

Why Are They Portrayed As Erotic And Maternal Simultaneously? Why Do They Have Multiple Arms? Why Do Some Of Them Have Their Own Vehicle (Vahana) And Some Do Not? Why Are Such Images Portrayed On The Popular Calendar- Posters? The Book Answers Such Questions And Helps The Reader Understand Their Meanings. The Goddesses Discussed Range From The Devoted Sita To The Sinister Kali; From The Warrior Durga To The Auspicious Shri Lakshmi; From The Erotic Radha To The Serene Sarasvati And Many Others. Dr. Wangu Firmly Feels That If Experienced Hindu Goddesses Have A Potential For Stimulating The Onlooker'S Innermost Self. Experiencing Goddess Imagery Uplifts This Worldly Life And Ponders The Nature Of The Other -Worldly Existence. Furthermore, The Book Argues That The Goddesses Are Stimulating And Empowering Models Not Only For Indian Women But For All. Images Of Indian Goddesses Helps A Common Person Understand And Appreciate The Bewildering Number Of Female Images Expressed In India'S Sacred Art. The Book Is Not Only Absorbing And Inspiring, It Also Offers A Visual Treasury Of Goddess Art Images. Its Text Is Food For The Mind And The Illustrations Are A Feast For The Eyes.

“This book will serve to inspire millions . . . and balance masculine and feminine for a more healthy and rewarding existence on earth!”—Shelley Ackerman, astrologer and founder of Karmic Relief Every woman could use some Goddess wisdom in her life. From scoring your dream job to going after that hard-earned raise to finding the right guy and keeping the romance alive, the Divine Feminine is there to help you achieve the love, success, and happiness that you deserve. Get ready to feel empowered: you are about to meet thirty-six of the most revered spiritual heroines from faiths and traditions around the world. Use this book of goddesses to call upon each one for support, guidance, and inspiration in all areas of your life. Evoke their unique energies and strengths through rituals, meditations, gatherings, prayers, blessings, and many more fun and creative activities. • Celebrate your true beauty with Hathor • Unleash your dark and wild side with Lilith • Free yourself from unhealthy relationships with Persephone • Take aim at your career goals with Artemis • Own and explore your sensuality with Oshun The Goddess Pages, a unique and empowering book of goddesses, helps you connect with the strength and beauty of the Goddess—and experience the divine within you.

Throughout time, people have turned to goddesses as symbols of what they seek — from abundance to healing, from protection to passion. Building on the resurgence of interest in the Divine Feminine, Julie Loar presents the qualities and origins of an international array of these deities, along with powerful suggestions for putting their attributes to practical use. In a daily-reflection format, she gracefully aligns the goddesses with the cycles of nature and the signs of the zodiac. If you are struggling to attain a goal, call on the Nepalese goddess Chomolungma, as the sherpas climbing Mount Everest have done for generations. Or, for good luck, invoke the Roman goddess Fortuna, the inspiration behind gambling's wheel of fortune. With 366 goddesses to choose from, you will find a deity to call upon for every aspiration

and need.

This book presents a holistic picture of Radha Tattvam duly substantiated by Vedas, Puranas, Tantras and Classical Literature. Radha is unique, divine, authentic, mystic, subtle, esoteric as well as mysterious. In spite of worshipping Radha for a long time, still it is very difficult for many to understand her in the proper perspective. She is undoubtedly the secret of all secrets. As there are a lot of misconceptions with reference to Radha even among the learned, this book is oriented towards dispelling all such doubts and wrong beliefs in this regard and establishing the true and unbiased position of Radha as embedded in the Vedic scriptures. This book reveals the exalted position that the scriptures affirm to Radha who as the most beloved consort of Krsna enables the devotees to reach the highest pinnacle of Krsna Prema. It presents deeper, broader as well as newer insights into Radha tattvam in a holistic manner answering several key questions about the authenticity, antiquity, role, relevance and importance of Radha.

The heart of this book is a dramatic love poem, the Rasa Lila, which is the ultimate focal point of one of the most treasured Sanskrit texts of India, the Bhagavata Purana. Judged a literary masterpiece by Indian and Western scholars alike, this work of poetic genius and soaring religious vision is one of the world's greatest sacred love stories and, as Graham Schweig clearly demonstrates, should be regarded as India's Song of Songs. The story presents the supreme deity as the youthful and amorous cowherd, Krishna, who joins his beloved maidens in an enchanting and celebratory "dance of divine love." Schweig introduces this work of exquisite poetry and profound theology to the Western world in the form of a luminous translation and erudite scholarly treatment. His book explores the historical context and literary genre of the work and elucidates the aesthetic and emotional richness of the composition, highlighting poignant details of this drama of divine love. Schweig illuminates the religious dimensions and ethical nuances of the drama, drawing widely from the commentaries and esoteric vision of masters of the Caitanya school of Vaishnavism, a prominent devotional Hindu tradition. Themes such as transcendence of death through love, the yoga of devotion, the contrast between worldly love and passionate love for God, and the dialectical tension between ethical boundaries and boundless love are presented. The final event of the Rasa dance, the author concludes, presents a dynamic symbol of supreme love that provides the basis for a theological vision of genuine religious pluralism.

The "romantic heroine in the Indian tradition is celebrated in prose, poetry, painting, dance and music. This volume examines these various aspects of her romantic emotion, its depiction in the paintings of the Rajput courts and other schools of art, and above all, investigates the central position she occupies in the Vaishnava tradition. Each scholar contributes an essay with appropriate images from institutional and private collections.

Art In India Is Never Removed From Life, Intimately Tied As It Is To Religion, Aesthetics And Utility. A Walk Into A Temple Or A Place Of Worship Becomes An Experience At Many Levels, Tactile, Olfactory, Sensory And Visual, Spiritual And Religious. Taking Garland of Visions explores the generative relationships between artistic intelligence and tantric vision practices in the construction

and circulation of visual knowledge in medieval South Asia. Shifting away from the traditional connoisseur approach, Jinah Kim instead focuses on the materiality of painting: its mediums, its visions, and especially its colors. She argues that the adoption of a special type of manuscript called pothi enabled the material translation of a private and internal experience of "seeing" into a portable device. These mobile and intimate objects then became important conveyors of many forms of knowledge—ritual, artistic, social, scientific, and religious—and spurred the spread of visual knowledge of Indic Buddhism to distant lands. By taking color as the material link between a vision and its artistic output, *Garland of Visions* presents a fresh approach to the history of Indian painting.

This is a definitive and easy to understand guide to the essential as well as devotional heart of the Vedic/Hindu philosophy. Using numerous references, it gives you access to the most important knowledge presented in the Vedic texts regarding your real potential and spiritual identity. Thus, it is especially good for anyone who lacks the time to research the many topics that are contained within the library of Vedic manuscripts and to see their insights and wisdom. Some of the topics you will find include: A complete review of all the Vedic texts and the wide range of topics they contain, and their philosophical conclusion. The uniqueness and freedom in the Vedic system of self-discovery. A description of the main yoga processes and their effectiveness, and the real purpose of yoga. A review of the main Vedic Divinities, such as Krishna, Radharani, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Shiva, Durga, Ganesh and others. All the essential teachings of Lord Krishna. The most effective spiritual process for this modern age and what it can do for you, with practical instructions for deep realizations, and much more. This book provides you with a complete process for advancing on the spiritual path, making way for individual empowerment, freedom, and spiritual illumination.

Describes the daily life, religion, art, and rituals of ancient India.

RadhaFrom Gopi to Goddess

The Mahabharata preserves powerful journeys of women recognized as the feminine divine and the feminine heroic in the larger culture of India. Each journey upholds the unique aspects of women's life. This book analytically examines the narratives of eleven women from the Mahabharata in the historical context as well as in association with religious and cultural practices. Lavanya Vemsani brings together history, myth, religion, and practice to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the history of Hindu women, as well as their significance within religious Indian culture. Additionally, Vemsani provides important perspective for understanding the enduring legacy of these women in popular culture and modern society. Lavanya Vemsani is Professor of History at Shawnee State University, USA. Her publications include *Modern Hinduism in Text and Context*, *Krishna in History, Thought, and Culture*, and *Hindu and Jain Mythology of Balarama*. Vemsani is President of the Ohio Academy of History. She is the Editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Indic Religions* and Associate Editor of *Air Force Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, and *Canadian Journal of History*. She is the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award, Research Award, and SACA/CASA Best Thesis Award.

Blurring the lines between the human and the divine, between the sensual and the sacred, the story of Radha and Krishna has captured the

imagination of a land from times immemorial. Radha in the folklore is a married woman deeply in love with the 'village boy' Krishna who has stolen the hearts of many. Hence the character of Radha embodies an intense deep longing for the seemingly impossible. The agony and the ecstasy of separation and union with the beloved encapsulates a profound aesthetic idea for exploring the different shades of love both at the human and spiritual level. The journey of our protagonist Maya, echoes the quest of Radha. The overarching rainbow of emotions in both these stories is that of a pure and empowering love that transcends all social norms and restrictions. Although venerated as an iconic divine pair and frozen as idols in temples, does Radha ever get to live with Krishna? This is a story of impossible Love. Maya summons enough courage to overcome all odds, which includes fighting her own inner demons. But can such a story have any conclusive end? It would be like reaching the end of a circle

This book is about the Pichwai paintings, which have been in practice for the last three hundred years in Vallabhacharya Sect temples of Lord Krishna. These paintings portray Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna as a child is shown in different moods, attires, and postures. Painting Pichwai is an ancient form of art passed on from generation to generation, and it has a devotional theme toward Lord Krishna.

About the Book Of all the mythic characters in the Hindu pantheon none is more enigmatic and evocative than Radha. Appearing for the first time in Jayadeva's Gita Govinda, where she is the ultimate beloved, she traverses political dynasties, royal ateliers and social barriers to emerge as a consort of Krishna. Brought alive by poets, developing a colourful presence in the hands of painters, dancing through prosceniums and acquiring a lyrical life through songs, both classical and popular, Radha is present in homes and havelis, celebrated by the the samajika and the rasika, has a presence in temples and roadside shrines as a symbol of pure and eternal love. And yet there are so many questions about her life; poets differ in their portrayals of her, historians argue, dancers claim her through their interpretations and for the common person she is now a shringara rasa nayika and now a goddess. But Radha stands steadfastly alone refusing to be bound down by poets or potters, dancers or singers. Harsha V. Dehejia weaves an enchanting story of Radha with a multicoloured thread, where myth blends into history and fiction challenges reality and Radha emerges in all her poetic glory in this spellbinding story. Vijay Sharma and his team of artists bring Radha colourfully alive with miniature paintings, for it is there rather than sculpture that Radha resides. She is essentially kavyamaya, her origins are in the minds of poets, it is there that she grows, dallies and evolves. And while her voice is heard in songs and her footsteps resonate with dancers, it is in miniature paintings, through line and colour, that Radha comes alive as a multidimensional, many-nuanced paragon of love. This is Radhayan. About the Author Harsha V. Dehejia has a double doctorate, one in medicine and other in ancient Indian culture, both from Mumbai University. He is also a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Glasgow and Canada all by examination. He is a practising Physician and Professor of Indian Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. His main interest is in Indian aesthetics.

"Seeks to understand the major mythological role models that mark the moral landscape navigated by young Hindu women. Heidi Pauwels compares how the figures of Sita and Radha have been portrayed in a variety of media: the ancient Sanskrit sources, medieval vernacular retellings, and contemporary television shows"--OCLC

In tracing the evolution of Radha from that of a gopi to a goddess one traverses not only a span of several centuries, but travels through cultural divides, political dynasties and philosophical debates. Radha portrays in poetry and painting, dance and drama, sculpture and icon, songs and stories how Radha occupies a special place in sociology and psychology, aesthetics and theology.

A hotel in southern India is home to a host of romantic intrigues and human misadventures in this delightful novel from a New York

Times–bestselling author. Over a decade before *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, award-winning author Rumer Godden was delighting readers with the exploits of the residents and staff at a quaint getaway resort in southern India. Wily and winning Anglo-Indian hotel owner Auntie Sanni has entertained all manner of guests during her many years as hostess at Patna Hall, a popular vacation spot on the lush Coromandel coast. Now, with an election coming, business is especially brisk, and her hotel is packed with Indian politicians, British diplomats, journalists, American tourists—even a donkey, an elephant, and a woman of mystery or two. Among the vacationers are Mary and Blaise, a young English couple on their honeymoon. But where Mary is enchanted by the colors, sounds, and vibrant Indian life, prim and priggish Blaise sees only squalor, sordidness, and a Coromandel Sea teeming with sharks. Matters are only made worse when Mary becomes interested in local Indian politics—particularly the handsome, exquisitely spoken candidate Krishnan, whose kindness and wisdom are like a balm for her spirit. As tensions between the newlyweds continue to mount, even resourceful Auntie Sanni may not be able to forestall potential unpleasantness or prevent it from escalating into tragedy. The acclaimed author of *Black Narcissus* and *The River* returns readers once again to her beloved India with a novel brimming with heart, wit, unforgettable characters, and “a sense of timelessness reminiscent of E. M. Forster” (*The Times*, London). This ebook features an illustrated biography of the author including rare images from the Rumer Godden Literary Estate.

Devi, Mother and Protector of the world, is one of the most loved figures of Hindu iconography. In her various incarnations, Devi is warrior, mother, faithful wife, and the fount of knowledge, delivering all that her devotees ask of her. Bulbul Sharma tells the fascinating story of Devi in this book, drawing upon the many strands of myth and legend contained in ancient scriptures and also in folklore. She looks at how these stories were created, how they changed down the ages, and the vision of the world they uphold. Rich in drama and symbolism, these stories live today with the same intensity as they did when they were first told.

"Encyclopedia of World Religions" explores the major religions of the world, emphasizing the living faiths and their background. Each illustrated volume provides access to the theological concepts, personalities, historical events, institutions, and movements that helped shape the history of each religion and the way it is practiced.

Plants personify the divine— *The Rig Veda* (X.97) Trees and plants have long been held sacred to communities the world over. In India, we have a whole variety of flora that feature in our myths, our epics, our rituals, our worship and our daily life. There is the pipal, under which the Buddha meditated on the path to enlightenment; the banyan, in whose branches hide spirits; the ashoka, in a grove of which Sita sheltered when she was Ravana's prisoner; the tulsi, without which no Hindu house is considered complete; the bilva, with whose leaves it is possible to inadvertently worship Shiva. Before temples were constructed, trees were open-air shrines sheltering the deity, and many were symbolic of the Buddha himself. *Sacred Plants of India* systematically lays out the sociocultural roots of the various plants found in the Indian subcontinent, while also asserting their ecological importance to our survival. Informative, thought-provoking and meticulously researched, this book draws on mythology and botany and the ancient religious traditions of India to assemble a detailed and fascinating account of India's flora.

These 130 articles Aisan mythologies and cover such topics as Buddhist and Hindu symbolic systems, myth in pre-Islamic Iran, Chinese cosmology and demons, and the Japanese conceptions of the afterlife and the "vital spirit". Also includes myths from Turkey, Korea, Tibet, and Mongolia. Illustrations.

An invaluable encyclopedia of Hinduism Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions; an amalgam of diverse beliefs and schools, it

(bhakti) tradition. This title is part of UC Press's Voices Revived program, which commemorates University of California Press's mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice, reach, and impact. Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893, Voices Revived makes high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print-on-demand technology. This title was originally published in 1990.

This compendium is a selection of tales from the numerous stories that together form the Upanishad. Mahesh Dutt Sharma has compiled this volume for the modern English readers to read, enjoy and cherish the enigma of these ageless tales.

Dancing and chanting with their shaven heads and saffron robes, Hare Krishnas presented the most visible face of any of the eastern religions transplanted to the West during the sixties and seventies. Yet few people know much about them. This comprehensive study includes more than twenty contributions from members, ex-members, and academics who have followed the Hare Krishna movement for years. Since the death of its founder, the movement, also known as the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), has experienced debates over the roles of authority, heresy, and dissent, which have led to the development of several splinter movements. There is a growing women's rights movement and a highly publicized child abuse scandal. Providing a privileged look at the people and issues shaping ISKCON, this volume also offers insight into the complex factors surrounding the emergence of religious traditions, including early Christianity, as well as a glimpse of the original seeds and the germinating stages of a religious tradition putting down roots in foreign soil.

NBS#44 Features:- 1) Lord Krishna's Disappearance From The R?sa Dance Editorial 2) Gop?-g?ta Srila Sukadeva Goswami 3) Krishna's Re-appearance In The R?sa Arena His Divine Grace A .C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada 4) The Glories Of Srimati Radharani Srila Krishnadas Kaviraja Goswami 5) The Sakh?s Of Vraja Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur 6) The Process Of Becoming One Of Radha's Girlfriends Sri Bhaktivinoda Thakura This issue can also be viewed through these links: Issuu: https://issuu.com/nbsmag/docs/nbs_44 Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/document/322364953/NBS-44> Previous issues are available on: Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/nbsmag> OR Issuu: <http://issuu.com/nbsmag/docs> ISKCON Desire Tree:

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<http://www.nbsmag.com/vidyalaya> Your servant, Brajsunder das

Radhe K???a (An eternal bliss) is a collection of quotes and poems written with love and grace over the Lord. We are brought together under the roof of devotion, emotionally overwhelming and happily sulking in the music of Krishna and surrendering ourselves to him, mesmerized by the beauty of Radha, words flowed like river, which filled our hearts and also the pages of the book. It's all, the grace and blessings of Radhakrishna on us, we were able to jot our words on them and show it to the world.

The first exhaustive collection of goddess mythologies from India. •Explores the evolution of goddess worship in India over 4,000 years.

•Stunning color photographs illustrate many stories of goddess lore never before available in one collection. In India it is said that there is a goddess in every village, a nymph in every lake. Demonesses stand guard on village frontiers, ogresses howl on crossroads, and untamed

forests resound with the laughter of celestial virgins. It is a land of mysterious Apsaras and seductive Yakshinis, of terrifying Dakinis and wise Yoginis--each with a story to tell. In this wide-reaching exploration of ancient Hindu lore and legends, author Devdutt Pattanaik discovers how earth, women and goddesses have been perceived over 4,000 years. Some of the tales recounted are revered classics, others are common and folklorish, often held in disdain by priests. Until now, most have remained hidden, isolated in distant hamlets or languishing in forgotten libraries, overwhelmed by the din of masculine sagas. As the tales come to light through word and stunning color imagery, the author identifies the five faces given to the eternal feminine as man sought to unlock the mysteries of life: the female half of existence is at first identified with Nature, gradually deified and eventually objectified. She comes to be seen as the primal mother, fountainhead of life and nurturance. The all-giving mother then transforms into the dancing nymph, a seductress offering worldly pleasures that bind man in the cycle of life. As this nymph is domesticated, the dominant image of woman becomes the chaste wife with miraculous powers. Finally the submissive consort redefines herself as the wild and terrifying goddess who does battle, drinks blood, and demands appeasement. Exploring mysteries of gender and biology, and shedding light on the roots of taboos and traditions practiced in India today, the author shows how the image of the Mother Goddess can be both worshipped and feared when she carries the face of mortal woman.

In the West Krishna is primarily known as the speaker of the Bhagavad Gita. But it is the stories of Krishna's childhood and his later exploits that have provided some of the most important and widespread sources of religious narrative in the Hindu religious landscape. This volume brings together new translations of representative samples of Krishna religious literature from a variety of genres -- classical, popular, regional, sectarian, poetic, literary, and philosophical.

Krishna is a central figure in Hinduism, a religion that has been a fundamental force for thousands of years. This accessible encyclopedia covers texts, practices, scholarship, and arts related to Krishna from the earliest known sources on.

- Overviews the importance of Krishna to world history
- Offers topical and thematic entries illuminating classical texts and practice and modern developments inside and outside India
- Covers philosophical traditions such as Advaita and vegetarianism as well as spiritual and yoga traditions and their contemporary adaptations
- Includes extensive studies of followers and founders of Krishna in India and around the world
- Shares geographical information regarding sacred places and places of pilgrimage

Shakti's New Voice is the first comprehensive study of Anandmurti Gurumaa, a widely popular contemporary female guru from north India known for offering spiritual teachings and music on satellite television and the Internet.

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