

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

Mehersthan Memoir

Tells you how the Andhras adore the Avatar

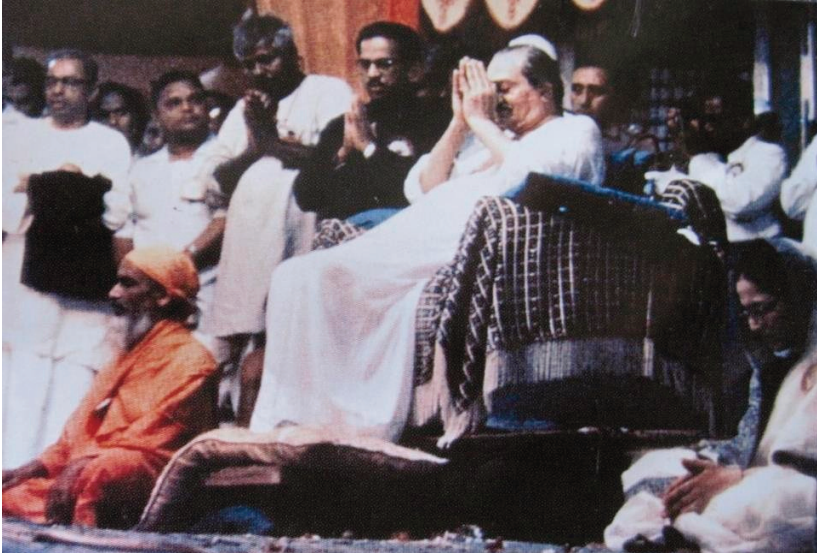
Meher Baba



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Editor's Notes

The great and vast knowledge of Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati appears again in this work. The life and history of Andhra Pradesh with all these great characters including Meher Baba is very rewarding to discover. With a beautiful picture.



Shuddhananda Bharati and Meher Baba

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Mehersthan Memoir* to you. Thank you to Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Mehersthan Memoir* 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)*

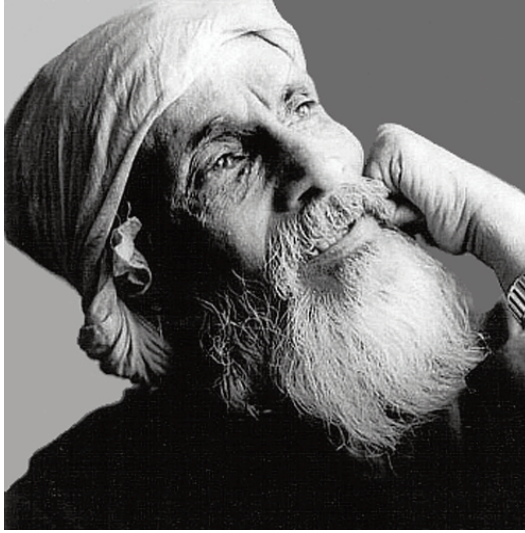
*The good in you is good for all
Your life is life for all
The God in you is God for all
Your love is love for all (Peace for all)*

*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



Swami Shuddhananda Bharati

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

Presentation of Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

May 11, 1897 – March 7, 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; and 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 that all spiritual researchers and all nations should read and meditate on. His commitment is summarized in his book celebrating his life, *L'Ame Pèlerine (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 with peace, happiness and prosperity! Let the beauty and greatness of the soul of Dr. Bharati Shuddhananda bloom and scent the entire Earth with its divine message and spiritual and unifying benefactor!

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Baba – Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati Communion



Baba blesses all

Mehersthan Memoir

by
Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati



Editions ASSA
Christian Piaget

Mehersthan Memoir

1. Lost in love

We met in a choir
And lost our hearts in love.
Love has left this memoir
For a lovers' introspective.

When I was lost in Thee
We rose to planes heavenhigh.

A light from the silent sky
Dazzled out things nearby.

The part and the whole,
The origin and the goal,
The body and the soul,
O BeLoved, Thou art all.

Thou art a golden mountain,
Thy Grace is a live-fountain,
This life is a flowing stream,
Edenising our inner dream.

Its flowers jump into my hands
As my fancy goes around
And I weave wedding garlands
For Thee, the soul's love unbound.

This home is open for Thee;
This heart of love is free;
This flute is clean and ready
To play Thy symphony.

For Thee I keep myself young.

For Thee I raise my tongue.

Every kiss is a blossom
Of passion in my bosom.

I shall not sell my love
For fame and name and gold;
To none but Thee shall I bow,
O life and light of the world!
No flashing steel shall kill
My life strong in love divine;
No changing age shall chill
The warm faith pure and serene.

Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati

2. This book

This book is dedicated to the unique One who has assumed a form and name to lead the play of universal existence. He throbs in our loving heart; He breathes in our living soul. He sings in our fervent spirit and he thinks in our purified mind. That infinite Ancient One from his supernal height, bends towards us to embrace us in his love, and to feed our soul with the nectar of his bliss.

Blessed are they that have the mind to know him, the heart to feel him and the love to live in his consciousness!

He may have been born to human parents in Poona, studied in a college, played cricket, left home, have seen great souls, sat alone silent, spoken in gestures, written books —

but that is not his history. Many live such a life; many scholars write books; many saints sit in contemplation; many monks leave home for mountain resorts; but they cannot be one like him. Millions of bulbs challenge in vain the darkness of night. One sun rises and the night dissolves into his golden light. We have seen monks, yogins and saints. Some live alone for peace. Some open Ashrams and collect donations to run them. Some commercialise their name and form. Some display miracles to surprise human minds; some offer boons; some predict the future; some curse you when you do not offer them what they want. Some seek pleasure and treasure. But who seeks God and finds God in the self to awaken God-awareness in other men and women? Who says "I am God and you are God too"? Who rises above the prattle of words, the rattle of weapons and battle of ideologies to the lofty peace of supersonic silence and pours his blessings from the dizzy height of the soul in tune with God? Who is he that embraces all in the heart and awakens the soul which has none of the human creations of caste, religion, race, pedigree nor colour?

In one word, Meher Baba; He is the unique manifestation of love light and peace for which the human soul has longed for ages. Beyond the perishing body, his is some body.

We have seen a psychic picture of his life in the last book *The Silent Splendour*.

This is a book which brings out his centrifugal and centripetal force — the force that has touched the hearts of thousands all over the world and made them feel "Here is God."

Many Indians have felt it; many Americans and Europeans have felt it; many Muslims, Christians, Parsees and Buddhists have felt the divine radiance of the Ancient One.

But it is given to a particular nation to know and follow a manifestation integrally. Such are the Andhras and we hail their noble traits and high traditions. This book is consecrated to Baba's awakening wandering seen among the Andhras.

3. Such are Andhras

A is the starting sound of languages. We can very well say Andhras are A — one in Baba love. Love for divine saints is born with them. There are historic and psychic evidences which prove the utter sincerity, nobility, and serenity of the Andhras.

The great war of Mahabharata was waged between B.C. 1500-1000. It was a terrible war between the Pandavas and Kauravas. The Pandya King of the South helped the Pandavas and the Andhras and Kalingas helped the Kauravas. The Kauravas were defeated; the Pandavas ruled over North India for a few years. After them, the country broke into petty states without any idea of national integration and coexistence. The Andhras who lived on the banks of the Jamuna River migrated to the South and settled in Telengana and on the banks of the Godavari and Krishna and freely mingled with Nagas and Yekshas of those parts. They followed the traditions set up by Rishi Apastamba. This was in B.C. 700. Gunadhya, the author of

Brihat Katha (Book of Great Stories), was born to a Naga mother and Brahmin father. People from scarcity areas and dry plateaux migrated to fertile parts and mingled with the inhabitants of those places. The settlers in Telengana, Rayalaseema¹, Circars and people living on the Godavari and Krishna banks came to be known as Andhras. The word Andhra appears for the first time in a Pallava edict as old as B.C. 250. The Andhra Kingdom flourished then under the rule of *Satavahanas*. The Greek suzerainty established by Alexander in B.C. 325 was disappearing after his sudden death in Babylon. Seleucus Nicator, the satrap of Babylon, crossed the Indus about the year B.C. 305 to conquer India. By this time, the Hindu kingdoms stood up to resist the alien intrusions. Chandra Gupta, with the help of his able minister Kautilya Chanakya (an Andhra), established the Maurya dynasty at Pataliputra and extended his kingdom all over North India. He successfully resisted the ambitious incursions of Seleucus who came to terms with the invincible Indian monarch. Megasthenes, his ambassador, visited several parts of India and gave a vivid picture of our country in his famous notes.

Emperor Chandra Gupta organised his administration after the pattern ably laid down in the Artha Sastra of Kautilya, the master of state-craft. With equal acumen, the Satavahana kings too built up the Andhra Kingdom. Megasthenes gives a glorious account of Kalinga which he visited in B.C. 322. The village was the unit of the empire, and the civil administration as well as military, spiritual as

¹ Rayalaseema (Rayalasila) is a geographic region in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

well as temporal was ably managed and the people's rights were safeguarded. Chandra Gupta became a pious Jain. His grandson Asoka invaded Kalinga and slew thousands of men in a ghastly fight. This filled him with horror and remorse. Asoka flung away his sword and embraced Buddhism. His government was impregnated with the spirit of Buddhism. He brought out a synthesis of the moral and temporal interests. He sent trained Bikkus far and wide to propagate the teachings of Buddhism. His son Mahendra and his daughter Sanghamitra converted Ceylon to Buddhism. He organised effective missions to radiate the light of peace and wisdom. His edicts show him as a moral ruler, easy to approach and ready to hear and redress the grievance of his subjects.

He was a strict vegetarian and he made his people accept the sanctity of animal life. The country enjoyed 37 years of continuous peace and plenty under the Dharma Chakra of Asoka. He convened a Buddhist Council to standardise the religion and its scriptures. Religion, art, architecture, literature, medicine, commerce, industry, shipping — everything progressed during his life time. It was the golden age of Hindu India.

The halcyon days² of peace and security disappeared with the death of Asoka. Unity melted away before the vanity

² From Latin Alcyone, daughter of Aeolus and wife of Ceyx. When her husband died in a shipwreck, Alcyone threw herself into the sea, whereupon the gods transformed them both into halcyon birds (kingfishers). When Alcyone made her nest on the beach, waves threatened to destroy it. Aeolus restrained his winds and kept them calm during seven days in each year, so she could lay her eggs. These became known as the "Halcyon days," when storms do not occur. Today, the term is used to denote a past period that is being remembered for being happy and/or successful.

of self-assertive states struggling for supremacy in the dark inferno of selfish greed. India united was strong and invincible. India divided became weak and fell an easy prey to invaders. The Andhras and Kalingas, who acknowledged the supremacy of Asoka, now asserted their independence and went forward with a powerful army to expand their kingdoms. Invader after invader brought chaos into North India. Pliny, the historian, says that the Andhras and Tamils had a definite culture and civilisation. They increased their trade and maritime enterprise enormously.

The Andhras possessed thirty fortified towns and maintained a huge army of 1,000 elephants, 20,000 cavalry and 100,000 infantry. The Andhra dominion extended beyond Ujjain to Videsa. King Kharavela of Kalinga invaded North India and totally defeated the King of Pataliputra. The Andhra Satavahanas subdued all tribal oligarchies and became a dominant nation. They issued their own coins. The Satavahana Kingdom extended its power beyond Guzarat and Malwa. The golden days of Andhra supremacy continued even after the end of Satavahana rule in 225 A.D. Even during the Gupta period, Andhra kings were powerful. Hiuen Tsang has noted the glory of the Andhras. The Chalukya and Kakatiya kings, Kondaveeti Reddi kings and at last the grand empire of Vijayanagar added to the fame and name of the Andhras. Kings like Pulikesi and Krishna Deva Raya brought glory to the Andhras. The Andhra kingdom extended south as far as Tanjore, Madurai and Rameswaram and with that, the Telugu language, literature and culture widely spread all over India. There are

plenty of coins, copper plates, monuments, travel notes and cultural reminiscences which stand testimony to the Andhra supremacy.

Telugu is one of the sweetest languages of the world, perhaps the most melodious among India languages. The poems contained in the *Bhagavatam* of Bommana Pothana, the *Ramayana* of Bhaskara and the thrilling *Satakams* and *Padhyams* popular in the Andhradesh are cascades of metrical ecstasy thrilling into the soul of hearers and pleasing even those who do not know the language.

Andhra produced the most valuable Koh-i-Noor diamond (756 carats). It was first found at Kollur on the bank of the Krishna river in 1656. It changed hands from Shah Jahan to Aurangzeb, from him to Nadir Shah, from him to Taimur, then to Shuja, then to Ranjit Singh and from his son to Queen Victoria. Read Sewell's *Forgotten Empire*, containing thrilling episodes of the last glory of the Andhra Empire at Vijayanagar. But it was not the lost glory. The destiny of the Andhras changed with that of India. But all along the zigzag course of history, the Andhras maintained their natural majesty, serenity, nobility, highminded intelligence and large-hearted charity. Whether it was Muslim or Christian or British rule, the Andhras, like the Tamils, held their heads up and raised their standard of national integrity. They knew their duty and how to fulfil it. Today the Andhra Pradesh has a wide area rich in mineral and agricultural wealth, nourished by the waters of the Godavari and the Krishna.

Even in recent days, Andhra has produced great saints, poets, heroes and men of letters and artists. The world

admires the frescoes of Ajanta, the ruins of Humpy, the songs of Thyaga Raja. Even today the nation adores Vid-yaranya, Vallaba, Ramadas, Vemana, Pothana, and our homage goes to great personalities like K. Viresam Pantulu (1848-1919), Mahakavi G. Appa Rao (1862-1915), Kasinath Nageswara Rao (1867-1938), K. Hanumantha Rao, Duggirala Gopalakrishnaiya, T. Prakasam and Pat-tabi Sitaramaiya.

Such is the Andhra culture developing on the banks of the Godavari and the Krishna, and such are the traits of Andhra genius – true to conscience, faithful, trustful, noble, liberal and sincere. It is upon this historic back-ground that Baba-lovers are holding aloft the Vibgyor flag. Next, let us study the life of a few well known Andhra saints and know the spiritual background to Baba's moment.

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Editions ASSA
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
