भवानी भारती

bhavAnI bhAratI by Sri Aurobindo

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English translation by Richard Hartz
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1. As I lay sunk in the comfort of my couch and my mind wandered on the roads of Spring, I thought of my people, of poetry, of wife and enjoyments, pleasure and possessions.

2. I shaped my delight into elegant verse in lyrical stanzas of sensuous passion; I sang of the smile on my beloved's face and of the revered and most sacred feet of the Mother.

3. My country wept all around me, for a villainous Titan oppressed her children. Led by self-interest, I paid homage to the feet of the evil one stained with the blood of my brothers.

4. Lying at ease on a soft couch and dreaming of pleasures, enjoyments and wealth, I felt on my chest the touch of a dreadful hand and to my eyes grew visible the shape of Kali.
5. Garlanded with the bones of men and girdled with human skulls, with, belly and eyes like a wolf’s, hungry and poor, scarred on her back by the “Titan’s lashes, roaring like a lioness who lusts for kill,

6. with her fierce, hungry, blazing eyes irradiating all the worlds, rending the hearts of the gods with the piercing ring of her war-cry,

7. filling the world with bestial sounds and licking her terrible jaws, fierce and naked, like the eyes of a savage beast in the dark—thus did I see the Mother.

8. The mountain-tops cowered beneath her dangling locks and the seas drew back from her awful fangs; her breath scattered the torn clouds and earth trembled at the fall of her feet.

9. Arise! Give! The Mother’s thirsting call resounded through the night in the starless city. Thundering, the noble goddess filled with her presence the night’s blackness and the hearts of men.

10. Alarmed and shaken in mind, I sprang from my couch and questioned that shape of darkness which compelled worship:
terrible splendour? What must I do? Speak! Salutation to thee, O dreadful goddess!

11. Uttering a sound like the lion’s roar when it roams ferocious in the jungle in search of prey, the goddess in her form of terror loosed forth words like the thundering of ocean upon the rocks.

12. I am the mother, O child, of the Bharatas, the eternal people beloved of the gods, whom neither hostile Fate nor Time nor Death has power to destroy.

13. Their strength purified by their continence, rendered noble by self-knowledge and severe austerities, resplendent like a thousand suns they shone on a prosperous earth.

14. Heroic and bold, they would brook no hint of defiance from their foes. Worshipping the Mother with the sacrifice of her enemies, at battle’s end they stood radiant, their limbs anointed with blood.

15. But who are these pitiful and indigent wretches who in their blindness embrace a degrading peace like a prostitute? O you unmanly and weakminded men! Do you not know that it is Death you clasp?
16. How long will you thus impotently bear your lives in suffering, wantonly beaten by your oppressors’? Your haters laugh at you; you buy with peace a heap of dishonour and the depletion of your wealth.

17. Who is this, sanctified by the nectarous touch of the feet of foreign barbarians, who prides himself on being a Brahmin? You are a Shudra less Aryan then the Shudras! Of what use are these vows for the traveller on the path to Hell?

18. Arise! Awake! Leave your ritual fires, for you are the incarnate lustre of Krishna, the Supreme. Go forth consuming your enemies with the fire that dwells eternal in your breast.

19. Who is this relative of Kshatriyas hiding in his palace with wine and the darting glances of voluptuous women? Your duty and honour have you forgotten in your weakness? Fight, hypocrite, and preserve the Dharma!

20. Iron there is and the sword is sharp; the cruel cannon bellows here in a drunken fury. How is it that you are unarmed? You lie as if dead! Protect your race, be Aryan and a slayer of your foes.
21. And what kind of Vaishya are you here? What goods are these arrayed in the market-places for the prospering of the people? This is the wealth of the foreign exploiter! You impoverish me, Kali, O vile traitor to your Mother!

22. Give to the flames this wealth of the foreigner. Do you not fear the burning wrath of Kali? Worshipping the goddess Bhavani in your heart, strive and enrich your motherland.

23. You and you, O peoples of Avanti and Magadha, Vanga, Anga and Kalinga, O Kurus and men of’ Sind: hear me! O southerners, you of Andhra and the Chola country, and you heroes of the land of the five rivers;

24. you who adore the triple form of the one Lord and you, my Mohammedan sons, who worship Him in His uniqueness: I, the Mother, call all of you, for all are my children. Shake off your slumber! Oh, hear!

25. Listen to the drum of Time on the mountain-tops. Behold pitiless Death, my messenger. Famine and earthquake announce that I have come in the fullness of my might.

26. Offer sacrifice to me; give, for I am thirsty. Seeing me,
know and adore the original Power, ranging here as Kali who roars aloud and hunger to enjoy the heads and bodies of mighty rulers.

रक्तप्रवाहैरपि नासिम तृता शातैः सहस्रयुतेऽरजानाम् ।
प्रदत्त भित्ता हुद्यानि रत्क सम्पूजयन्त्येवमजां करालीमू ॥ २७॥

27. Not by torrents of blood from hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands of goats am I satisfied. Break open your hearts and offer that blood to me, for so do they worship the unborn and dreadful Goddess.

येषां स्वैवात्मबलप्रवृत्ताः शूरा महान्तः प्रमुखः कुलार्थः ।
सौण्ड्या कराली भवति प्रजानां रूक्तेन पुष्या विनिहन्ति शारूण ॥ २८॥

28. Wheresoever are great heroes and leaders engaged in continual selfsacrifice for the good of their race, towards those nations does Kali grow gracious, nourished with blood, and they crush their enemies.

कः क्षेत्रतार्या रूढिरस्य सिन्धो निमज्जातार्थिम्बतार्थसत्तचः ।
तिशूलिः भोः पशब्धत तत्र पारे ज्योतिश्चूदेतीदमभिन्नजेतेः ॥ २९॥

29. Whom do you fear, O Aryans? Plunge into this sea of blood; show that you are made of Aryan stuff indeed! Lo, there on the further shore see a light arise, inviolable in brilliance and armed with the trident.

कं केवि कुलािसाया मातृवा भारतां तां भैः ।
भो जागृतार्थिम क धनुः क खंडु उतिेंतोतिचिमत सुपसिंहः ॥ ३०॥

30. O poet and sensualist, hear the word of the Mother: adore Kali the Terrible, my son, the fierce Chandi. Verily you shall see her, the mother of the Bharatas, striking down her foes mightily in the thick of the fight.

सनातनान्यणह्य भारतां नुक्तानि युब्राय ज्योपस्तु मा भेः ।
भो जागृतार्थिम क धनुः क खंडु उतिेंतोतिचिमत सुपसिंहः ॥ ३१॥

31. Summon forth to battle the ancient tribes of the
Bharatas. Let there be victory; fear not. Lo, I have awakened! Where is the bow, where the sword? Arise, arise, O sleeping lions!

32. Hearing these words in the night and beholding in the darkness a dreadful splendour, my heart danced and leaving my house, shaking off my pleasures, I quickly went forth.

33. I saw then this land of India, the Aryan country, wrapped thickly in darkness, suffering, blinded; hidden in the night, ruined by her enemies, the mother of the Bharatas wept aloud.

34. I cast my glance about in the night, grieved, searching out my brothers in the shadows. Their corpses I saw on the ground, pitiable, reduced to skeletons.

35. Then did I see a lordly Titan, crowned, gigantic, bearing a thunderbolt, feeding the hordes of his offspring with the tears of the Mother mixed with a hundred streams of her blood.

36. Oppressing with one foot the invincible Himalaya, with the other the plains of Andhra and Paundra, he brandished a harsh sword over China and the land of the Pahlavas (Persia).
37. As I looked on him, huge and vile, inflated with the pride of his strength, unrighteous and boasting of righteousness, my heart became like a fire-pit and burned with an undying wrath.

38. The dread voice of the goddess was raised to call out of their sleep the imperishable tribes. Then, uttering a fierce flood of cries, she came to my side, formidable like the night.

39. Earth and sea shook with the awful violence of her words and the heavens thundered back. The terror of her angry looks afflicted the creation like a deluge of fire.

40. All the three worlds were filled with the maddening summons of Kali. A volcano of devastating flame issued from the throat in immortal words.

41. Now I saw armies as if roused from sleep, agitated by the intense agitation that had seized the world, shouting fiercely, “Death to the villain!”

42. Growing aware of the Mother's weeping and her wounds, hundreds of eyes darted lightning. Then thousands of faces turned, dire with rage, upon the dread lord of Titans.
43. Who are you Aho, while her sons slept who are now eager for battle, have drunk the blood of the mother of the Aryans like a RakShasa, bellowing in the night? Who are you who, strong, oppress the weak, O fallen one, food for Death?

इतीरयन्ति वचनानि रुषा शाख्स गृहीता धनुरसङ्गरभंभः।
अभ्यद्विममरातिमुष्रा पश्चातपुरस्ताच जगर्ज काली॥ ४४॥

44. As she uttered these words, incensed, the violent goddess lifted a weapon, a fire-hurling bow, and rushed at her fearsome opponent. Before her and behind her Kali roared.

ज्वालाकराता घरणी बभूव कोधेर्जर्तल्लिंगनन्त्र तुर्यः।
हेष्षार्यीदुभिमाच्छ्यानास्त्रपश्चातगत्रित्रस्तं दनुजस्य युः॥ ४५॥

45. The earth grew lurid with flame and swift tongues of flaming wrath licked the sky. Sounds of neighing and the rumble of drums frightened the world as Kali fought with the Titan.

रक्तकेमेया नभसीव तेपुः पपात चोव्या हूंधिरोपवृष्टि:।
रक्तोद्धरों रेजर अद्रिसंध्या वसुन्यरा रक्तमया बमासे।॥ ४६॥

46. Clouds stained with blood seemed to burn in the heavens and a fierce rain of blood fell upon the earth. The mountains rose up from a bloodred sea. All the land was as if turned to blood.

भीमो रजन्यासुरो बलीयान ममर्द सेन्यानि सुरप्रियाणाम्।
जगर्ज चोन्यतत्तमनः सुरारिः को मे समः पुर्णिति रुढङ्गवेः।॥ ४७॥

47. The mighty Titan, terrible in the night, was crushing the armies of the people beloved of the gods. Intoxicated with pride, the enemy of the gods thundered, Who is there in the world who is equal to me?

तदा तमिश्वासपसारायन्ति रत्नप्रकाशं दिवस बालसूर्यैः।
शरीपैर्नन्तभिवांश्चुमिस्त्र प्रीतिसदुरोज्यर्दिव्यस्मां॥ ४८॥

48. Then, repelling the darkness and piercing the adversary with beams like arrows, I saw with a thrill of gladness a rising sun that shed a ruddy glow in the heavens, casting its rays aloft.
49. Crowded with glorious faces of the future, I beheld now the creator Brahma in the shape of a cloud whence looked forth a thousand eyes that foresaw the Mother’s deliverance from fear.

50. I hen, far off in the north, there arose, gracious, annihilating all enemies, a white light in the form of a Woman delightful in beauty, as radiant as twenty million dazzling suns.

51. Enraptured, the god in the luminous realms sang her praises; the birds in the mid-region sang sweetly of her, and men prostrating themselves on the earth sang of her as she entered the world dispelling its anguish.

52. On the Himalayan summits, steadfast in meditation, their bodies turned to ice, the great Yogis who through numberless ages have guarded India’s destiny praised her with joy.

53. Brushing slowly from eyes fathomless with wisdom the snow the ages had heaped there, they chanted in their puissance to the mighty Goddess terrible in radiant beauty:

54. Salutation to thee, O Goddess omnipotent! To thee I bow
who are terrible and mighty and compassionate. Thou alone preservest these peoples. Salutation to the Forceful One, the primeval Goddess!

करते बर्मे वर्णियितुं समर्थे देवि प्रचण्डे करप्पुद्रवेन।
एकेन हि भ्रामयसे रुणतिस विश्वं सतारकमन्त्रवीयं॥ ५५॥

55. Who is there who can describe thy might, O Goddess impetuous in thy ways? With one delicate hand thou settest whirling or arrestest in its motion the universe with all its stars and suns, O infinite in energy.

आजौ यदा नृत्यसे चण्डि पोरे श्रमालघुङ्गे द्वयं विश्वुल्म।
स्पर्शन कम्पन्त इवायुस्य महान्ति तारानियुतानि नाके॥ ५६॥

56. When, wielding the trident, thou dancest, O Chandi, on the gruesome battlefield noisy with jackals, the vast multitudes of stars seem to tremble in the firmament at the touch of thy weapon.

द्यान्धृतिता रूद्दितेन पुरस संसि प्रजापीड़कमस्तकेशु।
यो मृत्युरत्ता भुवनस्य राज्जे: स किंकरस्ते वयस्ति विश्वूल्म॥ ५७॥

57. Thy heart melting with pity for the weeping of men, thou smitest the heads of the oppressors of the people. Ravenous Death, the eater of the world, is thy servant who rides on the prongs of thy trident.

शाक्ति: परा कोटिपु मानवाना संमन्युना तं भविस स्वयना।
आयोपितानवितिया पास युगे युगे युध्यस्य आयंमात॥ ५८॥

58. Thou art the supreme Power awakening in millions of impassioned men. Incarnating thyself, thou preservest this noble people when it is fallen into distress. From age to age thou fightest, O Mother of the Arvans.

मुंद्रोपि परश्यामि गिरापुदीया देदीयमानां देदीयमानं ध्वनें वपुस्ते।
तं भ्राज्य स्योलिस्येष मौम्ये प्रकाशयति भुवनासी कान्त्या॥ ५९॥

59. Today again I behold thy dazzling white form on the
mountains of the north; effulgent thy-light arises, O gracious one, illumining the worlds with beauty.

60. Thou rangest here, noble goddess, with thy lovely limbs of radiance mounted on a cow drunk with the zest of battle, and all around thee the Titan hosts tumble like lofty peaks uprooted.

61. Bright of hue and with round black horns, she romps about like a swiftmoving mass of snow: it is the Aryan land of India, dear to the gods, who tramples her enemies in this shape of a cow.

62. F-he legions of those who had defeated the gods, the lustre of their laces turning pale with fear, flee suddenly like cataracts clown the mountainsides, clamorous and intent on speed.

63. I hear, O formidable goddess, the noble tones of thy fierce cry of victory echoed by the people of Punjab. Louder still, O fearsome warrior, is heard the uproar of the opposing forces as they are slaughtered.

64. Yonder Jumna, whose stream witnessed the sports of Krishna, has lost its sapphire hue, turning red with blood. Behold the soil of Bengal turned to a bloody mire, while the southern
quarter gleams blood-red.

65. Touched by thy trident, the regions of the sky seem to bleed, diffusing a reddish light everywhere. Due to the exceeding violence of thy warfare, O dreadful one, the clouds that bore water have become carriers of blood.

66. On the rocky sea-beaches I have seen the Goddess annihilating in battle her remaining adversaries. Merciless, wrathful and beneficent, she cuts down with her trident the enemies of Shiva, the beneficent Lord.

67. What is this, hideous and black, trampled by the hooves of the cow of the gods? It is a lump of flesh which I see on the ground: this is all that is left of those who were hostile to thee.

68. From that disfigured heap what broken heads seem to emerge! Feet and hands lie here and there. Cruel art thou, O Rudrani, in thy savage deeds!

69. Cruel art thou, O Rudrani; or rather is this mercy, as it were, towards the base and cruel tyrant priding himself on the affliction of the people, that he should receive in battle a noble death leading to heaven.
70. Though his life has departed, one hand of this enemy of Rudra still holds a fire-spitting weapon. Charred and mangled, it is as if the demon yet hurls at Bhavani his burnt life-force.

71. I see currents of flame spewing from the mouth of the deadly weapon; but for all his insolence, and though he lies before her, he cannot reach the form of Chandi wrapped in an aura of splendour.

72. A sword thrust between his horns paralyses that parting gesture. Thus I deem thee to have fulfilled thy mighty vow, O Goddess of immense energy.

73. Salutation to thee, O Goddess vast in thy power, to thee of terrible vows who carriest us through our difficult labour. Thou reignest as Bharati over the Bharatas; as the supreme Goddess thou rulest all this universe of animate and inanimate things.

74. Thou art the supreme -Goddess, thou the Mother of creatures; who else has power? Mastery, supremacy and blameless lustre are gifts from thee, O opulent one, thou who givest these smitest also when thou art angered.
75. Salutation, salutation, O noble goddess with thy large eyes of sweetness! This thy vehicle with its lovely hue of snow raises thy flag, as it were, in the black, glossy tip of its uplifted tail.

76. Salutation, salutation, O Goddess! Forcibly loosened by the exertion of battle, the array of thy unbraided tresses flying about, long and wavy, appears to float like a cloud in the sky.

77. When thy eyes flash with anger, O white-faced goddess, thou art like a streak of lightning fallen to earth; like lightning amid the thunderclouds thy dreadful laughter plays in the corners of thy eyes.

78. This white neck of thine is bent slightly to look at thy fallen and lifeless foemen. The white legs of Bhavani, from the feet to the beautiful knees, gleam like pillars of snow.

79. Fluttering in the breeze, thy bright and airy robe is a luminous cloud from whose midst thy radiant finsbs shine forth like moonlight.

80. This breast of thine is a foaming wave of milk swelling in the Milky Ocean. Difficult art thou to discern, O Mother, when
my gale falls back from tire splendour of thv body of beauty.

81. Thou art ancient, t) Goddess -before Shiva thou wart–yet thou wearest this form of a maiden. Salutation to thee, O beginningless Mother! Be graciously, O terrible One. to those who prostrate themselves before thee.

82. Pointing to a land dark with trees visible in the vast spaces between the mountains, thy hand is extended, O compassionate one, O Rudrani, granting freedom from fear to the peoples.

83. By that sign of thy flowerlike hand the darkness is expelled from the land of the Bharatas. -h he clouds of blood vanish from the skies. Unthinkable is thy strength; beautiful thou art and gracious.

84. Gracious is thy noble form white as snow, gracious the exalted countenance of Bhavani; I bow to the Mighty One robed in white, radiant with the bright beauty of youth, her eyes moist with compassion.

85. Where now is that terrible figure, garlanded with the bones of men and girdled with skulls, naked and fierce, dreadful with her gaping mouth, by whose cries I was suddenly roused?
86. In the river of blood which flows yonder laughs the shadow of the beautiful One, brandishing a sword, thundering, naked and hideous: I bow to Kali!

87. Thou indeed art Kali and utterly ruthless thou art; thou art Annapurna, the merciful and gracious. I bow to thee as the Violent One, O ender of the worlds; I bow to thee, O Radha, in thy ecstasy of love.

88. Who can support in himself thy plenitude of infinite Power in which all thy forms are manifest, O Goddess omnipotent? Thou art this blazing might and thou art the strength of the strong; thou art also the gentlest of the gentle.

89. Two-armed in thy gracious aspect I bow to thee, and again with trident uplifted bringing deliverance from fear; to thee I bow, O Mother, O radiant Savitri, O three-eyed one, thy white-limbed, white-robed loveliness mounted on a bull.

90. Ten-armed with all thy ten weapons thou protectest the Aryans, O Mother unattainable in the ten directions; as the womb of the world thou sitst with a thousand arms embracing thy children, unthinkable in thy energy.
Illumining with her rays the impenetrable depths of the forests, her form like a mountain of fire, terrible and sublime, I see the gracious Goddess standing, sword in hand, at the gates of the cities of the Aryan country.

The mighty Mother of creatures has vanquished the Age of Strife. Once again the movements of freedom are abroad; I observe them following the paths of the ancient scriptures.

Once again I hear in the forests the chanting of the Veda which is a fountain of immortalising nectar to the heart. An overflowing river of humanity streams to the hermitages of the sages perfected in self-knowledge.

Once again the eternal ways of the Dharma are guarded by one nobly born in the Solar Race. And once again resplendent LakShmi, a smile on her lips, reigns steadfast among the Bharatas.

In East and West I hear the cry and stir of the whole world hastening with praise on its tongue to this country, the ancient Mother of the Vedas.

Praising the gracious and awe-inspiring Mother as the...
source of the true Law, the fulfiller of mighty vows, they
rever as a place of pilgrimage this land dear to the Goddess
beginningless in her power.

As those who dwell in Shiva’s sacred city of Kashi are
liberated by the auspicious touch of the Lord, so all this
Aryan country where the Goddess has set her purifying feet
shall be the Kashi of the world.

O infinite in thy forms, thou art contentment, compassion,
patience and indomitable heroism, faith and endurance and
knowledge of every kind. Be gracious, noble goddess; dwell
long in the hearts of the Indian people!

Illumining these rivers and snowy mountains with a mosti
gentle lustre, be firmly established in the Aryan country. Abide
forever gracious in this land, O Mighty One, for the good of
the world!

English translation by Richard Hartz
(copyright by Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Puducherry)
Encoded by Sarada Susarla sarada_sai at yahoo.com
Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com