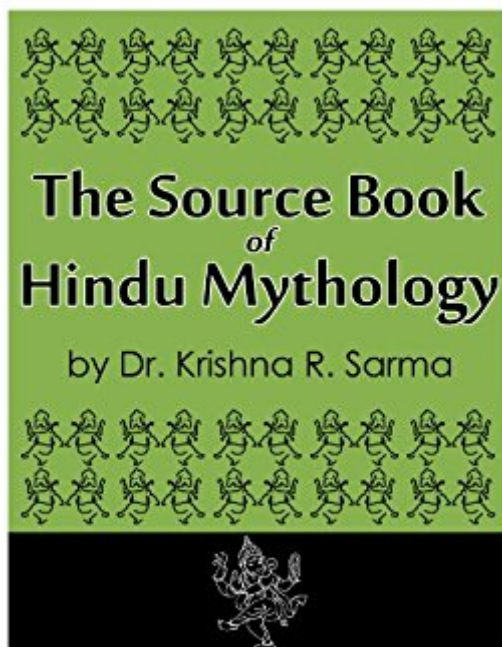


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The Source Book Of Hindu Mythology



Synopsis

This book describes the figures of the Hindu Mythology, why they came and what they have done. It is not the author's intention to offer any commentary or explanation. That is the philosophical part and it is not attempted here. This work is primarily intended for the second generation of Indian-Americans who may not have the ready accessibility of Indian mythology as their parents had, through stories, narratives and even actual reading of the Purāṇas during their youth in India.

Book Information

File Size: 626 KB

Print Length: 382 pages

Publisher: www.ebookmarketingplus.com; 1 edition (October 6, 2011)

Publication Date: October 6, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005TLFN4I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #407,014 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism > Theology #41 in Books >

Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism > Theology #12872 in Books > Religion & Spirituality >

Religious Studies > Theology

Customer Reviews

If you are a little mystified about Hinduism and are looking for the best introductory overview to help you make sense of it, this is it. The book is written clearly and is easy to follow and understand. One thing that makes this book superior to others is the fact that it is written by a man who has a deep understanding of both Indian and American cultures. This is because Dr. Sarma was born and raised in India and has also lived in the United States for many years. He comes from a scholarly family that spent generations studying and practicing Hinduism as priests and scholars in South India. The author clearly knows Hinduism well, and is able to explain it in a way that is easy for Americans and other westerners to comprehend. A great read and highly recommended!

When I started my study of Hinduism a few months back, my goal was mostly general acculturation (for example, in the West the names "David and Goliath" have loads of connotative meaning; similarly "Rama and Sita" evokes a bunch of meaning that we in the West just don't know by default). Understanding the theory of the trimurthy or atman or similar concepts is helpful, but ultimately the rich tapestry of characters is where most people take meaning in the Hindu culture (especially those secular or non-Hindu Indians). As a reference, this book takes an encyclopedia-like approach to most of the major characters and many minor ones in Hinduism; this isn't high literature and it's not meant to be. If you want flowery language, go to the Ramayana or Gita... The good: alphabetized, consistent description of the characters and a nice brief intro to concepts at the beginning. Who's Kunti again? Ah, yes--right here under K... The bad: as a kindle book, not cross-linked well; it's like a non-hyperlinked wikipedia in that regard and would work better in print. The ugly: who knew SO MANY STORIES would involve the disposition of divine ejaculate?

Oh my. I know next to nothing about Hinduism. I suppose I will be able to use it as I learn more and hear about various gods while traveling or reading. This is a dense catalogue of the gods and goddesses, of which there are very many.

This book has plenty of flaws but they're mostly superficial; typos galore, weird spacing between paragraphs, rocky English, ETC... It's also super boiled down and simplified. But if you've never had much exposure to Hindu stories and the characters involved, this book is a decent way to get familiar with some of them

Great as a quick reference to various mythological characters. Cross-reference to related legends is useful. In the future editions, the author might wish to expand the work by including volume, chapter, verses from the classics like the Great Epics, Ramayana and Mahabharat, as well as the Puranas, thus adding value to his research.

I read a bit of Hindu philosophy/literature -- and the names from Mythology litter the pages ... it is fun to be able to quickly look up the name and get a few details ... not a complete list ... but great for what i paid for it.

The first thing I'd like to say about this book is that since I'm not Indian it really helped understand

the key figures of Hinduism. It is very well written and really easy to read because of its format.

I like it, because it connects me with the vast and mostly unknowing (to me) Indian mythology. It is also a "handbook" for exploration further in that culture.

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