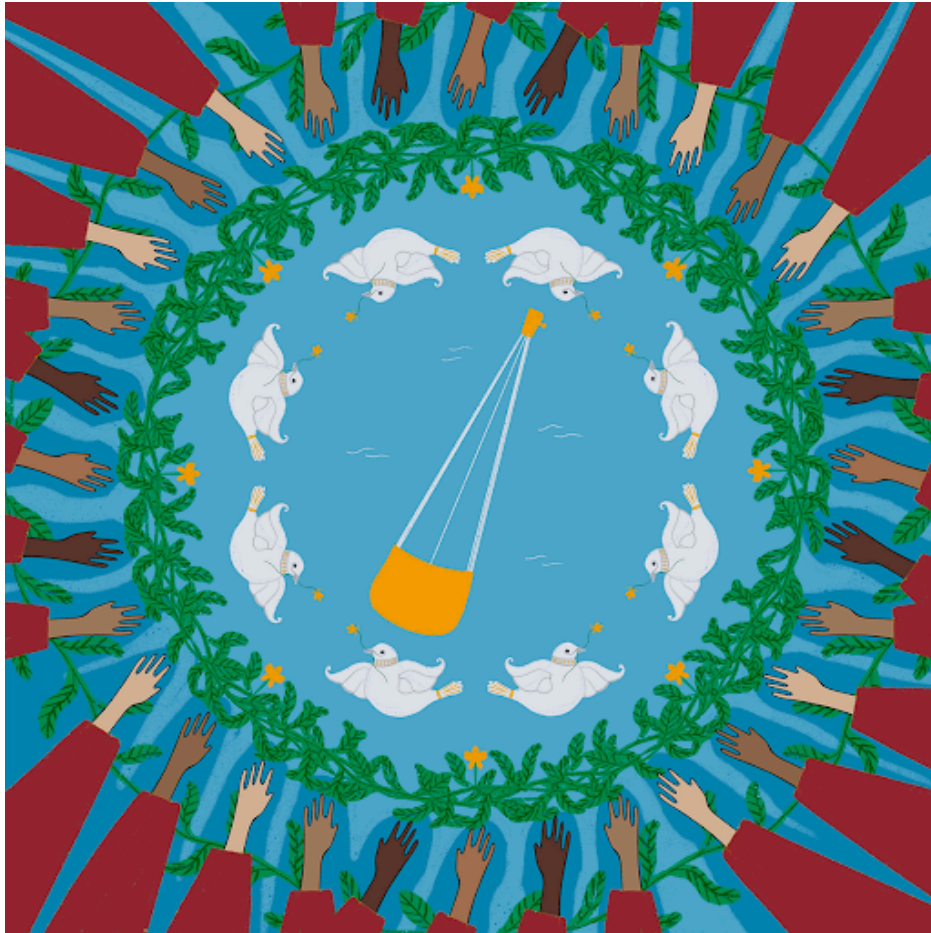




Little Kangalini wandered far and near. From town to town she went, playing her *ektara* and singing songs of freedom and kindness. People stopped and listened. Her songs made them feel happy. They cheered and laughed and gave her coins.



Everywhere she went, Baul Kangalini told people that all creatures, big and small, are equal.

All are made of joyful light with hearts made for loving.

She danced and people danced with her.



Baul Kangalini carried very little, just her one-string instrument, her shiny cymbals, a box of matches, and a *gamcha* for her shower. But her heart was always very full.



Kangalini had eyes big like oceans and a voice like a strong river. She was always joyful. When people asked her what her secret was she said, "I live to love, and sing to live, because I listen to my heart. And so can you. It's free."



Note

Bauls are wandering musicians of Bengal who believe that all people are created equal and that our spirits are made of love and joy. They compose and perform songs everywhere they go. You can spot them on city streets, trains, river banks, and even in the middle of nowhere. But wherever it may be, their songs will mesmerize you. Lalon Shah, one of the greatest Bauls, lived in Kushtia, Bangladesh,

hundreds of years ago and taught people that we are all equal and need to listen to our hearts.



Wonderful Words

Ektara - one string instrument

Gamcha - traditional checkered cloth

Brought to you by



The Asia Foundation

Let's Read is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia and the Pacific.

booksforasia.org

To read more books like this and get further information about this book, visit letsreadasia.org

Original Story

বাউল গান (*Bauls: Heart's Song*), Author: HerStory Foundation.

Illustrator: Jeetu Ahmed. Published by The Asia Foundation - Let's Read, © The Asia Foundation - Let's Read. Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.

This work is a modified version of the original story. © The Asia Foundation, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.



For full terms of use and attribution,
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>