Thiruvaimozhi*, *Thevaram*, *Thiruvasakiyam*, *Periya Puranam*, *Thiruppugazh*, and Thayumanavar's poems. They enthral and elevate us. The pleasing, beautiful and meaningful words of wisdom are the sacred texts of Tamil culture. They created the Tamil society. The temples at Tiruchi, Tirupathi and Palani are built on the hills. They proclaim the greatness of Tamil culture. The temples at Kalahasthi, Chidamaram, Kanchi, Thanjavur, Srirangam, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Rameswaram illustrate the great religious sentiments and artistic excellence. We do not even know the names of the sculptors who built these temples. In western countries these great artists would have got greater recognition; even their biographies would have been published!

Tamils by nature worship beauty and brain and through them seek God's grace. They are not used to singing the praises of ordinary monarchs; they like to sing in praise of God – the king of kings. The stories of ordinary kings do not impress Tamils. The poems which have been com-

posed for money or gifts have no place in the heart of Tamils. The biggest villain is temptation and inner struggle; they overcome these, surrender their hearts in God's hands and are drawn to the great works of religious poets. Tamils consider human beings as walking temples. According to them, all belong to "One race, one God, All are our lands and everyone is our kin". These are the famous sayings found in Tamil philosophy. The lives of Tamils in the olden days revolved round God and temple. Even today, one could see this attitude in many cities of Tamil Nadu. Many kings, wealthy nobles and soldiers did service in the temple in different ways. Even now the guardians of temples show us the endowments and gifts made by the kings of the yester years. Those kings and men of wealth felt proud in doing such philanthropic acts. Tamils willingly surrendered everything – their earthly possessions and even their soul – to God. This concept was fundamental to the idea behind the sayings "The object of learning is to worship God" and "The object of work is to reach God". Tamils dedicated their intellect, wisdom and talents to God and charity. Tamil Nadu respected and honoured people for their accomplishments in social service, charity and devotion to God. Ancient poets sang in praise of people with philanthropic natures. One could infer the artistic nature of Tamils from their devotion, service to God, beauty of their art, chariot festivals, songs, dance, playing of instruments, emotions of devotees, their garments, etc. In Tamil Nadu, blacksmiths, stone masons, goldsmiths, cobblers, painters, debaters, composers, musicians, dance teachers, priests, magicians, doctors, jewellers, weavers of cotton, silk and wool excelled in their

work. Our temples stand as proof that people who had mastered the sixty- four arts and crafts lived here. The rituals laid down by the kings and nobles of that time are still being observed in the temples. From switching on the lights to celebrating chariot festivals, the ancient methods laid down by the people of Tamil Nadu are still being followed. These are all illustrations of the greatness of Tamil culture.

The history of Tamil Nadu is depicted not only by the temples of Saiva and Vaishnava faiths, but also the Jain and Buddhist caves, pillars, Muslim mosques and Christian churches and other sacred places of worship. The tolerant attitude of the Tamils made it possible for several religions to co-exist and flourish in this land. Religious fanaticism was far less in Tamil Nadu than anywhere else. Tamil Nadu is the only place where no blood was shed in the name of religion. The movement of religious tolerance started in Tamil Nadu. The Brahmagnana movement was started for world peace. The Suddha Samarasa Sanmarga movement was started by Ramalingam Swamikal. The movement of saints was started to make people lead a religious life through co-operation. All these had taken root in Tamil Nadu. Saint Thomas brought the message of Christ first to Madras. Despite the present conditions, there is little doubt that the future Tamil Nadu will guide the world in matters of wisdom. In Tamil temples all deities have equal status. The goddess of learning and the goddess of wealth are equal. Apart from these gods and goddesses worshipped in temples, villages have special local deities like Ayyanar, Karuppan, Veeran etc. In olden days, Tamil warriors worshipped in these temples and learnt martial

arts there at night. There are still weapons of war kept in some temples and festivals of martial arts held. These are all evidence of the bravery of the Tamils.

## Tamil Sentiment

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Editions ASSA  
Grand'Rue 180  
1454 L'Auberson – Suisse  
Téléphone : +41 (0) 24 454 47 07  
Télécopie : +41 (0) 24 454 47 77  
Email : [info@editions-assa.ch](mailto:info@editions-assa.ch)  
Web : [www.editions-assa.ch](http://www.editions-assa.ch)

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