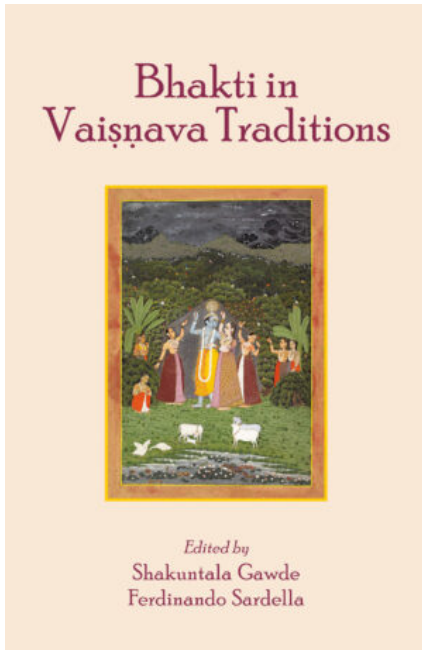


## Bhakti in Vaisnava Traditions



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### About the Book

The book “Bhakti in Vai??ava Traditions” explores various dimensions of bhakti in Vai??avism. Vai??avism, a cornerstone of India’s spiritual traditions, is deeply entrenched in the fertile grounds of bhakti, representing intense devotion and love towards the divine. This exploration delves into the intricate realm of Vai??avism, spotlighting its historical trajectory and philosophical bedrock, all harmonized by the resonant theme of bhakti. The book is organized into three parts: Bh?gavata Pur??a and Bhagavad G?t?, Bhakti in Vedanta, and Regional Traditions. The first part elucidates the essence of bhakti as reflected in Bh?gavata Pur??a and Bhagavad G?t?, which are known as pivotal texts of bhakti. These sacred scriptures bring to light the profound bond between individual consciousness, and the indwelling Lord. Bhakti, in its radiant form, serves as the beacon guiding this relationship. Enriched by tales of K???a and the teachings of dharma, these texts unravel the transformative essence of steadfast devotion. It delves into themes such as the nature of divine l?l?s, devotional Aesthetics and commentator’s role in interpretation of bhakti texts. The second part understands the concept of Vai??ava-bhakti as seen in ???kara Vedanta and it’s further development in Ved?ntic texts of R?m?nuja, Sv?min?r?ya?a, Nimb?rka and Madhus?dana Sarasvati. This section offers a nuanced understanding of how bhakti is conceptualized within diverse Ved?ntic traditions, adding complexity to the exploration and showcasing varied perspectives within the broader Vai??ava framework. The final section deals with regional variations, highlighting diverse cultural expressions of Bhakti within Vai??avism. It captures the dazzling variety of regional Vai??ava traditions including V?rkar? traditions, Caitanya Vai??avism and Braj Vai??avism. Each regional hue paints the canvas of Vai??ava bhakti traditions, enriching its spectrum.

### About the Author

Shakuntala Gawde is the Head and Assistant Professor in the Department of Sanskrit at the University of Mumbai. Her areas of interest include Vedanta, Religious studies, Pur??a studies, and Aesthetics. She completed her Ph.D. on ‘Eschatology in Vedic Literature compared with Western Philosophy from the University of Mumbai. She was invited as a ‘Visiting Fellow’ by Kelaniya University, Sri Lanka in 2017. She was awarded a Doctoral fellowship by the Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture, St.

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Ferdinando Sardella (Ph.D. 2010, University of Gothenburg, Sweden) is Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies at Stockholm University. He is the co-director of the project Bengal Vaishnavism in the Modern Period at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, where he is a permanent research fellow. His field is South Asian studies, Bengal studies, yoga, new religious movements and the history and sociology of religion. His area of specialization is modern Hinduism. He is the author of the monograph Modern Hindu Personalism: The History, Life and Thought of Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati (2013). He has coedited The Sociology of Religion in India: Past, Present and Future (with Ruby Sain 2013), The Legacy of Vaisnavism in Colonial Bengal (with Lucian Wong 2020) and Handbook of Hinduism in Europe (with Knut A. Jacobsen 2020). He has published several articles in international journals about modern Vaishnavism.

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