



Seeking Bauls of Bengal

By Jeanne Openshaw

Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, India. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Bauls have achieved fame as wandering minstrels and mystics in India and Bangladesh. They are recruited from both Hindu and Muslim communities and are renowned for their beautiful and often enigmatic songs. Despite their iconic status as representatives of the spiritual East, and although they have been the subject of a number of studies, systematic research with Bauls themselves has been neglected. Jeanne Openshaw's book is new, not only in analysing the rise of the Bauls to their present revered status, but in the depth of its ethnographic research and its reference to the lives of composers and singers as a context for their songs. The author uses her fieldwork, and oral and manuscript materials, to lead the reader from the conventional historical and textual approaches towards a world defined by people called Baul, where the human body and love are primary and where women may be extolled above men. Contents Part I. Background: Literature on Bauls and Baul-songs 1. What's in a name? The advent of the Baul 2. The making of the Bauls: histories, themes, Baul-songs Part II. In Search of Bauls 3. Fieldwork in Rarh...



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