



THE QUEST

Script of
Goutam Ghose's Film *Moner Manush*
Based on a novel by Sunil Gangopadhyay

Translated
from Bengali by Shankar Sen

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The film-script of *The Quest (Moner Manush)* is much more than a biography of Lalon Fakir. It reveals the stages of a simple young man's emergence as Lalon Fakir, the prevailing social scenario, a disciple's faith in his Guru and a man's endless journey in quest of the single entity that his heart craved for. Lalon's songs were devotional lyrics - poetic and passionate, carrying deep philosophical annotations - in tune with the music of the Baul community of rural Bengal.

The baul community renounced all recognised institutional religions and revolted against long-established rites, customs and faiths. Breaking down the barriers of the narrow confines of communal faith they had found a large expanse under the sky, which had served as bountiful meeting place for many religions. In Lalon's words, they were like 'a rudderless raft in a shore-less river'; a 'hidden current' where 'those who wanted to get lost can get lost.'



CINEMA

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About the Director:

Goutam Ghose launched into documentaries, group theatre and photo journalism in 1973. His documentary, *Hungry Autumn* won him the main award at the Oberhausen Film Festival. Since then Ghose has produced several documentaries on personalities like Ustad Bismillah Khan, Satyajit Ray and HH Dalai Lama, in addition to ten feature films and a number of advertisement, corporate and short films. He has won fifteen National Awards, besides Filmfare Awards and a number of international awards like Silver Balloon, Nantes Film Festival, UNESCO Award at Venice, Golden Semurg at Tashkent, Fipresci Award and Red Cross Award at Verna Film Festival. He is the only Indian to win the coveted Vittori Di Sica Award and was awarded the Knighthood of the Star of Italian Solidarity in 2008.

About the Translator:

Shankar Sen, writes prose and poetry in both English and Bengali and has had nine books published. In addition to his own collections of poems in English and Bengali and short stories in English, he has translated in English the best poems of Shamsur Rahman, poems of Utpal Dutt, selected short stories and fiction of Buddhadev Guha (Madhukari, Niyogi Books), five adventures of Saradindu Bandyopadhyaya's *Byomkesh*, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya's *Datta* and Tarapada Santra's writings on the *Folk arts of West Bengal*.