

## A Short Bio of Subramania Bharati

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## Subramania Bharati

Subramania Bharati (1882 – 1921) was an Indian Tamil poet, journalist, and independence activist whose works redefined Tamil literature and nationalist thought. Revered as *Mahakavi Bharati* ("Great Poet Bharati"), he championed freedom, equality, and women's rights through powerful, modern verse that continues to inspire generations.

### Key facts

- **Full name:** Chinnaswami Subramania Bharati
- **Born:** December 11, 1882 – Ettayapuram, Madras Presidency, India
- **Died:** September 11, 1921 – Madras (now Chennai), India
- **Major works:** *Panchali Sapatham*, *Kannan Pattu*, *Kuyil Pattu*
- **Known for:** Modern Tamil poetry and social reform

### Early life and education

Born to Chinnaswami Subramania Iyer and Lakshmi Ammal, Bharati displayed literary talent from childhood and was given the title "Bharati" at age 11 by the Raja of Ettayapuram for his poetic skill. He studied in Tirunelveli and Varanasi, where he absorbed Hindu philosophy and nationalist ideas that shaped his later writings.

### Role in nationalism

As a journalist for *Swadesamitran* and editor of his own publications *India* and *Bala Bharatham*, Bharati voiced India's freedom struggle with clarity and fervor. His support for Bal Gangadhar Tilak and armed resistance to British rule forced him into exile in French Pondicherry (1910–1919), where he produced his most influential patriotic poems and essays.

### Literary and social reform vision

Bharati transformed Tamil poetry through free verse and vernacular vigor, introducing themes of nationalism, gender equality, and universal brotherhood. He denounced caste discrimination and child marriage, performed a sacred thread ceremony for a Dalit to assert equality, and envisioned a society where men and women were equals. Poems such as *Pudhumai Penn* (Modern Woman) and *Viduthalai* (Freedom) embodied his reformist spirit.

### Legacy and influence

Despite dying young after an accident in Madras, Bharati's impact on Indian literature and social thought endures. Institutions like Bharathiar University and the Subramanyam Bharati Award honor his legacy. Statues stand at Marina Beach and the Indian Parliament, and his verses remain a cornerstone of Tamil education and

music. Leaders such as Narendra Modi continue to cite Bharati as a symbol of courage and cultural awakening.

## Bharat Our Motherland



### தேசீய கீதங்கள்

1. பாரத நாடு

1. வந்தே மாதரம்

தாயுமானவர் ஆனந்தக் கனிப்பு மெட்டு

ராகம்-நாதநாமக்கிரியை

தாளம்-

ஆதி

பல்லவி

வந்தே மாதரம் என்போம்-எங்கள்

மாநிலத் தாயை வணங்குதல் என்போம்.

(வந்தே)

சரணங்கள்

1 ஜாதி மதங்களைப் பாரோம்- உயர்

ஜன்மம்இத் தேசத்தில் எய்தின ராயின்

வேதிய ராயினும் ஒன்றே- அன்றி

வேறு குலத்தின ராயினும் ஒன்றே

(வந்தே)

2 ஈனப் பறையர்க ளேனும்-அவர்

எம்முடன் வாழ்ந்திங் கிருப்பவர் அன்றோ?

சினத்த ராய்விடு வாரோ?-பிற

தேசத்தர் போற்பல தீங்கிழைப் பாரோ?

(வந்தே)

3 ஆயிரம் உண்டிங்கு ஜாதி-எனில்

அன்னியர் வந்து புகல்என்ன நீதி?-ஓர்

தாயின் வயிற்றில் பிறந்தோர்-தம்முள்

சண்டைசெய்தாலும் சகோதரர் அன்றோ?

(வந்தே)

4 ஒன்றுபட்டால் உண்டு வாழ்வே-நம்மில்

ஒற்றுமை நீங்கில் அனைவர்க்கும் தாழ்வே

நன்றிது தேர்ந்திடல் வேண்டும்-இந்த

ஞானம் வந்தாற்பின் நமக்கெது வேண்டும்?

(வந்தே)

5 எப்பதம் வாய்த்திடு மேனும்-நம்மில்

யாவர்க்கும் அந்த நிலைபொது வாகும்

முப்பது கோடியும் வாழ்வோம்- வீழில்

முப்பது கோடி முழுமையும் வீழ்வோம்

(வந்தே)

**“Bharat Our Motherland”** is a patriotic poem by Indian nationalist poet **Subramania Bharati**, originally written in Tamil and later translated into English. The poem celebrates India—referred to as *Bharat Mata*—as a divine mother, embodying the nation’s unity, spiritual richness, and resilience during the struggle for independence.

### Key facts

- **Original language:** Tamil
- **English title:** *Bharat Our Motherland*
- **Author:** Subramania Bharati
- **Theme:** Patriotism, unity, reverence for India as mother
- **Era:** Early 20th century (Indian independence movement)

### Historical context

Written during the height of India’s nationalist awakening, the poem reflects Bharati’s vision of a free and awakened nation. He personifies India as a nurturing mother whose glory is eternal despite colonial subjugation. The work aligns with his broader corpus that merged spiritual fervor with calls for social reform and political liberation.

### Themes and imagery

The poem employs vivid imagery of nature, faith, and maternal love to symbolize India’s sacred geography and moral strength. Bharati’s language fuses devotion and defiance, urging unity across regions and castes. His portrayal of the land as a goddess invites emotional patriotism rooted in cultural identity and universal compassion.

### Literary significance

“Bharat Our Motherland” stands as a hallmark of Bharati’s lyrical nationalism. It contributed to Tamil and Indian literature by bridging classical poetic traditions with modern political ideals. Its translations have made it an enduring anthem of cultural pride, reflecting the synthesis of artistic expression and the quest for national freedom.

**End ...**