I am afraid that some of the following pages may be repellant to some of my readers. I have considered it to be my duty to set out the details of many of the horrors of the old régime. I have done so in order that the motives and reasons for them may be better understood. In olden times, and in times not so long past, the Ashanti people may seem to the superficial observer, to have been merely bloodthirsty men and women unworthy of any sympathy whatever, and yet more than one hundred years ago, when these orgies of blood were at their height, one who knew them well placed the following statement on record:

'It is a singular thing that these people—the Ashantees—who had never seen a white man nor the sea, were the most civil and well bred I have ever seen in Africa. It is astonishing to see men with such few opportunities so well behaved.'

If such praise could be bestowed on a people who were at times guilty of the deeds that have been recorded by many travellers, I thought I would try to find out how these apparently opposing characteristics could be reconciled. . . .
THE ETHICS OF SUICIDE

HISTORICAL SOURCES

MARGARET PABST BATTIN

Editor
Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION: THE ETHICS OF SUICIDE

II. SELECTIONS

   Egyptian Didactic Tale (c. 1937-1759 B.C.)
   Dialogue of a Man With His Soul

   The Vedas, and Upanishads, and Purana (c. 1500-c.300 B.C.)
Charles Gildon (1665 – 1724)
from Colin Heydt, University of South Florida, September 26, 2015

There may be a few texts cited here that are of interest, but the "Life of C. Blount" is Gildon's text. Gildon, by the way, later renounced his defense of suicide and his alliance with Blount and became a re-committed Anglican.

Full work available online through HathiTrust The Miscellaneous Works of Charles Blount, Esq. (London, 1695)

Other Sources

