

Ageless Guru

Beyond the mundane, it's a special story,
Everything where unusual and extraordinary,
A common man with humble background,
Who reached the Pinnacle and led the world around.

BalaKrishna Menon was his name,
Childhood full with fun and games,
Declared Swami Chattambi, much more he'll achieve
And reach unparalleled heights, we cannot perceive.

As he grew, the struggle was on,
India to be freed, how to adorn?
For the motherland, even imprisoned,
Almost gave his life, a true son of the nation.

Thinking and writing were his natural endowments,
Leaving upon readers unforgettable impressions.
Alphabets and words danced at his command,
Worked for the Free Press and National Herald.

Like any intellectual, Menon wondered and thought,
The Sannyasins of the world are a lazy jobless lot,
To his utter surprise, the belief was wrong,
Swami Sivananda he met, who worked dusk and dawn.

The quest had now begun,
Finding answers to the mystic questions,
The day then arrived to execute Lord's big agenda
Balakrishna now, was to be called Swami Chinmayananda.

Deep was the search, intense was the chase,
He kept walking with a brisk pace.
Learnt Vedanta in the austere spiritual tradition
In the Himayalas from Guru Swami Tapovan.

The vision was grand to teach the people,
"Freedom was here and now, it's possible"!
Mother Ganges, in his moment of inspiration,
Suggested, "Rush down to plains and lift the generation!"

"Let us be Hindus" the first ever talk,
The listeners were few, only seven could walk,
The number soon grew and reached many thousands;
Our Gurudev was the one who revived Hinduism.

Chinmaya Mission was born with a great cause,
Spreading happiness to all, not a single pause;
Forty years of service without any break,
Twenty one hours of work each and every day.

"Jnana Yajna", He termed his lectures,
Elevated and purified all, him or her,
Varied were the subjects and His Knowledge was vast,
Made Bhagawad Geeta our daily life part.

Replied each letter, responded every gesture,
Set Balavihars, study groups and the Yuva Kendra,
Sandeepany Sadhanalaya the greatest of action,
Where next gen teachers learnt to carry the baton.

He taught us to chant the Lord's name,
In Meditation, the highest state you attain,
Ever engrossing was His sense of humour and
Promptly he said, "Be one, between the two Subramaniam".

Greatest of thinkers with devotion supreme,
Love for the Lord beyond all extremes,
Krishna's idol alone he took,
"I am His Radha", conveyed His look.

Man of unshakable courage and conviction,
Firm, clear, and a stern disciplinarian,
Never in his life ever was He late,
As He arrived you could reset, your time and date.

Travelled through the country, United the world,
With his message; "Love without barriers, we all are one",
A missing link to connect to our tradition,
In letter and spirit he brought Secularism.

Huge was His work, enormous was the task,
Schools, colleges, and hospitals all across,
Countless are his books, knowledge shall continuously flow,
And advice to the youth, "hasten, but be slow"!

Till His last breath, Gurudev was in action,
Spreading love out of infinite compassion,
The day was set, the time was known,
Already He announced this body will be gone.

The day had to come, and it came finally,
Much before that, He made us a family,
Everything of us, HE is the source,
Let's come together and be HIS force.

Masters never die, nor do they leave,
He's holding our hand, never drop this belief,
Ageless is our Gurudev with unmatched adulations,
Salutations! Salutations! Salutations!

Ashok Kataria