Jibanananda Das

Ami klanto pran ek, charidike
jiboner shomudro sofen
Amare dudondo shanty
diyechhilo Natorer Banalata
Sen.
(I am a weary heart surrounded by life's frothy ocean.
To me she gave a moment's peace-Banalata Sen from Natore.)

— Banalata Sen
Translated by- Clinton B Seely

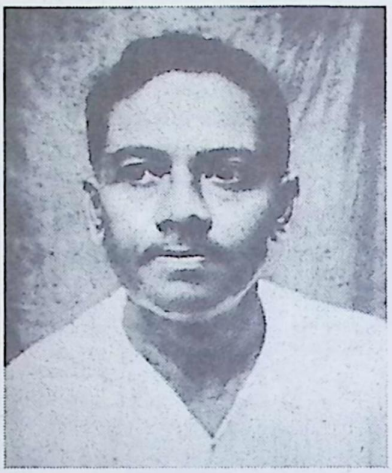
Banalata Sen is one of the most read poems in the twentieth century.

"My work has been described as difficult, solitary, withdrawn. I have been labelled variously: a nature poet, a poet socially and historically conscious, even a poet unconscious! I am a symbolist, a surrealist, a whatnot. These are all partially correct, I suppose. But they do not explain the total fabric."

Inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's romantic poetry, he introduced modernist poetry to Bengali literature in the twentieth century.

Jibanananda Das loved to work secretly, which explains why many of his works remained unpublished during his lifetime. After his death the world got to know that beside poetry Das had written a number of novels and stories.

Jibanananda Das got hit by a tram and died eight days later. His death created confusion and controversy in people's mind as some claimed that he deliberately stood before the tram as an attempt to commit suicide.



Born: February 17, 1899, Barisal
Died: October 22, 1954, Kolkata
Wife: Labanyaprabha Das
Children: Manjushree Das, Samarananda Das
Genre: Poetry, Novel, Short stories



Poetry
Jhôra Palok (*Fallen Feathers*), *Dhushor Pandulipi* (*Grey Manuscript*), Banalata Sen, *Môhaprithibi* (*Great Universe*), *Shaat-ti Tarar Timir*, (*Darkness of Seven Stars*), Rupasi Bangla (*Bengal, the Beautiful*) etc.

Novels
Malyabaan (novel), New Script, Calcutta, 1973 (posthumuously published), *Jiban-Pronali*, *Purnima*, *Kalyani*, *Chaarjon Nirupam Yatra and many more*

Short stories
Akankha-Kamonar Bilas, *Sango*, *Nisongo*, *Raktomangsohin Kotha sudhu Kotha*, *Kotha*, *Kotha*, *Purnima Taajer Chobi*, *Sari*, *Hater Tas*, *etc.*

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Jibanananda Das has repeatedly presented some of the female characters in his writing- Shyamoli, Suranjana, Suchetana, Sarojini, Shefalika Bose, Shujata, Amita Sen and Banalata Sen.

" There were so many myths regarding my elder brother. He escaped from the life. He could not tolerate human company. He was solitary. Away from the all hustle-bustle...may be most of them have already proved wrong."—Sucahrita Das on her elder brother, Jibanananda Das

"Poetry and life are two different outpouring of the same thing, life as we usually conceive it contains what we normally accept as reality, but the spectacle of this incoherent and disorderly life can satisfy neither the poet''s talent nor the reader''s imagination ... poetry does not contain a complete reconstruction of what we call reality; we have entered a new world." – Jibanananda Das

Jibanananda Das devoted his first anthology of poems to Shovona., his uncle's daughter that he fell in love with. However, he did not attempt to marry her, as marriage among cousins was a social taboo. Jibanananda denoted her name with Y in his literary notes.