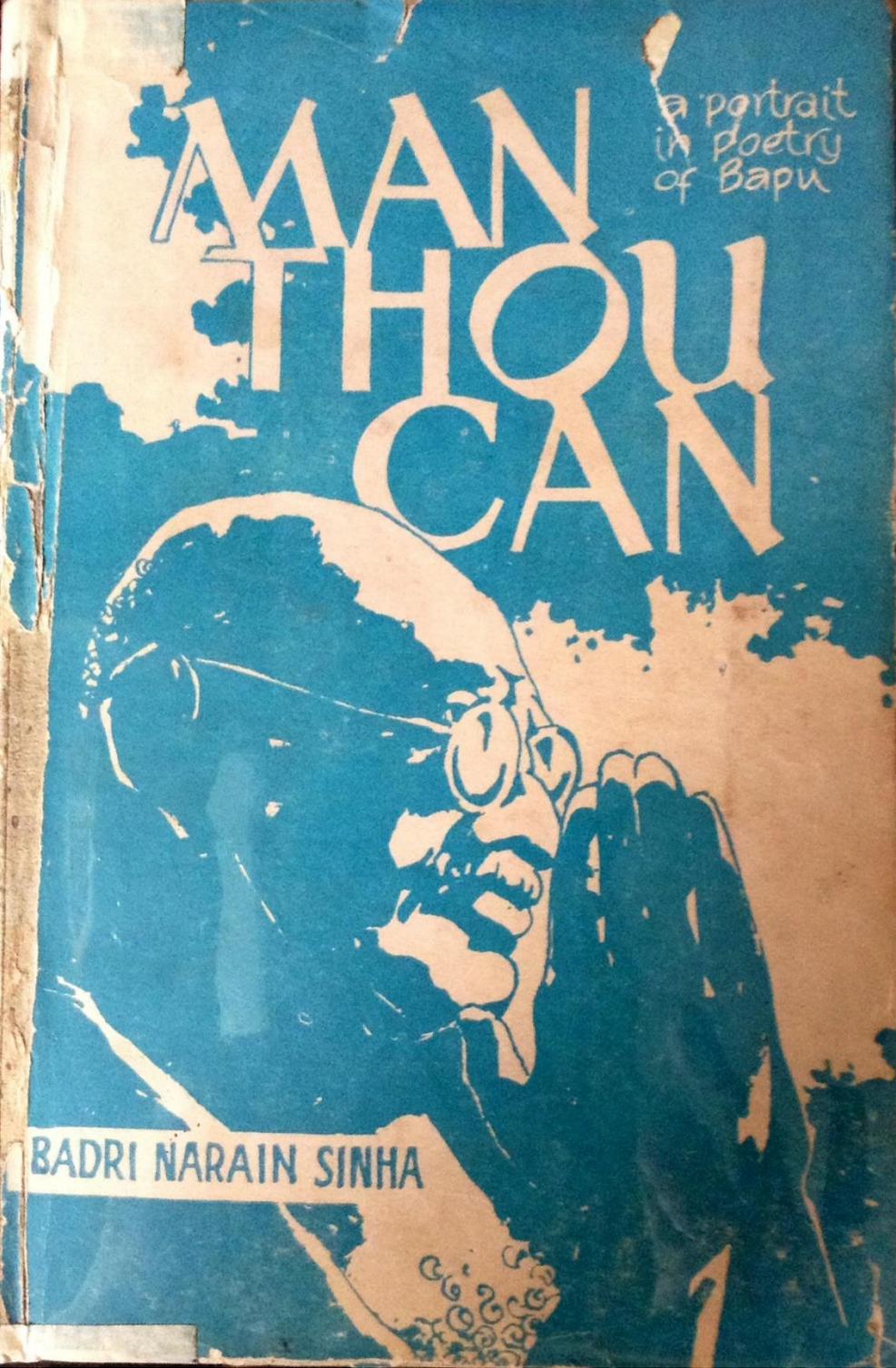


MAN THOU CAN

a portrait
in poetry
of Bapu



BADRI NARAIN SINHA

It is really heart-warming to see the zeal and earnestness with which this young man, Anandvardhan Sinha, has been pursuing the task of getting printed and published the English poetical piece on Mahatma Gandhi 'MAN THOU CAN' composed by his father, the late Shri B. N. Sinha of the Indian Police Service. Such filial devotion is in the best Indian tradition, as the Ramayana illustrates. The poem itself, apart from its literary and artistic merits displays the humility of the author.

For he says;

"My songs are musical
Not because these are excellent
My metres have harmony
For the very theme is vibrant"

Such modest clear sightedness is not, if I may be permitted to say so, usually prominent among members of the Police Force—at best not on the surface Shri B. N. Sinha was someone special, and his son is surely doing a service to his fellow-men by making available to them these poetice thoughts of his father.

V. B.

V. Balasubrahmanyam,
Development Commissioner,
20-Point Programme, Bihar

MAN THOU CAN

A PORTRAIT IN POETRY OF BAPU

BADRI NARAIN SINHA

C: Smt. Indu Prabha Sinha

C: First Edition: Jayshree Press

First Edition: October, 1982

Price Rs: Twenty Five

Published by
Sri Binay Prakash Singh

Printed at
Jayshree Press,
Patna – 1

Web Edition: Patna, 2nd October 2014

Web Editor: Adhar Sinha

Free download on website: bnsinhaips.org

TRIBUTE

Uploaded along with the original Hindi version

अब बहु से सब जन हिताय

On the author's 35th death anniversary

On 8th November 2014

On the website: bnsinhaips.org

CONTENTS

Foreword	i
Dedication	iii
Publisher's Note	iv
Preface	vi
Acknowledgements	ix
THE FIRST CANTO	1
<i>THE WILL IS IRON RED</i>	3
THE SECOND CANTO	17
<i>RAMPANT IS INDIGO</i>	19
THE THIRD CANTO	31
<i>BRUISES ARE BLUE</i>	33
THE FOURTH CANTO	44
<i>THIS LAND IS EVERGREEN</i>	46
THE FIFTH CANTO	59
<i>THE SPIRIT IS SAFFRON</i>	60
THE SIXTH CANTO	73
<i>THE HOURS ARE VIOLET</i>	75
THE SEVENTH CANTO	86
<i>BLISS IS MORN-ORANGE</i>	87
Annotations	98
Explanations	100
Introduction to Names in the Verse	101
Excerpts	103
Society Today and Tomorrow	103
The Poet	110

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The page left blank by the author in his manuscript

Foreword

It would have been an unmixed pleasure had I been able to write these words during the life-time of the author; but as it is, there is a strong tinge of sadness and regret in writing of the work of a student and friend whose life was so suddenly cut short.

Badri Narain Sinha was an unusual and gifted person. Intellectual achievement is not unfamiliar among members of the All India Services but poetic talent among police officers is rare. His life-long pursuit of literature did, I think cause many raised eye brows but Badri followed his path with unflinching constancy. “*Aapradhiki*” proves, if proof were needed outside his lifetime of dedicated service, his intellectual interest in his profession.

He wrote a fine poem on the life of Mahatma Gandhi in Hindi (entitled “*Ab Bahu Se Sab Jan Hitaye*”) and followed it up with a simultaneous production of the work in English.

Anandvardhan has not only done a loving duty in publishing this poem; he has conferred an obligation upon all who read and admired the works of his father.

Gandhiji's life is a heaven-sent subject for an epic poem but it is not a theme which anybody can handle merely with literary talent. A great theme requires an answering elevation of character. Badri Narain Sinha was not only an author of creative talent, a widely read and discriminating critic but a human being of religiously austere self-discipline. The character of the man and poet mirrors the subject he chose, and gives the poem a tone of high sincerity.

The poem is throughout limpid, restrained and moving in keeping with its theme. No reader can miss the ever present tone of sincere conviction.

I am sure the poem will find a fit audience

Damodar Thakur
2.10.1982
(DAMODAR THAKUR)

Patna,

The 2nd October, '82

Dedication

Dedicated to the brave and gallant

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

of

CHAMPARAN

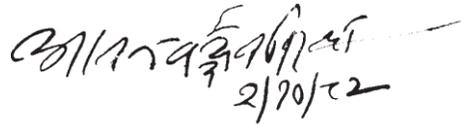
where the poet served as Superintendent of Police

for five years (1958-63)

and which became the first major

'Karmabhumi' of Mahatma Gandhi in India for

Satyagraha, Non-Violence and Freedom.



(Anandvardhan Sinha)

Patna,
Gandhi Jayanti Day,
2nd October,
1982.

In 1972 the district of Champaran was bifurcated into the two present districts of East Champaran and West Champaran. The 'Indigo' Satyagraha under the leadership of Bapu was conducted in both the erstwhile subdivisions of the old Champaran district.

Publisher's Note

I am very happy to publish this epic “MAN THOU CAN” on the life of Mahatma Gandhi composed by Sri Badri Narain Sinha. I feel myself privileged to have been able to bring out a volume of poetry having the Father of the Nation as its hero.

Bapu, as we affectionately call him, signifies all that is good and pious in this world, His vision of Man free from evils is timeless in its span and universal in its scope. His teachings are relevant not only for India but for the entire humanity; they are contextual not only for the first half of this century but for millennia to come.

The raconteur of this saga in rhyme and meter was a celebrated writer and a thinker of repute, apart from being a very senior police officer. This book was slated for publication in the sixties itself, when its lines were etched but owing, mainly, to the preoccupation of the poet with his various pressing official assignments and literary and intellectual engagements, this work could not come out in print during his lifetime.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me that this song about the Mahatma would now be with the community of readers to whom it is addressed. I sincerely hope that its poetry would provide inspiration for lofty thoughts and noble deeds in the measure same and manner similar as Gandhiji's life was full of worthy righteousness and purified magnificence. Thereby would this poetry find its fulfilment.

Binay Prakash Singh

Jayshree Press,
Buddha Colony, Patna-1
The 2nd of October, 1982.



The poet (right) receiving
the “Best Book of the year Award” in 1978 for his
book on Criminology “*AAPRADHIKI*”
from the eminent Hindi litterateur
Sri Jayendra Kumar

Preface

On Mahatma's assassination, Einstein had condoled and said that a thousand years hence none would believe, such a person in flesh and blood ever walked on this earth. And only thousand weeks or even days thereafter, Einstein's foreboding appeared to materialise.

The life-story of Mahatma is of epical notations and either geniuses like Einstein or Bertrand Russell could have caught the modulations thereof or some such poet who have had in him the Shakespearean understanding and expressions, Eliot's potency of using expanded yet sustained metaphors, Ben Jonson's or John Donne's evocative terseness, the Shelleyan impetuosity as also fire and the Keatsian fervour. For all these we may have to wait for the poetic millennium.

One whose attachments to English are through books and solely academic has ventured here to render into verse what this age has dramatised and symbolised and craves indulgence with all the humility and awareness of limitations till that poetic millennium arrives.

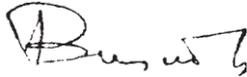
There are seven facades in Bapu's life as if in conformity with the powerful seven colours or numbers in a week and the sequences among the Seas.

These seven facades cover the Mahatma's unique renunciation of power when it was acquired; ceaseless struggles against ignorance and discriminations of caste, creed and colour; efforts to uplift the Harijans; the purely mundane conflicts between the urges of the flesh and the strong will to transcend them over; the quintessence of Mahatma's philosophies; his martyrdom and the era after him when mankind has earnestly moved towards a global fraternity and ideals of bliss for all.

The magnet in Mahatma's personality lay not in ethereal auras or assumptions but in the immense possibilities of Man himself, for Man can himself achieve what for ages has been ascribed to the ethereal beings.

And, therefore, Mahatma's portrait herein of a man in his actions all mainly, a prime realisation in this century, the century rationalisation par excellence.

There are three distinct stages of human progress towards the Utopia of oneness of human race: the first, when one person was absolute in all realms, State, Arts, Religion; the second when this one person's autocracy gave way to plurocracy or democracy at its best, giving rise to mass participations in all human activities, cultural, literary, administrative; and the third, perhaps the final, stage is being reached now with surges towards bliss for all.



Badri Narayan Sinha

S. P.'s Residence,

BHAGALPUR

4. 4. 1966¹

¹This Preface was written by the author on his own 36th birthday, indicative of the depths of his inner dialogues, the soliloquies with his soul, which went to make this verse.

Acknowledgements

I did not know that my father had written a book-length poem on Mahatma Gandhi although I knew that he had written a volume of poetry under the caption “MAN THOU CAN”.

That “MAN THOU CAN” was a work in verse on Bapu’s life came as an extremely pleasant surprise to me one morning in August this year when I stumbled upon a bound typescript of this book, with the finely-chiselled face of the Mahatma on its cover, while I was ‘book browsing’ in my father’s library.

The twin of this book, in Hindi, titled ‘*AB BAHU SE SAB JAN HITAY*’ was penned and published in 1966. These stanzas were also written at the same time. My father had intended both the English and Hindi works to appear simultaneously in print but the plan could not somehow materialise. Now sixteen years after being manuscripted, it is in the hands of those to whom it rightfully belongs the connoisseurs of poesy.

My father had prepared the press copy of the book and it was, therefore, complete in almost all respects except for the Foreword, Dedication, a few graphics and this little piece of Acknowledgements. However, even the letters at the top of this piece are in his own

handwriting. Only, poignantly, he had left the page below it blank² which, no doubt, explains my association with this book.

Firstly I would like to express my deep gratitude to Sri V. Bala Subrahmanyam, I.A.S., Development Commissioner, Twenty-Point Programme, Bihar and a celebrated poet and scholar for his kind remarks on the work and his encouragement to me in this venture. I also offer my thanks to my senior colleague and a friend of my father Shri Mantreshwar Jha, I.A.S., Commissioner and Managing Director, Bihar State Financial Corporation who is himself a brilliant poet and writer for his deeply moving references to the poet and his work.

I am very grateful to Prof. Damodar Thakur, Director of Public Instruction (Higher Education), Bihar and a reputed scholar of English literature for his kindness in agreeing to write the Foreword to this book. Prof. Thakur's 'Foreword' has a special significance as he was my father's teacher at Patna University in the late forties and my Principal at Ranchi College in the early seventies.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Kapil Muni Tiwari, Professor and Head of the Department of English, Patna University for his appreciative comments on the work. I feel gratified for the words of

² Please see the page after Contents

commendation for this volume that have come from. Prof. Kalika Ranjan Chatterjee, Department of English, Bihar University, Muzaffarpur and Prof. Arun Mustafi, Head of the Department of English, Ranchi College, Ranchi, both very close friends of my father. It was so kind of the three seniors of the English literary world to have gone through the book and expressed their learned opinion on it at a very short notice.

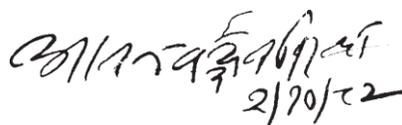
I am greatly beholden to the famous artist, Shri Vijay Kumar Varma for so elegantly designing the cover of this book and for providing the sketch of the Mahatma which has been inserted before ‘Annotations’. The paintings appearing before the first and second cantos of the volume are by the late Sri Upendra Maharathi M.L.C. and a world renowned painter and artist and also a friend of my father. The symbolical painting placed before the third canto is by his talented daughter Ms Mahashweta Maharathi who is following in her illustrious father’s footsteps. I must thank her for lending the two paintings done by her father and for allowing her own work to be reproduced in this book.

The illustrations appearing before the other cantos are the ones which my father had pasted on the press copy that he left behind. Credit

is due to the artists who made these sketches but whose identity, alas, I am not aware of.

I would profusely thank Sri Pashupati Nath Dutta and Sri Vijay Kumar Lal Das for their advice and suggestions regarding the general layout and overall get-up of this book. I would also like to express my gratitude to my mother Smt. Indu Prabha Sinha and other family members for their encouragement and support in this self-set task.

I would be only stating the obvious if I refer with pleasure and affection to the untiring efforts of Sri Binay Prakash, Publisher in getting this volume out of the press. The book has literally seen the light of the day as a result of his unbounded zeal for the completion of the project which he took up. I also record with deep appreciation the enormous amount of energy put in by Sri Birendra Kumar Srivastava of Jayshree Press, where this volume was primed in bringing out this book in its present format.



(Anandvardhan Sinha)

Sri Ganpat Sadan,
Boring Canal Road, Patna.
MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY,
THE 2nd OCTOBER, 1982

THE FIRST CANTO



Upendra Maharathi

THE WILL IS IRON RED

Who lies awake in the hut
With no cares for his life,
Animals in den, birds in nest
The nocturnal hours are rife.

What is that sigh, agony
Which gives him no relief
Only pants in the deep dark
While all others are asleep.

How much the heart afflicted
What bitter pangs have arisen
How hard the relentless hour
Unrealised are which burden.

No water glistened in his eyes
Nor did it ever ooze out
The World was awake, aroused
No sooner did he rise and shout.

Hark, what the wind messages
He is the Sun among the people
Restless he is over this World
Entangled in knots multiple.

There is fire in these sighs
Will some therein himself bask
Lo, the Sun will sing with quivering throat
And burn himself out in this task.

Fulfilled is the Sun's dream
Fulfilled the penance, the theme.

The flute plays intensely
Anew lighted the universe
There's lustre and glow in eyes
Gone is slumber long and terse

Peoples are wild with glee;
As leaves are dancing free.
The whole world home like seen
Fulfilled is the Sun's dream!!

Trumpets resound echo aghast
Houses decked with own banners
For the dream has come true
Long waits, many centuries after.

The hungry and parched ones
Are emerging with cries of joy
Apparel'd in home-spun robes
Defiant and no longer Coy.

The rebels adorn the throne
The prison-gates are ajar
The poets sing hopefully
For their goals are not far.

Peoples of streets, even scum
Are seated in ivory palaces
The once-forbidden chambers
Are accessible without hindrances.

For one's own dear flag
The guns are all out,
The gaiety is writ large
Merrily the people shout.

But what a paradox
 For he is not there down
Midst festivities, throngs
 Whom shall the laurels crown?

For those who brought freedom
Have ever been crowned?
History is replete with Sagas
Of the victor getting crowned.

Tall in pride, dwarf in size
Rebellious and renowned
Napoleon the man's lord
Had got himself crowned.

Hitler the peoples' master
Pined for the worlds' conquest
Ushered himself the mass man
To harbinge universal distress.

Not in these centuries alone
But even in the remote past
Those who have ever led
Metamorphosed themselves fast.

Those enshrined as heroes today
Are relishing pomp and splendour
Transmit messages in the peoples' name
While they perish in want and hunger.

He was not a world conqueror
Nor did he brim with pride
He had given up the flesh
Surpassing Ages far and wide.

Peace hasn't dawned as yet
The earth is blood bathed
Celebrations on the heels of dissection
Mother is deeply afflicted.

Shrunk and fragile are the ankles
With walks in fields on ridges
His heart is broken now
At glimpses of childish violences.

Till every hamlet is lighted
Everyone is clothed and fed
The lords voluntarily gift away
Grains of violence are defaced

Till the bloody swords of brothers
Aren't rusted and fallen into disuse
Or the mistakes are repeated
With religion as cover and excuse.

Will he till then crown himself
And burn inwardly throughout?
For how can he sustain woes within
And be equivocal without?

A novel yet eternal power
A queer Saga of its kind
No retort to oppressions
No surrender to the force blind

No parallel has any history
To victory through entreaties
These wars, states or
Their falls and supremacies.

The hands carry no guns
They carry only feeble sticks
Yet call for 'do unto death'
And feel no anger or prick.

Immaterial the brute force!
The rights are never forsaken
Bombs or dynamites may explode
Vendetta is neither willed nor taken.

Rights are agitated for
And the fetters broken firmly
With multiple confidence
The struggle forges unendingly.

Illegal the laws proclaimed
Smilingly the prisons embraced
The obstacles on this path
Are with gusto and cheers faced.

Imbibe thee not the tenets
Of seizing fair or foul the power
Whether be Chanakya or 'Machiavelli
Let no sword blood shower

Oh! these hundred years of war
To decide the tenets of religion
And the world sinking fast
In crusades', massacres' dungeon.

Dark - and - thick clouded
The human killers rolled on
'Incarnadined' the rivers
And their might on women proven

The groups of the Holy messengers
Have play'd wittingly with blood
And while the prophets' have wept
The swords have ever rattled.

But the bullets or bayonet charges
Have stopped no valiant fighter of Truth
Even when with heavy nailed boots
At Jaliana moved the tyrants uncouth

With a history of bare thousand years
These mercenaries roved wide
Indulged in killings and loots
Of the weak with dues ever denied

The communities were dissected into
The Hindu, the Muslim, the Christian
Lured to demands for separate homes
At their machinations million.

The sooths of Asoka the wise
The pledges of Akbar the Great
This man is reviving History
With life, letters and fate.

Asoka threw the sword away
Akbar understood the human urges
But who practised what he preached?
Let this be answered by the Sages.

Power lay clutched in bare hands
But who else was of this aware?
Remember even the stones melted
At his fires here, there, everywhere.

Some say the power of the West
Lay in matter, riches and sex
Whereas the power of the East
Lay in spiritual adherences.

Actions must condition speeches
Speeches pulsating the actions
But has the noble truth e'er been
Realised by men of ambition?

Even the hermits gave up penances
When damsels before them danced
And the kings have broken vows
When their golden days revived.

Yea, say, what man is he?
Whose rare brilliance pervades
For the thinner he grows
The stronger he emerges.

O, the Saga of Rana Pratap
The Saga of dust, of grass;
Return to the citadel of power
Now ye valiant upholder of the mass.

Give up the few yarded loin cloth
Allow the crown on your head
Ye, the real claimant to bliss
Have singly drunk deep poison and led.

Listen to what he says
The dream is half - realised
Mortal chains are broken, but
The bliss to all not visualised.

Not in forests but in homes
The monstrous demon is enshrined
Though even in the demon
Survives the man sublime.

Buddha, Mohammed and Christ
Nanak, Kabir, all Wise
Have e'er changed the demon
Into the man with sooths and surmise.

But everyone has n't changed
When his self has risen supreme
That one's bliss only when the rest have
This has not been every Man's theme

Sure, he will wear no crown

Whether we lament or implore

For sure of his own strength

He will lead us ever more.

THE SECOND CANTO



Upendra Maharathi

RAMPANT IS INDIGO

The first anguish of the poet Valmiki
Had burst forth in this land
Mother Seeta had sojourned here
Where the dense Champas stand.

On this very land Lava and Kusha
Waged war as justice claimant
And in the Triveni the arrowed Crocodile
Had entwined the mighty elephant.

With the pure Himavant behind
The paces of Buddha marched untired
Here the relics of Asoka the Wise
Are even now undecay'd and admired.

With the luscious greens were covered
Numerous empires of the planter
Who ravished fun in the forests
With rights and ploughs given to plunder.

Some Rajahs only in name
Danced to the tunes of their master
Those who furrowed the land
Sang only of Providence the benefactor.

Hard rigours of the taxes
Sucked life out of the tillers
Who sapped of their vigour
Knew not even to petition the rulers.

For to petition was n't easy
That way the prisons opened
For to speak was no joke
That way suffering thickened.

But the soil of Champa was fecund
Holi was the river Triveni
For not Chanakya alone
It nursed the world and the many.

One whose sustenance was no gold
That Rajkumar, Sudama of the lore;
Struggled and ventured to knock
And narrate to Mohan at his door.

The lords were divine in origin
So were their servants
Acquiescence to them was willing
The subjects were held in chants.

Taxes countless were levied.
Taxes when parents were dead.
On canals or rivers laid
Or even when daughters were wed.

The brides were first tasted,
The daughters deflowered
And those who ever protested
Were tortured and belaboured.

Those who wiped out their tears
Were chased and persecuted
The protector changed into serpent
Redemption was well-nigh prevented.

Experiences of the simple farmers
Wantonness of the public servants
Contained embers of revolt,
For eyes can cause fury, no mere laments.

Where Tilak, Malaviya were seated
A mammoth meeting had assembled
But, alas, the sorrow of the Champas
Had before Swarajya tumbled.

No sooner had Mohan learnt of
The passing away of Gokhale his master,
Then subduing his own emotions
Heard patiently the woes of the farmer.

For one's own sorrow melts
In the pervasive cries of the multitude
For the Iron Man never melts
When sorrow is the vicissitude.

He marched on with blessings
Championed the Cause of the tiller
Deeply touched, Rajkumar the poor
Called him Mahatma, the Seer.

At this very moment we all
Recognised in him our own being
The tumult of an illiterate tiller
Reverberates with feeling.

Blessed the land of the Champas
For the experiment with Truth began
The ruler unleashed prowess
While the peoples rose to each man.

The dreaded and unfounded
Was the vile charge
Acclaimed the Mohan's probe
And Mohan set at large.

Let the prime victory be
Celebrated with great fanfare
Crushing defeat fell to their lot
And Truth to our share.

India lives in its villages
So have the poets sung.
Gazed at the bounties of Nature
And found these bounties young.

Who else could discover
The Shadows of dark Ignorances?
Among the squalor and filth
Behind the outer semblances?

Kasturba, the Keen mother
Mani and Durga, the sisters
Started enlightening the people
With mere letters and numbers.

A drop in the ocean it was,
But potent enough to sustain
The lost and the slumbered awoke
At beams of knowledge to gain.

Ye, explain how c'd't be possible
To keep tidy and clean,
When one has just a piece of cloth
And cursed the lot of the mean.

This sordid painful fact

Buried in hay and dust lies,

The nerves don't react to

Reforms, multitudinous cries.

Give up the tears now

Inspire the peoples to actions

Redeem the bog and

The smoke of misery and factions.

But will the literate till?

Will he deliver the goods?

Will he in power and pelf

Be possessed of benign moods?

Those unending criticisms

Could n't render him perturbed

While the intruders returned home,

The masses lay inspired.

They set the hamlet on fire
In the dark hours of night
Yet undaunted, the peoples
Marched with their full might.

For ever weak is the violent
And powerful the fighter of Truth
A question the world can't unravel
Despite the poets, the seers and their sooth

The indigo masters with servants
Conspired to do away with Mohan
For Mohan was keeping the people
Drawn to his own enunciation.

The plot was laid in dark night
The plotters drunk with power
Rejoicing, recounting with jests
Their past deeds of Valour.

Then a Knock at the doors,
Open thou these doors closed.
For Mohan has come of his own
To render the plot unexposed.

None will ever behold
And the obstacle'll be gone
The traits of the Seers
Will cease to have any tone.

Lo, in the deep night,
A beam has but struck,
Remorseful the plotters,
With evil no more of truck!

The tyrants of the ages
Crumble, tumble, lose motion,
And the men need n't weep hence
For noble and supreme is devotion

Let History crave comparison

Bespeaks itself this realisation

Preachings and practices do

March with magic unison.

Blessed is this our century,

Greatly victorious is our Man;

Science must control itself

For this Truth is e'er triumphant.

The forecasts of Geeta

Appear to have materialised

And the theories of Lenin

Have been thereby belied.

Opposition of the Kauravas extinguished

Sword is back to the sheath

But entreaty is no begging

Learn the meaning lying underneath.

Sing, repeat the words

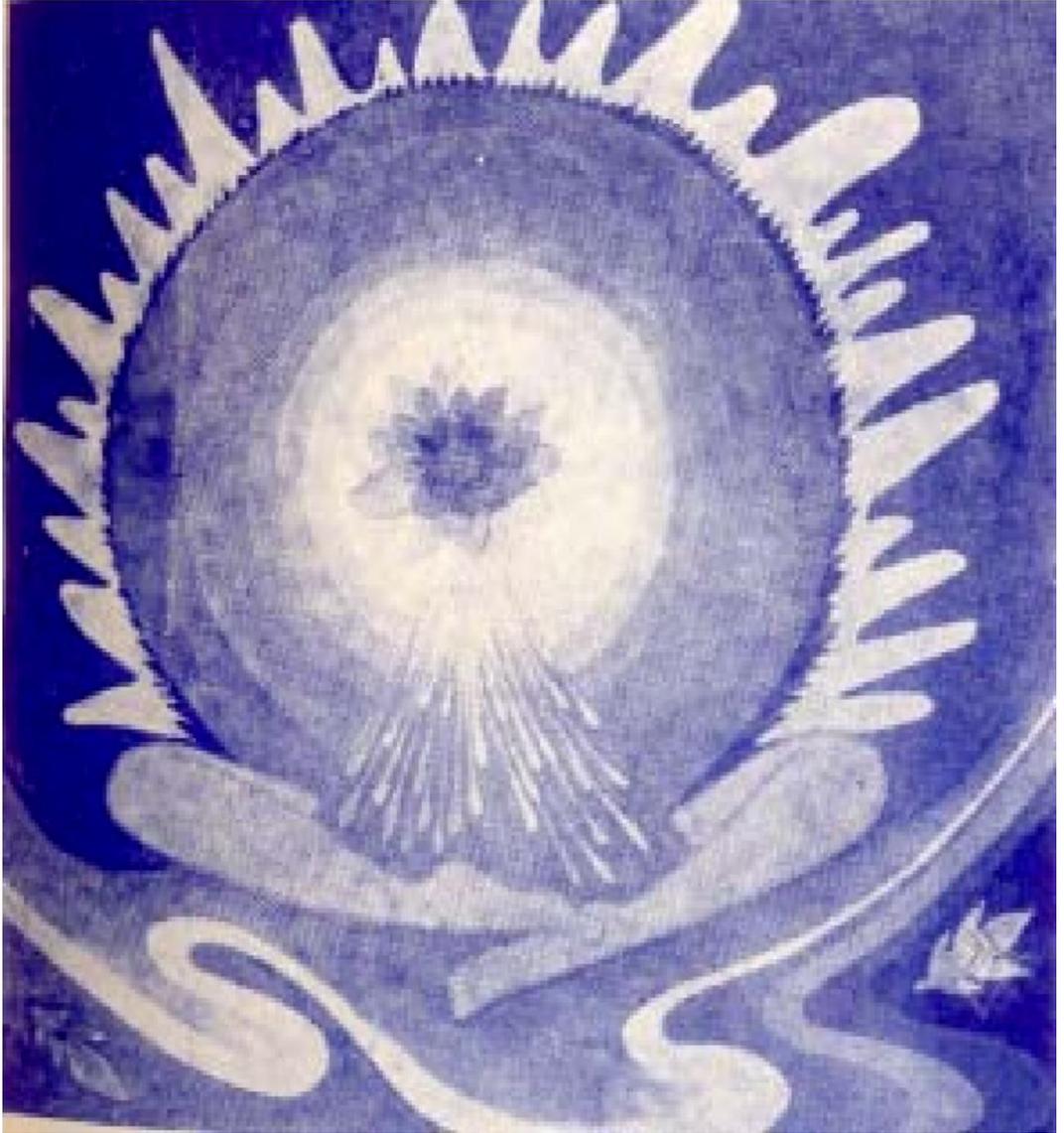
Of that Man the Seer,

The can brims with nectar

Offspring of Manu and Mary both are

Blessed and dear.

THE THIRD CANTO



BRUISES ARE BLUE

Stark is the gloom here!

Even the dainty beams of Moon are lost

Unseen the rest, the whole lot

Dark gloom encircles this sphere

Stark is the gloom here!!

Restless in nests are birds

Untrodden paths, cries unheard

Uncanny Silence reigns everywhere

Stark is the gloom here!!!

No ray of hope has streaked here

One who is aware of gloom mere

Paints the gloom here and there

Gloom, gloom everywhere!!!!

Nature herself has painted it black,
Covered it with dense forests,
The whites jeer and ridicule,
While the flaming Sun on it rests.

What status cou'd these beings have
When men are curly, short and black?
The continent a big colony,
The lords have their full, no lack.

The new facades of civilisation
Have forgotten it's hoary past
When the rest of the world lay dark
Its region had seen vistas vast.

Sing, ye poet, Sing only of love

The real Man has appeared on the earth,
Will retire on attaining equity of birth,
Shower on him petals of welcome
Sing, ye poet, sing only of love.

Let the trumpets, conches blow
Let this consciousness e'er glow
Hearken to harmony tumult, no reprove
Sing, ye poet, sing only of love.

Poets, Philosophers, Sages are saviours
Given to blisses, bounties' showers
Sing, ye poet, sing now for the globe
Sing, ye poet, sing only of love.

Let the learned expound at the top
That they're the relics of the primitive
Or the discoveries of Darwin
That the animals in them even now live.

Mohan had embarked on earning errand
But was captioned an unwanted guest
And for retaining the head-dress
Was persecuted at the Court's behest.

Upheavals are caused when tortures are unleash'd
The man is all flame even if robbed of wings and head
For the embers from heart mingle with those others
And the fire consumes the tyrant, no tear is shed.

A line of light shone forth
Among the black peoples and toilers
Everybody was aflame
So spirited were the settlers.

The Sagas of Pretoria and Natal
Changed Mohan into a rebel,
From the bread-seeker to
The fighter for truth and of avail.

Virulent's the distinction of caste and creed
In many forms lurking disguised
With germs' not yet sterilised
This venom stings ever indeed
Virulent the distinction of caste and creed.

Civilised, uncivilised, the touchable, the untouchable
The Aryas, the Drauids, the apparitions detestable
The cult of Manu is yet to succeed
Virulent's the distinction of caste and creed.

A twenty-four year youth with all fires
But with inner self awake, profound
Had his power of vision developed
With awareness of all that goes round.

Controlled was the filial emotion
Subdued was the vile desire,
Noble even in tortures and exiles
With no anger, rancour dire.

Neither in caves nor in forests
But in the very bustle and din
Mohan had attained the light
Among us, his kith and kin.

An intense devotion sustained
Pitted against these tortures
For his heart and soul were thrown
Into the task with no discomfiture.

The reason lies for the wise to know
In the lives of all such men
Whose pledges glow fiercely
In history, philosophy, poetry even.

God is the tune we play on
Whether we read the Vedas, the Purana, or the Koran
We killers deserve pruning of our life span
For we distort the Almighty's form
God is the tune we play on.

We follow no meaning of the scriptures
We interpret as they suit our features
We've divided the Holy land and home
God is the tune we play on.

God is in each element, atom

Nature, fire, water is his norm

Futile are the mental jargon

God is the tune we play on

Salvation, attachment, renunciation

Enmeshed are our expression

While we pine for the Lord's vision

God is the tune we play on.

With body, mind and words

There be no sorrow to others

For man w'd have no craving for return

God is the tune we play on.

Mohan had his realisation

In self trials and discourses

Beware ye men of the Earth

In your mundane scourges.

For ye have got reason
And powers of clear expression
Feel the thirsts of woes of others
Ye are the world's supreme creation.

With strong body and noble speech
Be the scientists and the seers
Rid the world of distrust, fears
Be yourselves the earth's saviours.

Ye've controlled tempests and awe
Transformed the world for living
Given many the urge to march ahead
Besides power, pelf and reasoning.

Unbounded are your powers
Can change in no time the world
Only if from this ignorance
Evil remain for e'er unextolled.

A year over, Mohan planned to
Unite with his family.
But lo defranchisation was afoot,
He stopp'd readily.

His exhortations inspired the masses to
Collect freely;
For the fire was ablaze, that
Lay smoulderingly.

A Conference in Natal led to
Many units verily,
Making the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians to
Unite merrily.

And when on Mohan the pebbles
Rained terribly
Firmer he grew and soon the stones were
Flowers gently.

Truth is such an enormous evergreen tree
That when nursed it yields many a blossom
And its hymn so transcendent altogether
The peoples acquire the store of wisdom

Religion, state are all ether, vapour
When people suffer in war, or on gallows
Through deeds and words alone
Man attains his goal handsome.

They were the coolies, their skins unkempt
Gaseous and filthy their abodes;
They too were the children of God
But they are not alone on our roads

The pestilence broke forth everywhere
Mohan soon turned into a mere nurse
With him a selfless band did emerge
Among the ill and the poor to serve.

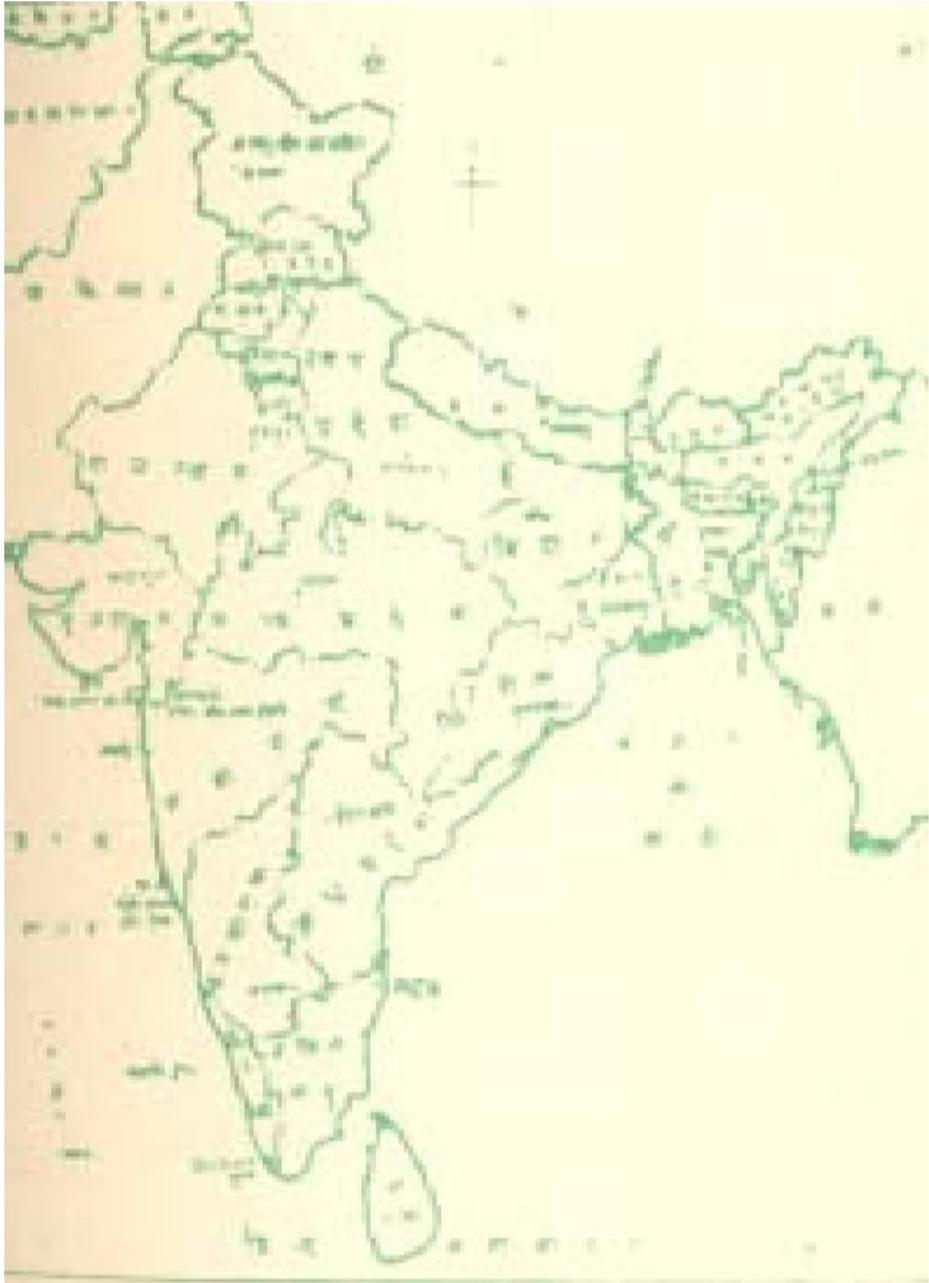
The masters discovered to their dismay
This unique Vision of Mohan
Soon the discriminations were undone
And Tolstoy Farm home for everyone.

That all books contain knowledge
Man has n't understood so far
For the book that Ruskin wrote
Is with our Sarvodaya at par.

Animals're unbridled in passions
But men have the hook in conscience,
Let the evil thirsts be quenched
For the bow of reason strikes to bring sense.

Welcome to the bliss of the world
The continent is now awake
Death-knell to conflicts and strifes
Affections and love do overtake.

THE FOURTH CANTO



THIS LAND IS EVERGREEN

O ever new, ever transcendent land
There is still enough of nectar in thine can
O, the land of the Vedas, Upanishad, Puran
Fatigue and Sorrow shouldn't make you wan!

O, the land of Ahimsa, the supreme cult
O, where Geeta, the voice of bliss, is unocult
Rise ye all, the hordes, the Buddha's band
O ever new, ever transcendent Land!!

Lo, even the thorns are now petals
The nectar flows incessantly;
For Mohan has drunk deep the poison himself
And deed to Ahimsa is wedded eternally.

Burn thyself in fire-laden tempests
With the fibres of a conscious Soul
Brook no evil, do no evil, taste no evil
Behold into petals are changed the thorns.

Cruel was your violent deed
So cruel that Mohan had to atone
For he had given us his lead
Cruel was your violent deed.

The wrath at Chauri Chaura was turbulent
Portents to destruction omniscient
You paid no heed!
Cruel was your deed!!

Everyone has arisen
And is on the March
The face of Bharat has beamed
To undo the usurper's arch.

Dandi beckons everyone
To a grim struggle for Nature's salt
Careless of home, fearless of death
They knew not how to halt.

The sceptre of State is broken
The philosophers have given the cries,
When bundled to the prisons
No tear dropped from the eyes.

No bangles did ever jingle
For the women have taken the pledge
The young and the tots have thrown themselves
On the sharpest struggle's edge.

Ahimsa asketh for discipline alone
Overcoming of evil desires,
Jealousy, retort,
Vibration of peoples' hearts with sweet tone.

Ahimsa is the solemn pledge of the brave
Not the cowards' moan,
Of subtle import.
Ahimsa asketh for discipline alone.

The magnet in the penances of the Sages
The voice of bliss in the poets' throats;
Impartial verdicts on the Judges' lips,
And honour on the valiants' sword.

Ahimsa asketh for discipline alone
Free from fears be the Man's tone.
A stern pledge of the brave
But not the Cowards' moan.

Unravelling mystery is this woman!
The prime companion of the prime man!
The spouse, the ornament, the adorned
The poets' fancy, spick and span.

Clipped the Sages' poise as Menka
And in the guises of Eve and Helen
Has played multiple frolics and fun
This unravelled mystery, the Woman.

Woman is all sublime, all power
The never-failing shadow of the man
Sharing together the woes and the mirths
Solace in woe, in strength Tower.

Inspiration, resources to brilliant men
Whether forlorn or reclaimed,
The strong artery of the men
Unfailing even when they've failed.

Sex urge is the strongest
Whether be the teacher or the taught;
A live Tantalus all the while
Though singly the rest is sought.

This hunger for food and flesh
Sets all occupations at naught
For when Sex overwhelms one
With dire results it is fraught.

Not the Sages, Poets, Kings
But all others have fought
Freud the Seer saw the vision
That Sex all other actions begot.

Sex urge is the strongest
Whether be the teacher or the taught,
A live Tantalus all the while
Though Singly the rest is Sought.

It's a Saga of victory Supreme
The sex urge reposing in the ebb;
The conquest few ancestors ever knew
The poise to the tempo he gave.

It's a Saga of rise of evil thirst
But of its quench withal;
And having proven it so
He spoke of the urges' fall.

It's a Saga of that house
Where songs and body 're sold
While others had had their Say
He realised the anguish manifold.

The woman with paints on her person
Is an image, nay, Sister, aye, Muse
The man who gather round her
Remember, She is Holy, not to Seduce.

The spouse treated as mother
A new meaning he gave;
The burning evil fires
Sweet drops fragrant laden wind sway.

With 'mountain in his breast'
Confessed to the dream with the woman in;
To the mystery of the woman
Permeating our arteries within.

The wise collect the strength;
The Saga of the Truth triumphant,
It's the call of the Soul
The achievement of the valiant.

It's the Song of victory supreme
The Song of the Truth triumphant
No scope for any misgiving hence
The realisation of the valiant.

Lo and behold these multiple editions
Struggles and death extend invitations
The hamlets, palaces abound in countless mohans
Lo and behold these multiple editions.

Slumber gone but equipoise one and the same
Death being embraced with smile
Death from bullets and bayonet charges
Faced without even a wince.

Wine, pelf, riches sacrificed
Wealth now has no glamour
Fires are kindled in all
The valiant seek no favour.

Many are there to die
The man and the woman inspired,
Life has its fullness here
The image of non-violence transpired.

Call clarion and clear, one attire
Faces many but motivation the same;
Sacrifices spontaneous, all fire
Faith one and ne'er tame.

Lo and behold these multiple editions
Struggles and death extend invitations
The man and the women inspired
The image of Ahimsa transpired.

What? Is this our real culture
Nay, it's the distorted texture!

The Lord, the knowledge are gained
Neither by sheer birth nor un-norms
The sooths of scriptures are lost
In these sordid cares and forms.

Myriad castes are misadventure
What? Is this our real culture!

With tears in eyes and beads of sweet
These trodden yet' divine;
Undertake services throughout
Deserve in return devotions fine

Like Mohan undertake this venture

What? Is this our real culture!

No mere speeches are require

Nor the usual Government;

With solemn pledge, in hearts

Live among them with out adornment.

This would be the real culture

Lovely, blissful and divine!

Truth, Ahimsa, Meditation

Are the Lords' images that ever shine.

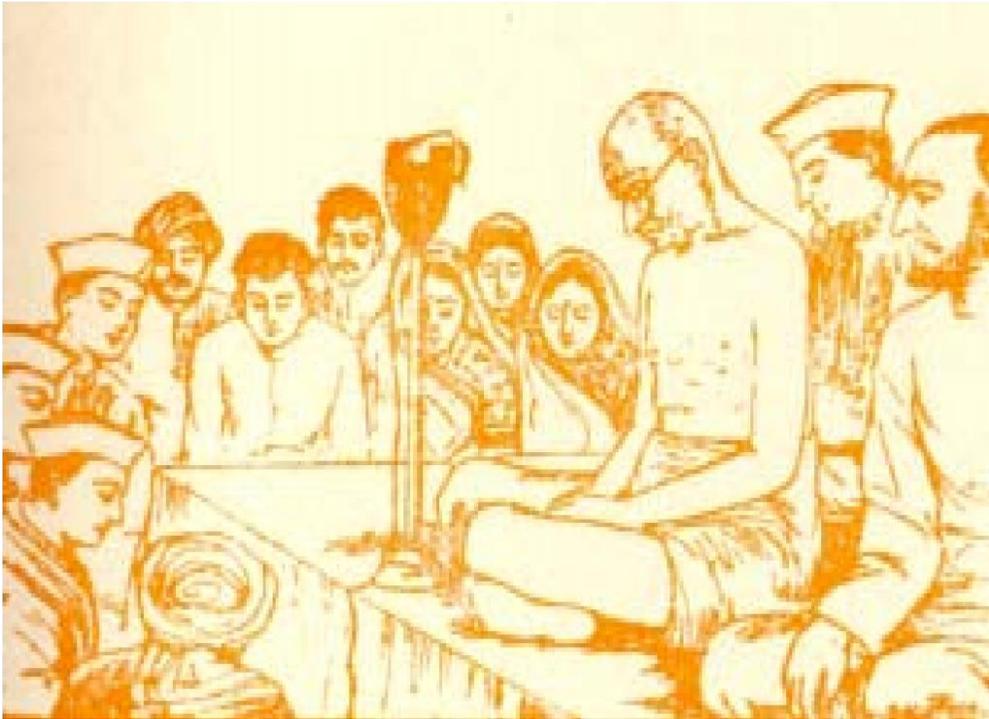
Build up traditions with the body

Exile the vile desires from heart,

Be sweet in words and deeds

Never from this path depart.

Ye Human Beings
The world rests on you
Ye the e'er new
Ye the beautiful
Believe this
Believe this
Ye Human Beings
Harbinger of bliss.



THE FIFTH CANTO

THE SPIRIT IS SAFFRON

The Lord is unfathomable,
The masses to their selfs³ glued
The lord is though bounteous
The masses loud and lewd.

Though as parts inseparable,
Like leaves in a tree,
Yet surprisingly apart
Are masses from powers-that-be.

The masses greatly self-seeking,
With queer attachments of their own
Many events of the bygone
Have no equity yet sown.

³ So prophetically written in the second half of twentieth century; and so rampantly true now in this age of 'selfie' in the second decade of twenty-first century

Karl Marx and Lenin

Did draw up the line;
By which equity in society
Got established afine.

One led to the two, the two
Led to the many;
The many to the Society
The Society to the State.

Sacrifice is its axis,
The prime of each organ
But the wise and the world
Strike no bargain.

Crime can occur only
When there's usurpation;
Self enhances, others perish
And the masses die in privation.

This usurpation must breed
Conflict, struggle and war
Tensions writ in the world
Envy untold peace mar.

This usurpation the relic
Of the elements of the beast,
This usurpation a thorn,
But food to barbaric feast.

It remains unvanquished,
Nay, it continues worshipp'd
Singly but unbroken
Keeping the cup of sorrow brimmed.

Masses ask only for servants,
And sacrifices of all kinds,
Deep attachment to them,
Denial to one's body and mind.

When e'er the Kings followed
Spontaneous the subjects' love;
When e'er they overlooked;
Rebellion stark has come.

Authority gets wiped out,
the world in war drown'd
When e'er the poet or the
Swordsman rose up and frowned.

In the voice of Rousseau,
In the wake of the Cruel Emperor,
In villages and towns
Rebellion occur'd with full terror.

Pen moves briskly,
So also does the Sword.
Power is ephemeral
Ye Kings, rest assur'd.

The multiple theories of Lenin
Are really old in import,
And history replete with
Events the wise can't answer.

Masses demand Sacrifice
Then alone love provoke
The fire which lies smouldering
Takes no time to evoke.

O, Bharat, blessed are ye
No such usurpation wide
Once the Kaurvas danced in folly
But destruction rose in tide.

Humble the monarch but masses supreme
Flowered in this very Land;
Events which culminated here
Are clear prints on the Sands of Time.

A monarch Rama-like

The masses bloomed and rejoic'd

Rama's State was their State

The masses frolicked and smiled.

Pride from status exiled,

Status fountain of bliss to all

State vow the most profound

Though in taste bitter and gall.

Stubborn and real lies

The Lanka in pride of pelf

The masses like Seeta suffer,

In tyranny of this self.

Fear and utter jeers,

Impede all human progress,

The trust reposed sustains

When each woe has redress.

The gains in knowledge

Accrued to this very land,

Detachment in chants

Sacrifices of the noblest minds.

Filiality is the Scar,

Unwanted is equity,

For the ruler and the ruled

Are of one fraternity.

Universal brotherhood is

The undying cult and glory

Distinctions of casts and creed

Render us forlorn and sorry.

It's the love, the ethics

The love and the country not distinct

May it resound in the universe

And never get extinct.

State, religion, economics, Love

Ask for conduct alone.

For on one plane they

Converge, coalesce in tone.

Distinctions crude and wild

Between the life within and without,

Of the deeds in ones' privacies

And the visions of without.

But easy to sermonise

Terse to render in actions,

When man is Iron-will'd

Then alone succeeds transaction.

Beware everyone, whoever

The Sage, the Poet or the Leader,

Benign is the power only

By emotions when not torn asunder.

This century is most blessed

Blooms forth knowledge eternal,

Diverted to human blisses,

Discoveries material and temporal.

This century is the luckiest

Expressed are tenets of life

Equity shorn of filiality

Examples itself with no strife.

It examples in Mohan

In none else other than he;

The nectar flows incessant

Ye, and we.

Firmness of Socrates the Wise,

Cheers 'of Christ the Crucified,

Dispassion'd role of Buddha the Lord,

Penances of the Sages unhorified.

Harvests of experiences, penances
Dissertations on the deep
Truth leader's potency to edit, multiply
Got illustrated with Mohan's birth.

No screen separates
You from me or them,
Ethics of the masses
Are one and the same.

The world be caressed
With devotion alone
May this pursuit e'er
Find its echo and tone.

With one's own body and heart
Tribulations don't behave,
Body is to harness labour
Heart to pray and love.

This Buddha saw under the Tree,
And this underlay the Geeta,
O, think over this, you all,
Countrymen of Rama and Seeta.

True, gigantic was not
Mohan's vision of State
Such as has of late,
Here, there, arisen.

But intact are the entities of
Each hearth, each home,
Peoples' personal vocations
Safe in each for man and his home.

Let not the State alone,
Propagate and transact,
For the masses then get inert,
And State doesn't interact.

Democracy or the State

Are means to human welfare

State be no end in itself

Here, there, everywhere.

The masses be bubbling.

The State no mere burden,

Masses no abegging

With State just a token.

Many wild variations

Have the democracy corroded,

The original features in these

Forms have surely faded.

Masses be enjoined on

To till and sow garden with sweat

State be mere care taker

And medium of all feat.

Neither apart nor separable

Are the State and the masses,

Flowers bloom, Leaves sprout

Of a single Tree with foliage.

Whether history turns over its pages,

Or civilisation uncovers its folds,

Or the wise, the Sages

Count the deeds manifold.

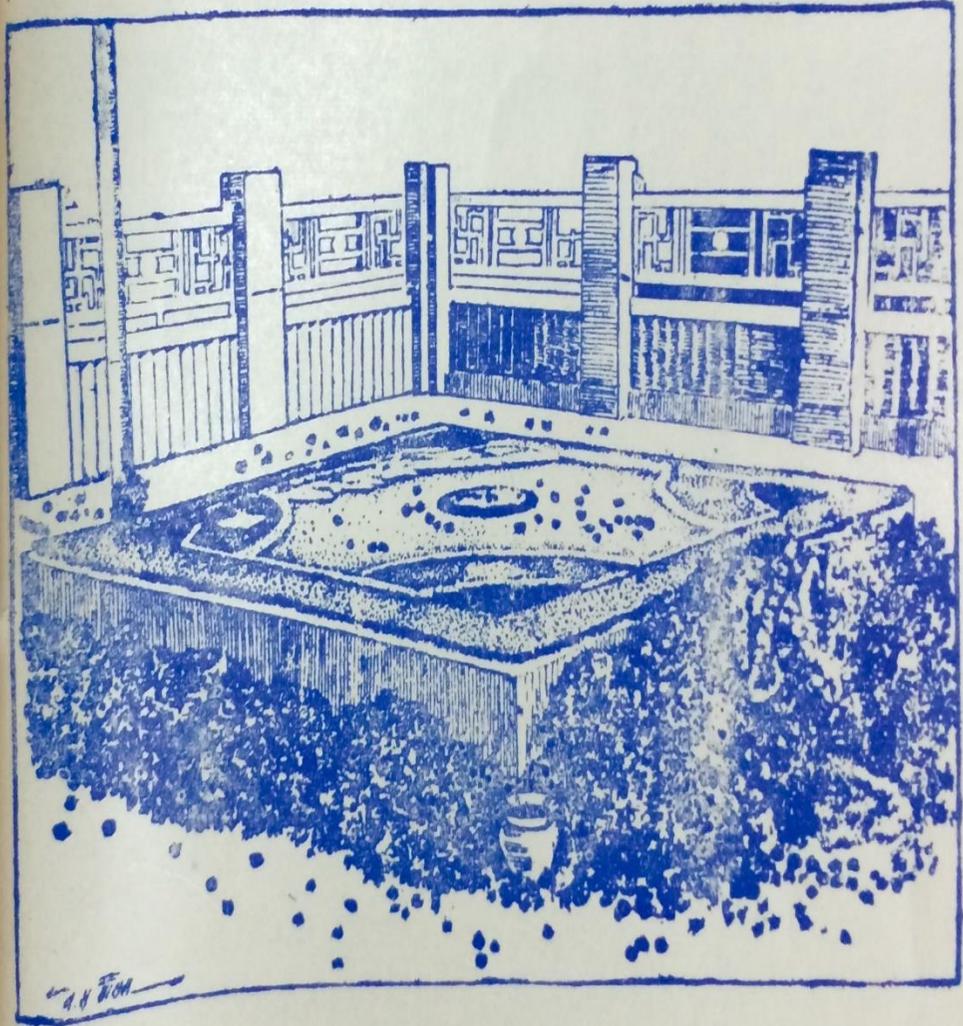
The man, the full, the real Man

Is discernible only today,

The eyes are pleased most

And heart is happy and gay.

THE SIXTH CANTO



He Ram !

Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi
Rajghat
New Delhi

THE HOURS ARE VIOLET

Cries multiple on the Yamuna banks

For 'the light has gone out'.

Scars sad on human hearts

The gem of mankind is lost.

In the deep layers of Earth

Pain and sorrows are embedded

In the throats' cries and pangs

For ones' dear separated.

Those who should have merried

Are tossed between Sighs of anguish

And in the cinders, smoke of

Sighs like embers they now perish.

Memories ignite the fire,
The fire of deep Lamentations,
Nectar even changes into poison
In the pangs of Separations.

None hath the bliss of Ignorance
Life is ephemeral, death certain
How can the man collect courage
Hours are forlorn and vain.

Tears well out with reasons
And not as mere water,
The marks on the cheeks
Glisten like liquid drops.

Deep afflictions of the heart
Rise in waves after waves,
When life is laden with pain,
In agony man rants and raves.

This affliction is intense, deep
The heart burns in flames,
The bloods in the arteries
Change into icy flakes.

Throat is choked, voice
Broken, blurs and fades
Sighs swell like tides
on eye's banks, all our sighs.

The sand and dust of places
When he walked the Earth
Shine in their lustre
While tears from my eyes drop.

In these ashes, in this Earth
lies asleep his image,
Karuna has put on his form
For his form has become a mirage.

Why does the current of tearfalls
Break the ground like blades
The world appears a deserted hovel
With loss of emeralds and jades.

The lover, companion of Man
Is lost from life;
And so the world is coloured
With anguish, sorrow and strife.

The hours of the evening depress
The petals of flowers wilted
In the growing hours of gloom
The notes of life are muffled.

Earth in deep anguish
Has cried out in sobs,
Fear, lament, tremors
The silences of birds symbolise.

The whole of the world

Is getting lost on the sands of Time

No light, yea, darkness

Envelopes every chime.

The green has lost its greenness

The wind its velocity

The flowers their honey,

The birds their melody.

Bitter the hours of the evening,

The blood deep in the Sun's light,

The earth emits flames intermittently,

While the dew drops lose their traces.

The lids of the eyes are overflown

The waves beat on the eye's banks,

The dread, the darkness is

Swelling from all flanks.

Countless are people behind

And many books, many scriptures

And in the hills, caves and forests

Sages with sagas of long ventures.

Let them bring back this man to life

With their powers hoary

Lest the human meditations

Get shorn of their glory.

O, ye sons of Adam,

Sages, Manu the law-maker,

Ye are deceived constantly

By the serpent, the evil-doer.

The death of Socrates with poison

Christ on the Crucifix

The arrow in Krishna's feet

All lead up to this.

Cries, cries and cries

Not simply at Mohan's passing away,

The sorrow is old, eternal

For Ignorance once again has its sway.

Cries, cries and cries

Not at annihilation by the Demon

But that this Demon is no other

Than a brother of our own.

Cries, cries and cries

Not simply at Mohan's departure

But that a holy Image

Has been crucified and tortured.

Till now had descended on our earth

Gods and deities from the skies.

Or equipped with divine glories

Prophets of no ordinary size.

And we have looked with dismay
At what they displayed here;
The earth changed into worthy places
With their magic touch everywhere.

The man, the full man,
 Man the most supreme
Blessed the earth, and blessed
 All men fulfilled.

The real man of this universe
 Is now beyond man's purview,
The poets sing, the rest weep
 With tears in lieu.

But tears are unbehoved
 For he did not weep,
The seer had crossed with no pause
 The vast stretches of death's deep.

The light of knowledge is not out
Man's jewels are n't lost,
For the promise will be undying
The gift of the world after all loss.

This trait is so nascent
that it multiplies.
And in it the progress
of the world itself lies.

The sun never sets
Only half the globe is dark
With new radiance and lustre
The sun ever comes back.

This Sun of the people
Ever radiant in our recesses
Will transmit light all the while
In our conflicts and abysses.

Man has ever crossed
Hurdles of tempests and deserts
And forged ahead
Despite sores in feet and fetters.

When the whole vacuum did assume form.
Many lives were born.
Primitive, Stone, Iron, Machine Ages
Are harvests of progress, yea, corn.

And when appeared the human form.
Cast away was the animals' norm
Man will never stop
On this path, millions be the thorn.

Reduced the ashes in the Sunbeams
Will retort, anger and scorn
Sects will merge in the whole
As comforting as the morn.

Earths' fears and tremors will
Cease to strike us as the dilemmas' horn
Man will march in strides
Of fear, fatigue and foe shorn.

Not one or even the many
But all will here flower,
Like rain, air, soil, water
Sarvodaya does grant power.

Man will ascend the summit
Breaking through narrow confines
With devotion to our Man
He will break all demarcating lines.

Lo, the poet plays upon the flute
And rouses the soul from slumber
Prayers resound for ever, far, long
The afflicted birds' notes in number.

THE SEVENTH CANTO

BLISS IS MORN-ORANGE

My songs are musical

Not because these are superior

My metres are vocal

For these are the voices clear

Of one whose truth is immortal

And who had walked on this earth

The earth parched and dry

Giving himself to fire and no mirth.

I the humble, he the nobly high

I not a poet crafty,

Lo, he of universal import

Of issues and virtues lofty.

I the small, he the great

This poetry is indelible,

For it gives vent to

Thoughts and probe unassailable.

Truth has n't dawned fully yet

On the learned men and women.

All companions have yet to be

Freed from fear and pain.

Many images awesome and big

On pedestals are vain

The rulers are yet submerged

In lust and powers disdain.

Not yet on one bank

Do all creatures share life's water

And myriad persons lead

Lives of burden and sordid matter.

My songs are musical

Not because these are excellent

My metres have harmony

For the very theme is vibrant.

There need be no doubt

Whether God or Man be our Idol

Simple, single be the desire

To sacrifice oneself at others' call.

With care and with labour

We must the ugly and dross fight.

And follow 'the lead' given

So 'kindly' by Mohan's 'light'.

And ceaselessly discover

The Lord, the God among the masses

Without rancour or ill-will

And with no vile malice.

So the poet finds the Lord in the people
Hopes have arisen and caused wide ripple
The world has reform'd itself
So has the poetry evolv'd itself.

Russell now echoes in voice multiple
The poet finds the Lord in the people
This Spirit moves the world organisation
Sure about peace, sure on foundations.

Tensions lessen'd, relighted the temple
The poet finds the Lord in the people
Neither in nuclear bursts
Nor in savage thirsts

Nor ever in war is bliss possible
The Poet finds the Lord in the people.
All life is given and sustained
And so is the knowledge gained

When Sunlike our Man releases beams innumerable
The poet finds the Lord in the people.

That terse pledge is now our sweet vow
Conduct this campaign afar, afar
Remember even in mind and squalor
Springs up soft-petalled flower.

And roses bloom among the thorns,
Flowers of numerous kinds and colour
That terse pledge is now our sweet vow
Conduct this campaign afar, afar.

Remember this much alone
The heavy steps don't grass blades devour
Over the sick and the afflicted alike
Honey of words, melody of verse, nectar shower.

For only through forbearance and love
We can visualise God the Sire,
That terse pledge is now our sweet vow
Conduct this campaign with heart's desire

Unique is this philosophy of equity
Distributing possessions among fraternity
Blood-oriented changes are of no utility
Unique is this philosophy of equity.

This vision of Mohan is new
For ours, for everyone's, view;
This gift is born of realisation,
And sacrifice, nothing in lieu.

Unique is this philosophy of equity
Distributing possessions among fraternity
This vision of Mohan is new
For ours, for everyone's' view.

Unique is this philosophy of equity
Distributing possessions among fraternity
This vision of Mohan is new
For ours, for everyone's view.

Imposter is he who
 Trades on Mohan's name,
But have patience, for
 Gets exposed sooner or later this game.

He who thinks of his self,
 Of seizing power and pelf
He need not trade on his name
 And shine in reflected fame.

With nerves and feet strong
 The pledge when gets fulfilled
And the evil is faced
 The real Man is revealed.

And he alone can take this name
Let others be confined to their game
Others who have conflicting minds
Impulsive, convulsive all the times.

Those who renounce with no whimper
Love the masses without clamour
They the blessed persons, even in power
Are entitled to the names' glamour.

On this names' string
They alone should harp,
Who are n't stuffed with
Either evil or anger sharp
For its' a solemn pledge
Firmer and surer on the times' edge.

Sprung up from our own structure

Is this fountain of sweet nectar

It's of this age,

Topical,

But of all ages,

Temporal;

It asketh for

nothing

But entreaty sweet

and eternal.

Potent to make us soar higher

Is this function of sweet nectar.

It is

the crown

Of real

renown.

May this voice

be never

drown'd

No more of pining for being of the world other

Is this fountain of sweet nectar.

Sing, ye poet, sing only of love

Adam has come and gone from earth,

Only after proving equity of birth,

Sages, only this trance'll behove.

Sing, ye poet, sing only of love

We rose at his call,

And will brook no fall

Fly, here, celestial songsters as dove.

Sing, ye poet, sing only of love.

Ever noble and true

This man faced death in lieu

Consume thyself for all and globe

Sing, ye poet, sing only of love.



Vijay Kumar Varma

Annotations

MAN THOU CAN

The central figure, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, symbolizes the immense possibilities of Man who can all by himself do what has been hitherto mostly assigned to ethereal beings. Miracles of Science offer no contradictions to it, nay, illustrate it.

For spiritualism and materialism are apart only in pursuit of objectives : efforts to perceive and shape the sublime or even transcribe its thrill are spiritual, but those which tend to aggrandise the self, the ugly and the sordid, definitions of which are all clear become materialistic. So any efforts at human amelioration, emancipation, redemption are not materialistic, in the sense or associations commonly entertained.

And rituals are also not religion. Righteous conduct, bliss for all is religion.

So is the case with spiritualism. There is God in Man, thereby God is Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, in each atom, in each element, in each sphere. Man the earth's Supreme creation, has simply to discover Him, feel Him here, there, everywhere.

So did the Upanishads speak as also the Bible, the Koran, the Geeta, the Granth Saheb. So have the poets sung in all sublime poetry and so have the songsters harped upon one familiar chord.

For God is the most vocal symbol Man has ever conceived, the Symbol of the bliss, the Truth, ever noble, ever high, ever beautiful, knowing no distinction. True, this symbol has acquired the local tones of expression, inevitable with human speech and arts, but there has been a unification of vision even behind camouflages of imagery.

The urge in Man to attain Godhood is his inborn urge and when more than one this urge is realised by peoples, there are born states or organs of human welfare. When this urge is in throes of fulfilment, there are trials, tribulations, upheavals. And when this urge is overwhelmed with a choice for the vile, the immediate gratifications of self, there is chaos, massacre, organised war.

But through all these Stages it is Man who gets and sees through, none else, man the single, man the many, men in unison.

Explanations

- Incarnadined Multitudinous: The Shakespearean words from the post-murder speech of Macbeth.
- The indigo masters with servants: For full five years while working as a public servant in Champaran, the poet was privileged to come across many persons who had worked with Mahatma; had heard stories, not accounted for elsewhere, stories of Mahatma's zeal iron-will and tenacity. Of many such stories is one rendered into verse here.
- Truth an enormous evergreen tree: Based on Mahatma's own imagery in "My Experiments With Truth".
- The book that Ruskin wrote: Ruskin influenced Mahatma most.
- The light has gone out: The words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, relayed on air when Mahatma was no more.
- Russell echoes in throats multiple: The great philosopher and writer, Bertrand Russell has campaigned against nuclear explosions and dangers and only in October, 1965 on getting disillusioned, tore into pieces his card of the Labour Party and what a coincidence! He did all this in Mahatma Gandhi Hall, London.
- Spirited is this organization: On the debris of the League of Nations has sprouted a benign tree, the United Nations, which has surely maintained and upheld the cause of peace in this strife-torn, fear-struck world.
- Unique is this philosophy of equity: The campaigns, marches and exhortations of Vinoba, Jay Prakash Narayan are extensions of the Mahatma's vision of equality among all.

Introduction to Names in the Verse

Manu	The Prime Man, law-maker
Adam	The Prime Man, centrally portrayed in Milton's Paradise Lost
Eve	Adam's spouse
Rama	Synonym for God in Hindu mythology
Janki or Seeta	Rama's spouse
Lava, Kusha	Twin sons of Rama and Seeta
Ravana	The ruler of Lanka, ten-headed, who was slain by Rama
Valmiki	The poet who wrote in Sanskrit 'Ramayana'
Menka	The damsel from the Indra's court who enticed Vishvamisra the Sage
Krishna	Lord Krishna of the Mahabharata epic, whose enunciations are contained in Bhagwat Geeta , a part of the same epic
Kauravas	The hundred brothers, agnates to the Pandavas, but who waged war with the latter and usurped their rights
Socrates	The Greek Philosopher and wisest man who was administered poison
Helen	The great beauty of Troy, cause of the Trojan War
Mahavir	The lord of the Jains
Buddha	Lord Buddha, whose tenets are profound in the name of Buddhism
Mary	Virgin mother of Jesus the Christ
Christ	Jesus the Christ
Chanakya	Known as Kautilya, wrote "Arthashastra", the great diplomat-statesman
Asoka	Asoka the Emperor, who embraced Buddhism in remorse after the conquest of Kalinga
Muhammad	The Prophet
Kabir	Saint, Poet
Nanak	The founder of Sikhism, a saint, poet

Akbar	Akbar the Emperor, who was the first to inculcate Hindu-Muslim oneness, the founder of a cult, Dln-e-lllahi.
Rana Pratap	The Maharana of Chittor, who did not accept Akbar's suzerainty, took the vow to sleep on straw-bed and eat on leaf-dish till he regained his sovereignty.
Rousseau	The great French writer, whose analysis is said to have sparked off the French Revolution.
Napoleon	The great warrior of France who ultimately crowned himself as the Emperor.
Marx	Karl Marx, propagator of Marxism, gave altogether a new direction to political thinking and State activities.
Ibsen	The great dramatist, forerunner of realism in literature.
Ruskin	The thinker, the writer, his book "Unto this Last" cast profound influence on Mahatma.
Darwin	The revolutionary writer, whose theories dealt severe shocks to old ideas of evolution of life on the earth.
Freud	The master psychoanalyst, whose theory of libido was another shock to age-old human conceptions.
Lenin	The father of Soviet Russia.
Raj Kumar	A simple farmer of Champaran, Raj Kumar Shukla whose entreaty at Mahatma came to Champaran.
Tilak	The leader of the Congress
Gokhale	The political mentor of Mahatma.
Malviya	A political leader of eminence, established' Varanasi University.
Kasturba	Mahatma's wife and ardent follower.
Mani, Durga	Two prominent women disciples of Mahatma.
Hitler	The Feuhrer, the, persecutor of the Jews and one who precipitated the World War in 1939.
Mohan	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Excerpts

Society Today and Tomorrow

(Readings in Social Science)

Edited by Elgin F. Hunt and Jules Karlin

“Future man, whom the scientists tell us they will produce in no more than a hundred years, seems to be possessed by a rebellion against human experience as it has been given, a free gift from nowhere (secularly speaking), which he wishes to exchange, as it were, for something he has made himself. There is no reason to doubt our abilities to accomplish such an exchange, just as there is no reason to doubt our potentiality to destroy all organic life on earth. The question is only whether we wish to use our new scientific and technical knowledge in this direction.

“The modern age is not the same as the modern world. Scientifically, the modern age which began in the seventeenth century, came to an end at the beginning of the twentieth century; politically, the modern world, in which we live to-day was born with the first atomic explosion”.

HANNAH ARENDT

(Prologue to “The Shape of the Future Man”)

“We can draw now the bony skeleton of any industrial society in the year, 2000. It may be a world society or a City State; it may live in a settled place or still under the threat of war; it may be democratic or totalitarian. Whatever it is, I believe that life in it will have certain large features. We cannot escape the large bony features; atomic energy, biological control, automation. But the body of Society is not all bone; a good many different bodies clothe that skeleton”.

J. BRONOWSKI

”Planning for the Year 2000”

“Nor, given the prevalence of Physical poverty in the backward nations and of psychological poverty in all nations, is the pre-eminence of materialistic drives and goals to be wondered at. In sum, to-day as in the past, the half-educated, half-emancipated state of human society assures that there will be a long confirmation of the violence, the instability, the blatant injustice, which are the most grievous aspects of the human tragedy. This is the true heritage of the human condition, and its bitter tragedy.

“To raise these dark thoughts is not to sermonize that man is wicked or to avoid the conclusion that some men are much more guilty than others. Neither is it to maintain that there is no hope for a betterment of the human condition. On the contrary, there is to-day a greater long-term prospect for such betterment than humanity has ever known before.”

ROBERT L. HEIBRONER

(The Heritage of “The Human Condition”)

THE NEW DIMENSIONS OF PEACE

Chester Bowles

“In 1947 when the British decided to quit India, it was hard not to conclude that this little man, weighing scarcely 110 pounds, armed if at all with a walking stick and the weapon of Satyagraha was in large measure responsible. Nor was there any doubt that the friendship between India and Britain, on which a reconstituted Commonwealth was based, owed much of its foundation to the weapons with which Gandhi had carried on the struggle.

“Yet, despite this extra-ordinary success, Gandhi was far away from the scene of celebration on Independence Day, August, 15, 1947, spending his time instead in fasting, spinning and in prayer. For him the partition of India and the terrible fractional riots which succeeded it had meant failure. “Vivisect me, but not India”, he had cried.

“On January 30, 1948 ten days after he had broken the fast, he was shot three times and killed while walking unguarded to his regular prayer meeting. Despite threats from fanatic Hindus, and a bomb thrown at him a few days before, he had refused police protection. When Gandhi’s ashes were emptied seaward into the Ganges, more than four million people were gathered there on the river bank. Some say more human beings assembled on that day than on any other

occasion in history. The King's representative in the United Nations in mourning the death of "the friend of the poorest and the loveliest and the lost", predicted that "Gandhi's greatest achievements are still to come". General Mac Arthur, then the Supreme Allied Military Commander in Japan said "In the evolution of civilisation, if it is to survive, all men cannot fail eventually to adopt Gandhi's belief that the process of mass application of force to resolve contentious issues is fundamentally not only wrong but contains within itself the germ, of self-destruction". It may be argued that Gandhi exercised power more successfully with more lasting effects, than any of his revolutionary contemporaries. Did he not bring about the best and most complete revolution the 20th Century had seen? Was it too much to hope that in the age of the hydrogen bomb, Gandhi's revolution might become the model for the remaining revolutions of the Century?"

Opinion

The poem, 'Man Thou Can' by Badri Narain Sinha, of the Indian Police Service is remarkable for its clarity, sincerity and natural grace. It is not just a poetical biography of Gandhiji whose life was his message and who was himself a true poem.

It also portrays a significant period of modern Indian history and breathes life into it. The sufferings of the Indigo cultivators of Champaran district have been vividly described in a few stanzas but with telling effect. There is a fusion of Romantic spontaneity and classical high seriousness in this poem. The moralising emotion of the poem reminds one of Gray's Elegy. :

Truth is such an enormous evergreen tree
That when nursed it yields many a bloom
And its hymn so transcendental altogether
The peoples require the store of wisdom.

The poem is a triumph of idealism and sensibility. Our only regret is that the poet passed away ere his prime and did not live to see it in print-

Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight
And burned is Apollo's Laurel bough.

Arun Mustafi
Head of the Dept. of English,
Ranchi College, Ranchi

I welcome this poetical biography of Mahatma Gandhi as a significant contribution to Gandhian literature.

The author was both a man of action and a man of feeling.

This epic in miniature is an inspiring invocation of the spirit of Gandhi as an apostle of truth and non-violence. The title at once arrests attention for it suggests how Gandhi the man could attain divinity by his capacity to transcend human limitations in his supreme urge to maintain the dignity of man.

Shri Anandvardhan Sinha deserves all praise for bringing to light this valuable composition of his illustrious father Shri Badri Narain Sinha.

The work reflects rare literary gifts in one who had distinguished himself as a custodian of law and order.

Prof. Kalika Ranjan Chatterjee
Dept. of English,
Bihar University,
Muzaffarpur

The Poet



- * **Born** 4th April, 1930 at Darbhanga.
- * Earlier Lecturer in English at C M. College, Darbhanga and later at Ranchi College Ranchi
- * **Appointed to the Indian Police Service in 1952.**
- * Served as Superintendent of Police, Champaran (1958-63) and Bhagalpur (1965-68)
- * Was Superintendent of Railway Police, Muzaffarpur (1968-70) and Senior Superintendent of Police, Ranchi (1970-71)
- * Was appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Police and Member Secretary, Bihar Police Manual Revision Committee in June, 1971.

- * Was Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, Patna (1974-77) and later D.I.G. of Police, Criminal Investigation Department till his death in harness on the 7th November, 1979.
- * Was awarded the **Indian Police Medal in 1971** for his meritorious and distinguished services and was decorated with the **President's Police Medal in August, 1979**.
- * Was an acclaimed literary critic and reputed writer in the field of Hindi Literature
- * Started his literary pursuits as a teenager
- * Authored "PRATHMIKI", a landmark work in Hindi criticism In 1965 and followed' it up with "AJ TAK KEE", its companion volume.
- * Published "TATKA ADAM", a book of modern Hindi Poetry and this book's twin in Hindi 'AB BAHU SE SAB JAN HITAY" with the life of Mahatma Gandhi as its subject.
- * Wrote "STUDENTS' REVOLT", a concise book on students' unrest.
- * Was Founder-Editor of "BIHAR POLICE PATRIKA", the official organ of the Bihar Police, a mantle which he carried till his premature end.

- * Was awarded **Special Prize by the Uttar Pradesh Government** for his magnum-opus on criminology “AAPRADHIKI” in 1976. This Pioneering work, the first of its kind written originally In Hindi, won the “**Best Book of the Year Award” from the Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad in 1978.**
- * Lectured at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy, Mount Abu and later Hyderabad, Administrative Training Institute, Ranchi, Police Training College, Hazaribagh, Internal Security Academy, Mount Abu and Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta.
- * Contributor to the Journal of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.
- * **A spiritualist and a humanist.**

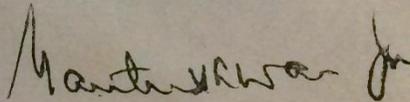
ERRATA

Page	Line Number	For	Please Read
Acknowledgements	21	Explains for	Explains
Publisher's Note	12	reconteur	raconteur
Publisher's Note	13	celabr eted	celebrated
Publisher's Note	25	worthly	worthy
2	1	Giistened	Glistened
3	4	II	!!
17	4	dence	dense
21	6	prevasive	pervasive
27	10	meterialised	materialised
27	12	ben	been
32	1	Pained	Painted
34	15	Sterlised	Sterilised
37	4	t une	tune
37	11	manw'd	man w'd
41	8	sen	sense
49	7	mirths mirths	mirths
51	12	man	men
52	2	women	woman
52	15	mohans	Mohans
53	6	Whelth	wealth
53	17	editions	editions
54	2	Il's	It's
54	4	nor norma	nor un-norms
54	11	throught	throughout
54	15	Arae	Are
54	15	require	required
54	18	with out	Without
59	6	Like	like
61	15	attachement	attachment
62	13	meves	moves
65	11	casts	Caste
65	14	distin	distinct
78	2	likeblades	like blades
78	14	eried	cried
82	7	bleased	blessed
90	5	dawaned	dawned
93	3	m nd	mind
102	20	ideias	ideas
102	20	evdation	evolution
102	32	Man	Many
105	20	Secaward	Seaward.

'Man Thou Can' is a lyrical Portrait of Bapu, the Mahatma, who himself composed, sang, danced and lived the Song of Love for all mankind. He was not only a page in the time-span of History but made and unmade History.

Cut away in his prime by the cruel yoke of death Badri Babu, the man, the poet and the scholar has portrayed with vibrant harmony the Man who strode on to this soil like a colossus, who breathed its polluted environ to emit the glow and sparkle the lengthening shadows of darkness into an Eternal Light.

Badri Babu is no more but a worthy son of an illustrious father, Shri Anandvardhan, our young friend has discovered for publication this Poetry of Life and Love, 'Man Thou Can', which will spread the message of Love to one and all for ever.



(Mantreshwar Jha)
Managing Director,
Bihar State Financial Corporation.

The book in your hand is a portrait of Bapu in poetry. The portrait has been completed in seven cantos; the Seven cantos correspond to seven colours. Thus, it is obvious that the portrait has been conceived poetically, vividly in colours.

The poetry of the portrait is natural and spontaneous without self-conscious artifice or art. Its strength lies in its personal and intense feelings; its art is appropriate to the kind and quality of feelings rendered. It is an interesting experiment in the expression and communication of native feelings through a foreign language.

In my opinion it is an important contribution to the growing body of Indo-Anglian poetry. I recommend it to the attention of our enlightened reading public. There is a good deal of pleasure in its reading, and moral instruction as well.

Prof. K. M. Tiwary

Department of English,
Patna University, Patna