

TOUCHING THE GRAND FATHER APPLE TREE

Ananta Kumar Giri



Come let us touch
the grandfather Apple tree
It is dead from outside
But its inner is evergreen
Producing the most delicious apple
An invitation for co-creation
Lust and Regeneration of Life

[For Barry, Professor Barry Rodrigue, Penny, his respected wife, and Dimitri as a Thanksgiving Gift, Bath, Maine, Nov. 29, 2015, 630 AM]

Image 1: Ananta Kumar Giri with the 'grandfather apple tree'. One of the two known surviving trees that bear the Sasnoa Russet apple, this tree is over 200 years old and grows outside the kitchen door of an abandoned farm at the Basin, Phippsburg, Maine (USA). Ananta Giri visited the tree from Chennai, India, on 26 November 2015 and composed this poem. Photograph by Barry Rodrigue.¹

1 Barry Rodrigue, an archaeologist, discovered this tree with his son, Dimitri, and their two canines, Yukon and Sakura, while surveying abandoned dwellings around the Basin in Phippsburg, Maine in 2014. John Bunker, Maine's expert on heritage apples, identified it as a russet, and noted that a similar fruit had come from Boothbay Harbor. They named it the Sasnoa Russet, as the Sasnoa is a channel between the two watersheds. John took cuttings to grow at the Maine Heritage Orchard, which he coordinates for The Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association in Unity. He also manages the Out on a Limb Heritage Apple CSA <<http://www.outonalimbapples.com/>> and Super Chilly Farm with Cammy Watts in Palermo <http://uniquemainefarms.com/uniquemainefarms.com/Super_Chilly_Farm.html>.

ALPHABETS OF CREATION

Ananta Kumar Giri

A for Aleph, Aum, Allah
B for Beginning
C for Creation
A is also Annihilation
B, Banning and Bigotry
C, Cunning and Cruelty
How do we work with Aleph and Annihilation
Together
In the alphabet of creation
Towards a New Tapasya of Transformations

Ananta Kumar Giri strives to walk and swim in the roads and rivers of the world as a student of life. Growing up in difficult circumstances, he was touched by the wonders and wanderings of life at an early age. He has been blessed to meet many enlightening teachers in India and around the world who have affirmed his love of learning. He studied at Ravenshaw College in Cuttack (Orissa) and the Delhi School of Economics. He also worked with the noted socio-religious movement, Habitat for Humanity, as part of his doctoral work in anthropology at Johns Hopkins University, from which he graduated. He has been with the Madras Institute of Development Studies in Chennai, India since 1995. Ananta nurtures rooted planetary conversations across many cultural, religious and epistemological boundaries. Having written and edited more than two-dozen books in the Odia and English languages, his quest for planetary conversation is manifest in his trilogy – *Conversations and Transformations: Towards a New Ethics of Self and Society* (2002), *Sociology and Beyond: Windows and Horizons* (2012), and *Knowledge and Human Liberation: Towards Planetary Realizations* (2013). His e-mail address is <aumkrishna@gmail.com>.