



many others sang the praises of their godheads setting them to mellifluous music.

Swami Sivananada said, “Bhakti softens the heart and remove jealousy, hatred, lust, anger, egoism, pride and arrogance. It infuses joy, divine ecstasy, bliss, peace and knowledge. All cares, worries and anxieties, fears, mental torments and tribulations entirely vanished. He attains the immortal abode of everlasting peace, bliss and knowledge.

Who is true Bhakta ?

He, who sees his ownself permitting all beings as *brahma* and see all beings in god, who is his ownself, is the foremost among the devotees. He who, while enjoying all sense – objects through the senses, is swayed neither by repulsion

against disagreeable objects nor by attraction for agreeable objects, knowing that the world is nothing but an illusion created by Lord of universe is the true devotee. He who while engaged in remembrance of God does not identify himself with birth and death, toil and exertion, hunger and thirst, fear and hope, which are the characteristicw of the body, the senses, the vital airs, the mind and the intellect respectively, is the foremost among the devotees. He whose mind is altogether free from desire and the impulses for different kinds of actions and whose sole refuge is God, is the true Bhakta.

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The Omnipresent

Shyam Prakash Senapati

O Lord !
You manifest
in the lilting tunes of
flutes playing out
to the rhythm of waves
dancing against the beach.

You manifest
among the virtues and sins,
in the lush-green meadows,
or in the boundless intensity
of the deep forests,
or in the sonorous music
of the morning sea.



You manifest in
hate and envy
joy or bliss
in the inconsolable cry
of a hapless child,
or in the glittering warmth
of a mother's lap.

Shyam Prakash Senapati, 'Senapati Bhawan', Grand Road, Puri-1.