## Contents

| Acknowledgments | ix |
| Note on Translations | xi |

### 1 Introduction
- O Crazy Mind 1
- Divine Madness 7
- Madness and the Indian Medical Model 11
- Spontaneous and Ritual Ecstasy 17
- The Language of Ecstasy 20
- Notes on Method 25

### 2 The Overflowing of Bhagavân:
- The Vaiśnava Tradition 29
- Your Disease Is a God: The Bhāgavata Purāṇa 29
- Model for Madmen: Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya 33
- Kṛṣṇa and the Passions of the Soul: The Bhaktirasāmṛtasindhu and the Ujjvala-Nilamani 40
- Ritual Ecstasy: The Siddha Deha as Observer/Participant 45
- Biographies of Vaiśnava Saints 53
  - The Joy of Raw Eggplant: Siddha Gaur Kiśora Dās Bābāji Mahārāj and Gauḍīya Vaiśnāvism 53
  - Dismemberment by Caitanya: Pāgal Haranāth and Shamanic Vaiśnāvism 57
  - The Storms of Bhāva: Vijayakṛṣṇa Gosvāmin and Yogic Vaiśnāvism 62
  - Against Universal Destruction: Prabhu Jagadbandhu and Harināma 69
CONTENTS

The Freeing of the Waters: Madness and Ecstasy in Bengali Vaiśnava 75

3 Nursing the Baby-Husband: The Śākta Tradition 86
   The Strands of Śāktism 86
   Model for Madmen: Rāmakṛṣṇa Paramahāmsa 92
   The Path of the Kulācāra: The Mahānirvāṇa Tantra and Kulārṇava Tantra 103
   Ritual Ecstasy: The Descent of Brahman Wisdom 112
   Biographies of Śākta Saints 127
      Divyomāda for Tārā: Vāmākṣepā 127
      Skin Like Vermilion Mangoes: Nityagopāl 133
      The Burning Ground of the Heart: Rāmprasad Sen 137
   Out of the Cradle, Endlessly Rocking: Madness and Ecstasy among Bengali Śāktas 145

4 Sexual Śādhanā and the Love of the Bodily God: Āuls, Bāuls, and Sahajiyās 157
   The Madness of the Unknown Man 157
   Muslim Bāuls: Catching God Fever in the Marketplace 162
   Sahajiyā Bāuls: Boiling the Milk of Bliss 166
   Bāul Practice: Fishing in the Waters of Ritual 180
   The Country Was Once Full of Pāgals: Madness and Ecstasy among the Bāuls 185

5 Saints, Seekers, and Bhor Ladies:
   Bengali Holy Women 191
      The Door of Faith 191
      Ānandamoyi Mā: Bhāvātīta 193
      Śāradā Devī: Attribution of Bhāva 202
      Arcanāpurī Mā: Ekātmika Bhāva 209
      Lakṣmī Mā: Pāgal Bhāva 215
      Yogeśvarī Devī: Snakes, Lingas, and Miracles 220
      Siddhimātā and the Ripened Identity 228
      Madness and Ecstasy among Holy Women: Bhor and Bhāva 229

6 Conclusion 241
   The Ecstatic as Guru 241
   The Ecstatic as Siddha 251
   Ecstatic and Ritual Profiles 259
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ecstatic as Hero</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ecstatic Process</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ecstatic as Lover</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ecstatic as Madman</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>