

# Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
1. The Bengali Calendar and the Hindu Religious Year in Bengal	13
2. Vaiṣṇavism and Islām in Rural Bengal	28
3. Understanding a Hindu Temple in Bengal	47
4. The Village Mother in Bengal	62
5. Caṇḍī	78
6. The Fever Demon and the Census Commissioner: Śītalā Mythology in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Bengal	105
7. The Goddess Śītalā and Epidemic Smallpox in Bengal	166
8. Śītalā and the Art of Printing: The Transmission and the Propagation of the Myth of the Goddess of Smallpox in Rural West Bengal	192
<i>End Notes</i>	212
<i>References</i>	231
<i>Index</i>	240