

Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Wonders of Love

Anbin Arpudham



ASSA
Editions

Author's Notes

This book is being published as the 24th love-filled offering. Tamil people worship God as the embodiment of love and happiness. Love and happiness are immanent in the divine word "Sivam". Is there anyone who does not seek happiness? One has to follow Siva's path in order to find oneself in this birth and the next. This play has been written with the aim of familiarising the Tamil people with their precious religion so that they may gain wisdom and benefit from it. Another thought: the Tamil people should stage uniquely Tamil plays and thereby nurture Tamil art. The valuable work done by foreigners to promote the art of drama in present times should be emulated by the Tamil people. Should our Tamil that has reigned as the goddess of culture and the princess of music for ten thousand years be somnolent?

The drama stage must be venerated. It is essential to transform the stage into a platform for reforming the religion, society and customs. Siva is also Nataraja, Vishnu is Ranganathan. The whole world is the stage for their blissful dance. If twenty Tamil youth with virtuous conduct, good education, inclination for divine service, musical talent, artistic flair and dancing skills come forward with this noble thought, many extraordinary reforms can be accomplished in Tamil Nadu. Drama provides an exceptional platform to bring about reforms more easily than any other means.

Tamil must not sleep! Tamil is the mother of southern languages; Tamil must wake up! Tamil must grow as a separate form of art! A drama is staged before a live audience

and it presents several things such as prose, music, painting, beauty, happiness, love, affection, chastity, ways of the world, ways it should be corrected, the way of life, the purpose of life, way to purify life, religious ethics, socialism, devotion to God and love for living beings in a direct manner. Our Tamil Nadu is filled with the wealth of divine grace; divinely blessed devotees performed miracles here. Even today our Tamil Nadu is a centre of divine light.

This play clearly brings out its greatness, the ability of devotees, our natural wealth of divine arts, the divine fragrance of Tamil, the wonderful power of love and the truth about God who submits to His devotees' love and helps them.

May the nectar of Tamil arts flourish and grow!

This edition incorporates many changes; the style is simple; due attention has been paid to the elements of drama. A new character "Dhandayudham" has been added in order to increase the humour quotient. This edition may be considered to be the perfect version!

This book should be read with an impartial outlook; no religion should be looked down upon; each one has its own distinctions. The Jain religion follows the threefold path of 'see good, think good and act good'. Read about its sublimity and the greatness of Mahaveera Tirthankara in *Bharata Shakti*. The first part describes the harm inflicted on man by man due to ignorance.

There was nothing wrong with Pallavarajan; it is man's state of mind that is at fault; that is described as Thunmadhi, Gundan, Mundan etc; so those who read this

should never talk disparagingly of other religions! Each one must follow one's religion in a spirit of harmony. Since this book explains the wonders of devotees' love, it has been given the title "*Wonders of Love*".

Aum Sivam!

20-7-1941, Ramachandrapuram

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: "Kavi Yogi Maharishi 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."

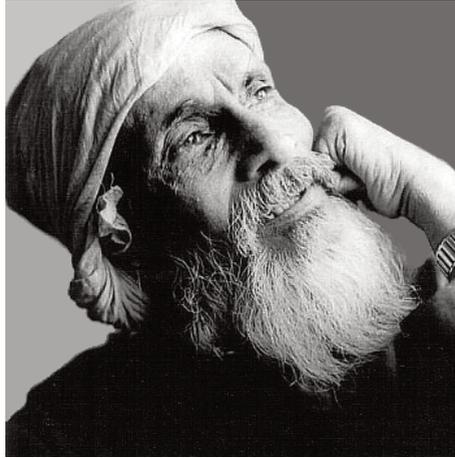
He had a presentiment that he would receive the Nobel Prize for Peace or for Literature but did not live to see it.

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



Editor's Notes

A warm thank you to Savitri for the beautiful translation. She has, with her meticulous work, been able to help me to express fully the thoughts of Kavi Yogi Maharishi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati about *Wonders of Love*.

And my sincere, deepest thanks to Prof. Sankaranarayanan of Kumbakonam for his kind assistance to Savitri for the translation of numerous classical Tamil poems in this book.

The Soul sings

Aum is my name
The hearth is my home
My Truth is the same
Beyond form and name.

Body is my clay
The world is my play
Life is my breath
And Love is its worth.

Mind is my maid
God is my guide
He is by my side
For in Him I bide.

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

With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

God is Love!

Christian Piaget

Wonders of Love

Dramatis Personae

Dhandayudham, Sivapadham, Sivanesan

->All three Devotees

Thilakavathiyar

Vagheesar (Tirunavukarasar)

Temple priest

Pallavarajan

Sanmadhi

Thunmadhi

Sadhisenan

Adhikayan

Gundan

Mundan

Tathvasagarar

Group of devotees

Tirugnanasambandar

Appodhiyadigal, his wife, two sons

Tiruneelakandar from Jaffna

Sivamunivar

Courtesans

Wonders of Love

Scene 1

(Temple garden... Sivanesan sings and plucks flowers)

You who is the melody of music, praise be!

You who severs the bad karma of sinners, praise be!

*You who became the thought, the writing and the word,
praise be!*

You who occupies all my thoughts, praise be!

You who became the sky and the earth, praise be!

You who is greater than the greatest, praise be!

You who is very dear like the pupil of the eye, praise be!

You who lives atop the Mount Kailash, praise be!

Long live Namasivaya... long live the sacred feet of the Lord...!

(Comes running and shouting in a ghostly voice)

Dhandayudham: Long live Namasivaya! Long live the sacred feet of the Lord...!

Sivanesan: Your throat seems to have swallowed an excess of bezoar today?

Dhandayudham: Tell me, what is the most important thing in the body? Let the devotee speak!

Sivanesan: Of course, the head is the most important thing in the body...

Dhandayudham: Not really. Times have changed. The most important thing in the body is the

stomach. When the stomach is starved, can the head nod? Will the blood flow? Today the God who is enshrined in this stomach is rejoicing...

Sivanesan: What about?

Dhandayudham: Lentil vada in yogurt, sweet pudding, ap-palam, vegetable gravy, colocasia in yogurt sauce, relish with green chillies etc etc! This body that is used to a repast of pepper rice and water, imagine what four cups of sweet pudding and yogurt sauce would do for it?... Sivoham, Sivoham!

Sivanesan: What is happening today, is there a special worship of Siva?

Dhandayudham: Younger brother is coming...,

Sivanesan: Whose younger brother? What is his name?

Dhandayudham: Mother's younger brother... name is Marumaru, something of the sort! It is in the stomach; I shall remember when I belch once.

Sivanesan: Do not strain yourself! I heard the news. It is Marunikkiyar, Thilakavathiyar's younger brother; he is coming from the north!

Dhandayudham: Did he go on a pilgrimage to Kasi (Benares) or Kailash in the north?

Sivanesan: Neither he was a Dharmasena in Patalipuram; he used to preach the Jain religion. He was extremely sick with intestinal disease

and now he is coming to see his elder sister.
By Siva's grace he should be cured of his ailment.

Dhandayudham: Not a big deal surely? Let him sit beside us today and eat like we do! His intestinal colic, stomach pain – everything will vanish!

Sivanesan: That sickness is the retribution for offending Siva. It will go by divine grace. Today's worship of Siva is being organised to celebrate this wonder.

Dhandayudham: First celebration is for him (points to his stomach). Then come devotees and others. By the way, why did this Marunikkiyar go to the north? Why is Thilakavathiyar staying in this temple mutt?

Sivanesan: Even after staying in the temple mutt for so long you do not know the answer?

Dhandayudham: Gardening, eating, eating, gardening, sleeping... When I remember I recite divine names and dance; that is all this body knows. Ok, tell me in detail; sing a song first and then tell me...!

Sivanesan:

*Gracing the flock to be taken in and hoary
Grandeur of Lord
were one to probe profound are they
to tell in terms clear
they alone can aspire to know if they bow into the
Holy Feet of Father with deeds to reckon by Him.*

Dhandayudham: (Walking up and down) Ok, tell me, long live Namasivaya, ummm...

Sivanesan: Everyone looks for happiness in the world. Happiness stands for Sivam. All those who seek happiness without differences of caste and religion can attain this truth that is God. Practitioners of any religion may worship God with any name, but everyone attains the same blissful entity in the end. Pugazhanaar was an ardent devotee of God. He was a noble-minded Vellala from Tiruvamur. His wife Madhiniyar was a chaste lady and a great devotee of Siva. Thilakavathiyar and our Marunikkiyar are their offspring. Thilakavathiyar attained marriageable age. It was decided to give her in marriage to a Tamil warrior called Kalipagaiyar. Obeying the king's command, Kalipagaiyar mustered his Tamil forces and waged a war against a north Indian king. He perished in the war. At the same time Pugazhanaar and Madhiniyar also breathed their last here. Thilakavathiyar was unable to bear the death of her betrothed and resolved to kill herself; but Marunikkiyar intervened stating that if his elder sister were to kill herself, he would follow suit. Thilakavathiyar renounced everything, became an ascetic and came here. She keeps herself engaged in temple service and devotion to God.

Dhandayudham: But why? With her wealth, she could have lived comfortably, enjoyed good food...

Sivanesan: Being aware of the intransient nature of the world Marunikkiyar donated all his wealth to poor people and charities, renounced everything and left in search of the true entity. The Jain religion based on the principle of non-violence that preached the threefold path of pure thoughts, speech and action appealed to him and he converted to that religion and became a Dharmasena. Now Siva is going to accept and bless him.

Dhandayudham: What do you mean, accept him? How did a Dharmasena think of coming here? Was the food there not to his liking?

Sivanesan: Your brain is always in the stomach. Is there not a heart a little above it? Is there not someone in it? He alone is my beloved...

Dhandayudham: ... you used to sing a Thevaram song for that... umm.

Sivanesan:

*There is no one of mine beside me who loves me
But there is someone in me who is very loving
He is the soul in my body
He stands within me, the supreme God...*

(Pats his stomach and speaks in a ghostly voice)

Dhandayudham: The supreme God within me...

(He dances)

Sivanesan: Enough of the dance! That God who is within draws the souls towards Him according to their level of maturity and blesses them. Today He is going to bless Marunikkiyar.

Dhandayudham: Today the God who is here (stomach) is going to accept ten cups of sweet pudding... since we are devotees, we make the sacred sign on the stomach that is below the heart.

Sivanesan: Not really; focus with the heart and let the head worship Him!... Everyone in the world must perceive Him, He alone is worthy of worship, He is Siva...

(The temple bell rings from behind the curtain; Thevaram songs are heard. Dhandayudham starts dancing)

Oh, the Insane! Oh, the wearer of the crescent moon! Oh, bestower of grace! I think of you without forgetting you even for a moment. You placed yourself in my heart. Thiruvonnainallur is situated on the southern bank of the river Pennai; the name of years temple is Tiruvarutturai; Oh Lord enshrined in that temple! I was Your slave (even before); then how can I say "I am not Your slave?"

Sivanesan: We have sufficient flowers! Let us go for the morning worship with lamps. Nama Parvati Padhaye!

Dhandayudham: Hara, hara Mahadeva! Here, I shall go

and give these flowers to the mother and
come back in a jiffy to partake of the offering
of Pongal. Hara, hara Mahadeva!

(The curtain falls)

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