



# Narasinha Mehta of Gujarat: A Legacy of Bhakti in Songs and Stories

*Neelima Shukla-Bhatt*

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## **Narasinha Mehta of Gujarat: A Legacy of Bhakti in Songs and Stories** Neelima Shukla-Bhatt

Exploring medieval manuscripts, Gandhi's writings, and performances in multiple religious and non-religious contexts, *Narasinha Mehta of Gujarat* demonstrates how over five centuries, performers and audiences of devotional songs and hagiographic narratives associated with the saint-poet Narasinha Mehta have sculpted them into popular sources of moral inspiration. Taking Gandhi's use of these works in his social reconstruction programs as an example, the book suggests that when religious forms such as songs and hagiographies of saint-poets of South Asia acquire dimensions of popular culture, they offer a platform for communication among diverse groups.

An illuminating study that provides a vivid picture of the Narasinha tradition, *Narasinha Mehta of Gujarat* will be a crucial resource for anyone seeking to understand the power of religious performative traditions in popular media.

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