

Recent Religion - September 2021

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Jainism in Rayalaseema / P. Hema  
B R Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2021  
xiii, 108p.; ill.; 29cm.  
Includes Bibliography  
9789388789714  
\$ 44.00 / HB  
800 gm.

Jainism is one of the ancient religions in India and its contributions is immense and inseparable from Indian culture. Dr.P.Hema has taken up for a detailed study of the contribution of Jainism, art and culture at micro level in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Since the Rayalaseema area is abutting the Karnataka and Tamilnadu regions people of different walks of life moved freely to these areas from ancient times.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775600>

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Growing up Jewish in India : Synagogues, Customs, and Communities from the Bene Israel to the Art of Siona Benjamin / Ori Z. Soltes  
Niyogi Books, New Delhi. 2021  
320p.; ill.; 23cm.  
9789389136814  
\$ 37.50 / HB  
1000 gm.

Growing Up Jewish in India offers an historical account of the primary Jewish communities of India, their synagogues, and unique Indian Jewish customs. It offers an investigation both within Jewish India and beyond its borders, tracing how Jews arrived in the vast subcontinent at different times from different places and have both inhabited dispersed locations within the larger Indian world, and ultimately created their own diaspora within the larger Jewish diaspora by relocating to other countries, particularly Israel and the United States. The text and its rich complement of over 150 images explore how Indian Jews retained their unique characteristics as Jews, became well-integrated into the larger society of India as Indians, and have continued to offer a synthesis of cultural qualities wherever they reside. Among the outcomes of these developments is the unique art of Siona Benjamin, who grew up in the Bene Israel community of Mumbai and then moved to the US, and whose art reflects Indian and Jewish influences as well as concepts like Tikkun olam (Hebrew for 'repairing the world'). In combining discussions of the Indian Jewish communities with Benjamin's own story and an analysis of her artistic output - and in introducing these narratives within the larger story of Jews across eastern Asia - this volume offers a unique verbal and visual portrait of a significant slice of Indian and Jewish culture and tradition. It would be of interest to Jews and non-Jews, Indian and non-Indian alike, as well as to history enthusiasts and the general reader interested in art and culture.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774468>

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The Light of Asia : The Poem that Defined The Buddha / Jairam Ramesh  
Penguin Viking an Imprint of Penguin Random House, Gurgaon, Haryana 2021

xxi, 457p.; 24cm.  
Includes Index  
9780670094837  
\$ 20.00 / HB  
800 gm.

'The Light of Asia' is an epic poem by Sir Edwin Arnold that was first published in 1879. It quickly became a huge sensation and has continued to resonate powerfully across the world over the last century and a half. Weaving together literary, cultural, political and social history, Jairam Ramesh uncovers and narrates the fascinating story of this deeply consequential and compelling poem that has shaped our thinking of an ancient sage and his teachings. He brings into this unusual narrative the life of the multi-faceted poet himself who, among other things, was steeped in Sanskrit literature. Sir Edwin Arnold's English rendering of the Bhagavad Gita was one of Mahatma Gandhi's abiding favourites. Sir Edwin was also in many ways the man who shaped Bodh Gaya as we know it today.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774451>

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Buddhism and Modernity : Sources from Nineteenth-Century Japan / Orion  
Klautau and Hans Martin Krämer(Eds)

University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA 2021

viii, 292p.;  
Includes Index  
9780824884581  
\$ 68.00 / HB  
572 gm.

Japan was the first Asian nation to face the full impact of modernity. Like the rest of Japanese society, Buddhist institutions, individuals, and thought were drawn into the dynamics of confronting the modern age. Japanese Buddhism had to face multiple challenges, but it also contributed to modern Japanese society in numerous ways. Buddhism and Modernity: Sources from Nineteenth-Century Japan makes accessible the voices of Japanese Buddhists during the early phase of high modernity.

The volume offers original translations of key texts—many available for the first time in English—by central actors in Japan's transition to the modern era, including the works of Inoue Enryō, Gesshō, Hara Tanzan, Shimaji Mokurai, Kiyozawa Manshi, Murakami Senshō, Tanaka Chigaku, and Shaku Sōen. All of these writers are well recognized by Buddhist

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775776>

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Studies on Pali Commentaries / Kanai Lal Hazra  
B R Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2020

xvii, 388p.; 23cm.  
Includes Bibliography and Index  
9789380852959  
\$ 40.00 / HB  
850 gm.

Studies on Pali Commentaries are undoubtedly Dr. K.L. Hazra's most brilliant contribution to the field of Buddhism. The present book is a storehouse of information on Pali commentaries, and bears evidence on every page of it. It shows the author's indefatigable research, his genius for analysis and his familiarity with the Pali language and commentaries. It is no doubt a pioneering contribution to a field of study in which there have been too few works done by scholars. The author with single-minded devotion has written it for the cause of Pali language and literature. The lucidity and immaculate style of the author's description has been one of its special features. It is a work of considerable breadth. The book is divided into four chapters. This valuable research work, suffixed with preface, abbreviations, bibliography and footnoted, small be of great help to those people who are interested in Pali literature and language in general and Buddhism in particular. The work contains a detailed description of the A±±hakathas, their origin and growth, biographical sketches of Buddhadatta, Buddhaghosa and Dharmapida, enumeration of the works of those scholars, outline of the contents of these works and historical and geographical importance of the Pali commentaries. This study will satiate every research minded person in his movement to find out true knowledge in this field of Buddhism. Students, scholars and the general readers alike will find this book highly interesting, useful and valuable for study and references. This will surely be of interest not only to specialists but also to those who are looking for an authentic picture of the Pali commentaries. It is work of scholarship, for it contains much new material on the Pali commentaries. The author offers fresh insights into the religion of the Buddha, and Buddhist history and culture.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775779>

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Vasubandhu and Abhidharmakośa / Sanjib Kumar Das

Buddhist World Press, Delhi 2020

463p.; 24cm.

Includes Bibliography and Index

9789389388015

\$ 69.00 / HB

1000 gm.

The book titled "Vasubandhu and Abhidharmakośa" contains the matters on twenty-one topics based on the text Abhidharmakośa attributed to Acarya Vasubandhu, a fourth century very influential and prominent Indian Buddhist monk and scholar from Gandhara. Besides, it also presents the general history of the two Buddhist Schools - Vaibhasika School and Sautrantika School, together with a short biography of Vasubandhu as well as the works ascribed him. Further, it also contains a list of commentaries of the text Abhidharmakosa ascribed to the Indian adepts and Tibetan scholars.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775750>

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Sangitiyavamso : The chronicle of Buddhist Councils on Dhamma and Vinaya / Somdet Phra Vanaratana 'Bimaladhamma'; Bimalendra Kumar and Ujjwal Kumar (Ed)

Aditya Prakashan, New Delhi, India 2021

Ixii, 258p.; 23cm.

Includes Index

9788194538745

\$ 19.00 / HB

650 gm.

The tradition of Vasa in Pāli dates back to Buddhaghosa's era and its uninterrupted composition continued till the nineteenth or twentieth century. Although the origin of Vasa literature is attributed to Sri Lanka and Burma, Thailand has also played a role in its development. The Vasa literature of Sri Lanka (Dīpavasa, Mahāvāsa, Cūlavāsa, Mahābodhivāsa, Thūpa-vasa, etc.) and Burma (Gandhavāsa, Sāsanavāsa) are well known and many of them are published, but the Vasa literature of Thailand is still unknown in academia and not available in Roman and other non-Thai scripts. At least three texts of the early Rattankosin (Bangkok) period of Thailand can be considered under this genre, (1) Sagītiyavāsa, (2) Mahāyuddhakāravāsa and (3) Cūlayuddhakāravāsa. The present work is an attempt to publish for the first time the complete Roman edition of the Sagītiyavāsa with critical notes and indexes.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=777129>

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Quest of Buddhist Paradigms : in Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia, China and Japan /  
Lokesh Chandra

Aditya Prakashan, New Delhi 2020

219p.; 29cm.

Includes Index

9788194538738

\$ 62.50 / HB

1000 gm.

The book narrates the interwovenness of culture between India, Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia, China and Japan. It begins with Nepal with its history alive on the waysides and homes, its rich preservation of Buddhist sutras in Sanskrit, esp. the Tattvasangraha which lives in the Shingon denomination in Japan, in the icons of Alchi and in the grandeur of the Borobudur. The second chapter deals with Tibetan studies, edition of the Vinayavastu, the anachronism of Jesus Christ being in the Hemis monastery which was founded as late as the 17th century, the total destruction of Tibetan culture in a long letter of Prof. A.W. Macdonald, saving the Derge monastery and printery by seven encirclements of devotees under the supervision of Ven. Pekar Tulku at the risk of his life, and the Sven Hedin collection in Stockholm. The fourth chapter concerns Mongolian studies: Emperor Ch'ien-lung's edition of the Mongolian Kanjur, and dialogues with Prof. Rinchen on the total cultural genocide in Mongolia.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=777183>

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Wayward Distraction : Ornament, Emotion, Zombies and the Study of Buddhism  
in Thailand / Justin Thomas McDaniel

NUS Press, Singapore 2021

viii, 284p.;

Includes Index and Bibliography

9789813251502

\$ 32.00 / null

430 gm.

When more than 93 per cent of the citizens of one country profess a single religion, as Thais do Buddhism, and when that religion is deeply integrated into national institutions and ideologies, it becomes tempting to think of the religion as a textual, institutional, cultural and conceptual whole. But at the same time it is obvious that expressions of Buddhism in Thailand reflect anything but a single order: they are often gaudy, cacophonous, variegated, and jumbled: almost technicolor. Diversity and apparent contradiction are everywhere. A more open engagement with Buddhism in Thailand will require a willingness to be distracted, to step away from received hierarchies and follow the intriguing detail in the ornate design, the odd textual reference, to prefer "thin description" over a search for meaning.

Justin McDaniel's book-length writings in Buddhist and Theravada Studies are well known and widely cited, but his approach cannot be understood without taking into account his shorter writings, what he calls his wayward distractions. Collected together for the first time, and set in place by a compelling introduction that argues for a strongly materialist approach, these essays cover subjects ranging from ornamental art to marriage and emotion, the role of Hinduism, neglected gender and ethnic diversity, Buddhist inflections in contemporary art practice, and the boundaries between the living, the dead and the undead. These writings will be of importance to students of Theravada and Thailand, of religion in Southeast Asia and more generally, of the materialist turn in studies of religion.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778596>

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= Zen and the Colors of the Four Seasons : /

Tokyo : Sekai bunkasha 2021

175p ; 23×31cm

9784418212040

\$ 240.00 / null

Keirinji Temple (Koshu)

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778292>

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Resilience through zen Buddhist thanatology 2nd edition / orig, Tozen Nakanoed.  
trans. author, Toyomi Hiraitrsl. by Toyomi Hirai, Yuki Kyogoku, So Miyagawa,  
James P. Wills

[ ] : dr. ht-lab. 360books 2021

164 p ; 19 cm

9784991172908

\$ 30.80 / null

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778294>

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= Nipannakrama of the Vajrācāryanayottama : introduction, romanized Sanskrit  
text and related studies /

Tokyo : Watanabe Shuppan 2021

104 p ; 21 cm

9784902119350

\$ 60.00 / null

Esoteric Buddhism--Nepal

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778293>

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Buddhica Tibetica / Andrea Loseries

Buddhist World Press, Delhi 2021

xix, 232p.; col.ill.; 29cm.

Includes Bibliography

9789389388046

\$ 87.50 / HB

1100 gm.

After *Ethnologia Tibetica*, the second volume of Andrea Loseries's OMNIBUS *Buddhica Tibetica* presents writings and contributions in various journals and publications since 2008. One major article has so far been only accessible to German speakers. It is the first complete translation into English of a detailed cultural historical overview of Tibetan Buddhism.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775602>

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The Filipino Christ and the Historical Jesus : Toward a Filipino Christology /  
Michael Demetrius H.

BlueBooks (Ateneo De Manila University Press), Quezon City, Philippines 2021

viii, 100p.;

Includes Bibliography

9786214481231

\$ 25.00 / null

222 gm.

Current research on the Historical Jesus challenges Filipino Christology to do a "Christology from Below"—emphasizing the struggles and humanity of Jesus in first century Palestine as an appropriate starting point for a meaningful and relevant Filipino Christology today. Are our current Jesus images mere projections of our deep desire to fashion him in our own image? Or are they grounded on real, historical facets of his life? Any re-appropriation of the memory of the Jesus of history must, for the most part, become honest appropriations of the spirit of Jesus' historical life and message, which focused on realizing the Kingdom of God, particularly on behalf of the worlds' poor and marginalized.

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In his project to analyze, discover, and elicit a new socially-relevant Filipino Christ, Dr. Michael Asis appeals to the historical study of Jesus and the development of christology, to the interpretation of the past as relevant to the present, and to an empirical cultural study of Filipino spirituality. People generally relate to Christ who shares in our suffering in this world, but incarnates God's forgiveness of human weakness. "He died for our sins." Christ lives deeply inside family values; he is God's presence celebrated in liturgy, in the feasts and fiestas of the year, and in personal devotion, especially in crisis. But the opening up of Jesus' actual ministry, so vividly portrayed in the gospel stories, signals for the public sector a new relevance of Christ to moral commitment. This book proposes that a turn to the ministry of Jesus provides a new link between the doctrine of Christ and Philippine society and culture. Asis concretely suggests how the church can help nurture Filipino spirituality, modeled on Jesus' ministry, into social responsibility and commitment. This penetrating study puts Filipino flesh on a movement that is going on across cultures throughout the world. - Roger Haight, S.J. Union Theological Seminary New York

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778390>

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Globalisation and response of the churches / Alphonsus D'Souza, O L Snaitang, Limatula Longkumer

North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, India 2014

Xxvi, 310p.; 22cm.

Includes Index

9788192606217

\$ 7.50 / null

450 gm.

It is imperative that the churches respond urgently to the challenges posed by globalisation, and in fact, the churches in India have responded in some ways. As an example of the response of the churches to globalisation, I place before you extract of statements emerging from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India and the National Council of Churches in India.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=777938>

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Pintacasi – The Journal on the Cultural Heritage of the Church, Volume VII, 2011 / Fr. Milan Ted D. Torralba (Ed)

University of Santo Tomas Publishing House (UST Publishing House), Manila, Philippines 2011

viii, 128p.;

ISSN: 1656-7471

\$ 50.00 / HB

182 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778411>

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Pintacasi – The Journal on the Cultural Heritage of the Church, Volume VIII, 2012 / Fr. Milan Ted D. Torralba (Ed)

University of Santo Tomas Publishing House (UST Publishing House), Manila, Philippines 2012

viii, 106p.;

ISSN: 1656-7471

\$ 50.00 / null

162 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778415>

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Pintacasi – The Journal on the Cultural Heritage of the Church, Volume IX, 2013 / Fr. Milan Ted D. Torralba (Ed)

University of Santo Tomas Publishing House (UST Publishing House), Manila, Philippines 2013

vi, 130p.;

ISSN: 1656-7471

\$ 50.00 / null

214 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778419>

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Witchcraft Accusations and Church Discipline in Malawi / Timothy Kabulunga Nyasulu

Kachere Series, Zomba, Malawi. 2021

iv, 56p.; 210x148mm.

Includes Bibliography

9789996025419

\$ 20.00 / null

100 gm.

For a long time, the church in Malawi has not taken an active role to address issues of witchcraft accusations. The failure among other things is possibly based on the influence of the early missionaries' teaching that "witchcraft does not exist" Thus, since the missionary era, the church in Malawi has been in denial, holding to the ideology that witchcraft was only superstition. However, as this study outlined the practice is still rampant in Malawi. Christians found to have consulted a diviner are subject to discipline (a suspension from partaking of the Holy Communion for some time), or in some cases severely punished, some are even persecuted and killed. The study found that very little pastoral work is undertaken to better understand the practice and find a better solution to the problem in the church.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774713>

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Immortal Life : The Mukti Marg of Sri Jesus / Dhanjibhai Fakirbhai

B R Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2020

vii, 195p.; 13cm.

9789388789561

\$ 5.00 / null

300 gm.

Dhanjibhai Fakirbhai composed his Sri Hriday Gita in Gujarati in the 1950's. It has been celebrated ever since as a creative introduction to interpretation of Jesus Christ, embracing many terms and ideas from traditional Indian thought. The teachings of Sri Jesus and his first disciples are the focus of Dhanjibhai's text, but he does not slavishly follow the text of the Bible. This English translation of either the Bible or the words of Jesus. Jesus Christ and His teachings have been analysed and interpreted from many different perspectives through the centuries since he lived. Immortal life joins that chorus of presentations presenting Jesus within Sanskritic traditions with a focus on allegiance to God from the heart (bhakti).

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775626>

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Untold Tales from the Mahabharata : The Epic Beyond the Obvious / Uday Shankar

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2021

viii, 208p.; 22cm

9789390358229

\$ 12.50 / null

300 gm.

Which Kaurava was inspired by the birds to commit one of the most grotesque murders in the Mahabharata?  
Why did King Muchkund sleep for a million years and wake up in the Dwaparyug?  
Whose soul had entered the dice of Shakuni?  
Why was Gandhari married to a goat before she wed Dhritarashtra?  
What was the secret behind Arjun's chariot being burnt to ashes after the war?  
Who instigated Janmejaya to burn every snake in the universe?  
Who was the only Kaurava to cross over to the Pandavas before the battle?

An epic that never dies and still remains relevant even thousands of years later-Vyasa's Mahabharata has always captured our imagination. The saga of two feuding families, the Mahabharata, with its various twists and turns, has been a compelling read across generations, inspiring many to dig deeper into the great poem. This collection of twenty short stories brings out characters and incidents that are largely unheard of and are buried in the vastness of the epic. Capturing every emotion from valour, lust, loyalty and treachery to goodness and ethics so relevant to the world we live in, these stories help us understand the epic better by bringing out a different dimension altogether.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774373>

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Mahabharata Unravelling : Lesser-Known Facets of a Well-Known History / Ami Ganatra

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt.Ltd, New Delhi. 2021

xxxi, 373p.; 22cm

9789354351273

\$ 15.00 / null

450 gm.

Millennia have passed since the dharma yudhha of the cousins shook the land of Bharata. But this history of our ancestors continues to fascinate us. Even today, we have passionate discussions about the people and their actions in the epic, fervidly defending our favourites and denouncing others. The number of works on the Mahabharata-adaptations, retellings and fiction-that still get written is a testimony to its enduring relevance.

While the general storyline is largely known, a lot of questions and myths prevail, such as-What was the geographical extent of the war? Did Drona actually refuse to take on Karna as his disciple? What were Draupadi's responsibilities as the queen of Indraprastha? Did she ever mock Duryodhana? Were the women in the time of the Mahabharata meek and submissive? What were the names of the war formations during the time? What role did the sons of the Pandavas play? Does the south of India feature at all in the Mahabharata? What happened after the war? These and many other intriguing questions continue to mystify the contemporary reader.

Author Ami Ganatra debunks myths, quashes popular notions and offers insights into such aspects not commonly known or erroneously known, based solely on facts as narrated in Vyasa's Mahabharata from generally accepted authentic sources. For a history of such prominence and influence as the Mahabharata, it is important to get the story right. So pick this book up, sit back and unveil the lesser-known facts and truths about the great epic.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774370>

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Amazing Ayodhya : The Splendid Ancient City of Lord Rama / Neena Rai

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2021

xxvi, 288p.; 22cm.

Includes Bibliography

9789390358878

\$ 12.50 / null

440 gm.

How big was the ancient city of Ayodhya?  
Why is this city so significant for Hindus?  
Who established the city and what did it look like?  
What did Lord Rama and Devi Sita's palace look like?  
What sort of animals were found in this ancient land?

No one grows up in India untouched by the beautiful story of Lord Rama and Devi Sita. Every Dussehra we celebrate the victory of Rama over Ravana, the victory of good over evil. Every Deepavali, we commemorate the return of Rama and Sita to Ayodhya and hear the tale of how the entire city was lit up to receive their beloved king and queen. But is the magnificent capital of Ayodhya just limited to this?

Ayodhya was a renowned pilgrimage destination since the dawn of mankind, and after the birth of Lord Rama, it became a place of supreme importance for Hindus. Amazing Ayodhya is an attempt in gaining knowledge about this ancient city-its architecture, its design, its buildings and all the splendid details during the era when Lord Rama walked this earth. This splendidly researched book, replete with shlokas from the Valmiki Ramayana, offers authentic information about the city which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita.

Replete with descriptions, author Neena Rai draws out comparisons of an earlier era with our current life and culture, thus connecting the past with the present. She further compares Ayodhya with the cultures of other ancient civilisations so that the reader feels 'connected' to the past and the content of the book appears 'contemporary'.

A fascinating account of an ancient city with significant contemporary relevance, Amazing Ayodhya is a must-read for a better understanding of history, scriptures and Hindu civilisation.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774368>

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Sanatan Dharma : Vaidik Gateway to the Next Century / Manoj Singh

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2021

xi,312p.; 22cm.

Includes Index

9789389449044

\$ 15.00 / null

450 gm.

Human civilisation is passing through one of the most difficult times in the history of mankind. The world is in stress. The situation worsens by the day. Sanatan Dharma: Vaidik Gateway to the Next Century attempts to offer a solution to all our problems.

Hinduism is a way of life-with nature, in nature, by nature. Author Manoj Singh elaborates on the practical aspects of one of the oldest cultural civilisations, analysing how it's more relevant in today's troubled age. He narrates the evolution of Vaidik civilisation, elaborating on the basics of Vaidik Sanatan dharma. He discusses life in Hinduism, its culture, festivals, rituals, customs, yoga, Vedas and mantras, outlining a broad perspective of why and how these are significant.

This comprehensive work touches upon all aspects of Sanatan life philosophy for spiritual enlightenment. A heritable past, which has been otherwise forgotten, is revealed here, hoping to make human journey viable in the present dynamic complexity. This is for anyone who desires to understand the real meaning of living rather than just existing.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774358>

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Muruga : The Lord Of War The God Of Wisdom / Anand Balasubramanian

Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi 2021

277p.; 20cm.

9788129144959

\$ 10.00 / null

320 gm.

Lord Muruga—the creator, protector and destroyer. Armed with a boon of eternal life from Lord Shiva, the most destructive Asura and his army have created havoc in the multiverse. The only person who can annihilate the dangerous Asura clan is someone born from the union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti. Six children are born out of six balls of cosmic fire created by Lord Shiva. On seeing these beautiful children, Goddess Parvati hugs them together and they immediately transform into a single divine being with one body with six heads—Lord Muruga. Armed with his powerful Vel (lance), Lord Muruga starts fulfilling the sole purpose of his life—destroying the Asuras—even when he is a mere child. The Vel, a gift from his mother Shakti, is not merely a weapon for the destruction of evil, but is also an embodiment of the power of knowledge. The Vel is also the protector of the devotees of Lord Muruga. There is, however, much more to the story of Lord Muruga. The lord of war is as comfortable with his Leelas as he is as the consummate warrior who ends the race of the most ruthless of Asuras. Lord Muruga is the ultimate creator, protector and destroyer.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774493>

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Shakti : 51 Sacred Peethas of the Goddess / Alka Pande

Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi 2020

xxiii,221p.; Color ill.; 22cm.

Includes Bibliography

9789390356492

\$ 7.50 / null

350 gm.

This book is devoted to the understanding of the omnipresent and all-powerful Shakti and her sacred abodes known as Peethas. The story of Devi Sati and Lord Shiva ended tragically with the death of Sati. An angry and inconsolable Shiva took Sati's lifeless body and started the 'Rudra Tandava' or the dance of destruction. To save the world, Lord Vishnu used his 'sudarshan chakra' to cut the body of Sati into 51 pieces and each part fell at different places on Earth and each become a revered Shakti Peetha. Renowned writer and historian Dr Alka Pande narrates that while the Shakti Peethas represent a single philosophical fold, they are a testament to the diverse legends of Shakti. Different peethas which became holy at the touch of Sati's body have survived hundreds of centuries and have kept alive their local folklore of Shakti. Together they evoke the Mother Goddess as both the nourishing and the destructive force behind the existence of the cosmos. The 51 Peethas featured in the book can never be an absolute representation of the Peethas of the Goddess, since the Devi is anywhere and everywhere.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774492>

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Syncretic Islam : Life and Times of Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi / Anil Maheshwari, Richa Singh

Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2021

xvi,256p.; 22cm.

9789354350078

\$ 12.50 / null

400 gm.

Syncretic Islam is a fascinating and brilliant study of the religious thought and career of one of the doyens of Muslim traditionalism in South Asia, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi. An Islamic scholar, jurist and an Urdu poet, Ahmad Raza Khan was the founder of the Barelvi movement whose defining feature of thought is the active veneration of the Prophet as the most exalted of all beings. This work overviews and analyses the multiple facets constituting Ahmad Raza Khan's intellectual life and, in extension, the Barelvi school of thought in an eminently accessible manner. It is the story of a remarkable revivalist, born in the North Indian town of Bareilly during British India, who grew up to be hailed by his followers as the mujaddid, or reviver, of Islam in nineteenth-century India.

A Pathan by descent, Hanafi by religious mores, Qadiri by disposition and Barelvi by nativity, Syncretic Islam captures the astounding contribution of Ahmad Raza Khan and attempts to explain his spiritual influence that still binds millions of people in the Indian subcontinent.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774360>

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Al-Ghazali : On Justice and Social Justice / Sabri Orman  
Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University Press, Istanbul, Turkey 2020  
80p.  
9786050667523  
\$ 20.00 / null  
160 gm.

As is suggested by its title the main purpose of this study is a presentation, analysis and evaluation of al-Ghazâlî's ideas on justice and social justice. However, in the meantime we shall have an opportunity to shed some light on an aspect of his intellectual legacy that has remained almost unnoticed: prioritization of what is social, or giving priority to what is social in human behavior, and in its religious, legal and moral evaluation. This can very briefly be summarised as considering transitive virtues more valuable or praiseworthy than the intransitive ones, and considering transitive vices more vicious or blameworthy than the intransitive ones. We shall try also to put two of al-Ghazali's significant approaches to religion, law and ethics in the perspective of social justice, or vice versa. One of these is his remarkable but not duly and properly appreciated approach to fardh1 kifâya. The other is his well-known approach to Maqâsid al-Sharî'a and Masâlih. What is important about them here is that they are going to be treated as references for an idea of social responsibility or collective obligation/duty.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778364>

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Destiny and Responsibility in the Quran / Ismail Kurt  
FEER Yayin, Ankara, Turkey 2021  
68p.  
Includes Bibliography  
9786257879729  
\$ 10.00 / null  
100 gm.

In this book, destiny (qadar) from the Quranic perspective is examined by way of a comparison with the opinions of Theological Creeds. Then, man's responsibility in terms of the reasons for man's responsibility and God's justice are analysed according to the Quranic philosophy. The study aims to present an accurate understanding of destiny has changed; and to also present man's responsibilities in the context of destiny according to the Quranic worldview. In both analysis of destiny and responsibility in the Quran, the context of the verse and general Quranic context are considered as part of this research.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778358>

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Iqbal and the Sages of the East / Prof. Dr. Waheed Uz Zaman Tariq  
Aiwan-E-Ilm-O-Fann and Dabistan-E-Iqbal, Lahore, Pakistan 2020  
640p.;  
Includes Index  
9789692339483  
\$ 80.00 / HB  
920 gm.

This voluminous book of more than six hundred pages is different from other books written on Iqbal. It deals with the evolution of the thought process of Muslim thinkers, who had continued the old philosophical background of Zoroastrianism and Christianity while synthesizing their Philosophy, in the light of Islamic teachings. It was written to introduce Allama Iqbal's philosophy from the perspective of the oriental philosophical tradition. Undoubtedly, Iqbal was also influenced by the Western philosophers but he has mainly followed the Eastern sages, in his poetry and ideology. In this book, the author has tried to introduce diverse philosophers, starting from pre-Islamic Persian prophet Mani. Then he diverts to early days founders of Sufism like Bayazid Bistami and includes Junnayd Baghdadi. Then he writes extensively about Hussain Bin Mansur Hallaj and his work, how it influenced the thoughts of the predecessor of Iqbal like Hojvairi, Attar, and Rumi, as well as Iqbal himself. Then, the book deals with Mohyuddin Ibn e Arabi (the only non- Persian character), Shahab Al-Din Suharwardi, and his philosophy of illumination, and Senai Ghazanvi (the great sage, who brought Quranic terminology in his posterity). There are two chapters about Jalal Al-Din Rumi, as Iqbal was mainly under his influence. There is a discussion about studies of Rumi in the Indian Subcontinent, especially Shah Abdullatif Bhatia of Sindh. The book deals with Shiekh Mahmud Shabestry and his work "Gulshan e Raz" and its revival in Iqbal's poetry and thoughts. The book deals with Tahirih Qurrat Al-Ayn, whose religious stance is kept aside but Iqbal was impressed by her iconoclastic approach in challenging the King and clergy of her time just before the mid-nineteenth century. This book has two chapters about Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib. In fact, Iqbal had studied the Persian side of Iqbal and has an altogether different approach while studying and quoting Ghalib, as the greatest traditionalist intellectual of his times, who saw the old culture of Muslim glory in India, meeting its end but still retained his eastern spirit. He guided Sir Syed for modern education and a progressive approach. Hali was a link between Ghalib and Iqbal. The last chapter is about Quranic influence on Iqbal's thoughts, in the light of the prevailing syllabus of seminaries and Muslim educational tradition.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775292>

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Reaching for the Crescent: Aspirations of Singapore Islamic Studies Graduates and the Challenges / Norshahril Saat, Azhar Ibrahim & Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman  
ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore 2021

224p.;

Includes Index and Bibliography

9789814951371

\$ 29.90 / HB

Islamic religious teachers (asatizah) and scholars (ulama) play a significant role in providing spiritual leadership for the Singapore Malay/Muslim community. Lately, the group has been cast under the spotlight over a range of issues, from underperformance in the national examination, their ability to integrate into the broader society, exposure to radical and conservative ideas such as Salafism from the Middle East, and unemployment. Reaching for the Crescent examines a growing segment within the group, namely Islamic studies graduates, who obtained their degrees from universities in the Middle East and neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. It identifies factors that condition the proliferation of Islamic studies graduates in Singapore, examine the dominant religious institutions they attend, the nature of Islamic education they received, and their challenges. It tackles the impact of their religious education on the spiritual life and well-being of the community. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected, the book calls for a rethinking of a prevailing discourse of Arabization of Singapore Muslims and academic approaches that focus on madrasah education and Islam through the security lens.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775715>

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Naquib Al-Attas' Islamization of Knowledge : Its Impact on Malay Religious Life, Literature, Language and Culture / Mohd Faizal Musa

ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore 2021

32p.;

9789815011081

\$ 9.00 / null

The concept of the Islamization of knowledge was introduced by Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas in the late 1970s. It aimed to detach knowledge from Western culture and civilization in order to replace it with Islamic concepts, frameworks and values.

The Islamization of knowledge was to occur in the fields of education and culture, manifesting in changes to the syllabus in institutions of higher learning and niche areas of interest in selected research institutes. In the field of culture, however, it resulted in an unintended consequence of Malay literature being heavily characterized by Islamic elements.

Over the years, proponents of the Islamization of knowledge in Malaysia have moved beyond the fields of education and culture. They have entered the mainstream and become part of the state machinery, thus possibly impacting national policies.

The concept has also evolved and arguably led to the strengthening of Islamic conservatism among Malaysian intellectual and cultural elites.

More specifically, its exclusivist thinking does not augur well for intra- and intercommunal relations in the country.

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