

Acces PDF Rethinking Indias Oral And Classical  
Epics Draupadi Among Rajputs Muslims And  
Dalits Religion Postmodernism S By Hildebeitel  
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# **Rethinking Indias Oral And Classical Epics Draupadi Among Rajputs Muslims And Dalits Religion Postmodernism S By Hildebeitel Alf 1999 05 01 Paperback**

Why We Act Draupadī Among Rajputs, Muslims, and Dalits  
Self-discovery and Authority in Afro-American  
Narrative Rethinking the Mahabharata The Gospel of  
Germs Ancient Literacy Rethinking the  
Mahabharata Lost Histories Rethinking India's Past  
The Book Review Sur's Ocean Unfinished  
Gestures Rethinking Public Institutions in India  
the Goddess a Feminist? Rethinking Secularism  
Reading the Fifth Veda Followers of Krishna  
Ancient Bundelkhand The Cult of Draupadi, Volume 2  
Living Together Separately Indian Review of Books  
Freud's India Journal of Folklore Research Oral Epics in India  
The cult of Draupadī The Goddesses' Henchmen  
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Ananda Epic India, Or, India as Described in the  
Mahabharata and the Ramayana A Rasa Reader The  
Triumph of the Snake Goddess The Power of Stars  
GI Jews Literature and Nationalist Ideology Informed  
Power The Destiny of a King Rethinking India's Oral and  
Classical Epics

## **Why We Act**

AIDS. Ebola. "Killer microbes." All around us the alarms are going off, warning of the danger of new, deadly diseases. And yet, as Nancy Tomes reminds us in her absorbing book, this is really nothing new. A remarkable work of medical and cultural history, *The Gospel of Germs* takes us back to the first great "germ panic" in American history, which peaked in the early 1900s, to explore the origins of our modern disease consciousness. Little more than a hundred years ago, ordinary Americans had no idea that many deadly ailments were the work of microorganisms, let alone that their own behavior spread such diseases. *The Gospel of Germs* shows how the revolutionary findings of late nineteenth-century bacteriology made their way from the laboratory to the lavatory and kitchen, with public health reformers spreading the word and women taking up the battle on the domestic front. Drawing on a wealth of advice books, patent applications, advertisements, and oral histories, Tomes traces the new awareness of the microbe as it radiated outward from middle-class homes into the world of American business and crossed the lines of class, gender, ethnicity, and race. Just as we take some of the weapons in this germ war for granted—fixtures as familiar as the white porcelain toilet, the window screen, the refrigerator, and the vacuum cleaner—so we rarely think of the drastic measures deployed against disease in the dangerous old days before antibiotics. But, as Tomes notes, many of the hygiene rules first popularized in those days remain the foundation of infectious disease control today. Her work offers a timely look into the history of our long-standing obsession with germs, its

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impact on twentieth-century culture and society, and  
its troubling new relevance to our own lives.

## **Draupadī Among Rajputs, Muslims, and Dalits**

This is the first volume of a projected three-volume work on the little-known South Indian folk cult of the goddess Draupadi and on the classical epic, the Mahabharata, that the cult brings to life in mythic, ritual, and dramatic forms. Draupadi, the chief heroine of the Sanskrit Mahabharata, takes on many unexpected guises in her Tamil cult, but her dimensions as a folk goddess remain rooted in a rich interpretive vision of the great epic. By examining the ways that the cult of Draupadi commingles traditions about the goddess and the epic, Alf Hildebeitel shows the cult to be singularly representative of the inner tensions and working dynamics of popular devotional Hinduism.

## **Self-discovery and Authority in Afro-American Narrative**

The ancient Indian Sanskrit tradition produced no text more intriguing, or more persistently misunderstood or underappreciated, than the Mahabharata. Its intricacies have waylaid generations of scholars and ignited dozens of unresolved debates. In *Rethinking the Mahabharata*, Alf Hildebeitel offers a unique model for understanding the great epic. Employing a wide range of literary and narrative theory, Hildebeitel draws on historical and comparative research in an

attempt to discern the spirit and techniques behind the epic's composition. He focuses on the education of Yudhishthira, also known as the Dharma King, and shows how the relationship of this figure to others—especially his author-grandfather Vyasa and his wife Draupadi—provides a thread through the bewildering array of frames and stories embedded within stories. Hildebeitel also offers a revisionist theory regarding the dating and production of the original text and its relation to the Veda. No ordinary reader's guide, this volume will illuminate many mysteries of this enigmatic masterpiece. This work is the fourth volume in Hildebeitel's study of the Draupadi cult. Other volumes include *Mythologies: From Gingee to Kuruksetra* (Volume One), *On Hindu Ritual and the Goddess* (Volume Two), and *Rethinking India's Oral and Classical Epics* (Volume Three).

## **Rethinking the Mahabharata**

Contributed papers presented at a conference held on December 18-21, 2002.

## **The Gospel of Germs**

India As Described In The Mahabharat And The Ramayana.

## **Ancient Literacy**

## **Rethinking the Mahabharata**

Now and then, we hear about everyday heroes riding to the rescue when they see someone suffering or being harassed. But most bystanders don't intervene. Catherine Sanderson turns to cutting-edge research in social psychology and neuroscience to explain why we so often fail to act and offers practical strategies to nudge us into being brave.

## **Lost Histories**

Covers Vedic period to 12th century.

## **Rethinking India's Past**

This collection of essays examines how "the secular" is constituted and understood, and how new understandings of secularism and religion shape analytic perspectives in the social sciences, politics, and international affairs.

## **The Book Review**

Pertti Alasuutari provides a state-of-the-art summary of the field of audience research. With contributions from Ann Gray, Joke Hermes, John Tulloch and David Morley, a case is presented for a new agenda to account for the role of the media in everyday life.

## **Sur's Ocean**

The ancient Indian Sanskrit tradition produced no text more intriguing, or more persistently misunderstood or underappreciated, than the Mahabharata. Its

intricacies have waylaid generations of scholars and ignited dozens of unresolved debates. In *Rethinking the Mahabharata*, Alf Hildebeitel offers a unique model for understanding the great epic. Employing a wide range of literary and narrative theory, Hildebeitel draws on historical and comparative research in an attempt to discern the spirit and techniques behind the epic's composition. He focuses on the education of Yudhishthira, also known as the Dharma King, and shows how the relationship of this figure to others—especially his author-grandfather Vyasa and his wife Draupadi—provides a thread through the bewildering array of frames and stories embedded within stories. Hildebeitel also offers a revisionist theory regarding the dating and production of the original text and its relation to the Veda. No ordinary reader's guide, this volume will illuminate many mysteries of this enigmatic masterpiece. This work is the fourth volume in Hildebeitel's study of the Draupadi cult. Other volumes include *Mythologies: From Gingee to Kuruksetra (Volume One)*, *On Hindu Ritual and the Goddess (Volume Two)*, and *Rethinking India's Oral and Classical Epics (Volume Three)*.

## **Unfinished Gestures**

Alejandra Dubcovsky maps channels of information exchange in the American South, exploring how colonists came into possession of knowledge in a region that lacked a regular mail system or a printing press until the 1730s. She describes ingenious oral networks, and she uncovers important lessons about the nexus of information and power.

This introductory work proposes a fresh take on the ancient Indian concept dharma. By unfolding how, even in its developments as "law" and custom, dharma participates in nuanced and multifarious understandings of the term that play out in India's great spiritual traditions, the book offers insights into the innovative character of both Hindu and Buddhist usages of the concept. Alf Hildebeitel, in an original approach to early Buddhist usages, explores how the Buddhist canon brought out different meanings of dharma. This is followed by an exposition of the hypothesis that most, if not all, of the Hindu law books flowered after the third-century BC emperor Asoka, a Buddhist, made dharma the guiding principle of an entire realm and culture. A discussion built around the author's expertise on the Sanskrit epics shows how their narratives amplified the new Brahmanical norms and brought out the ethical dilemmas and spiritual teachings that arose from inquiry into dharma. A chapter on the tale of the Life of the Buddha considers the relation between dharma, moksa/nirvana (salvation), and bhakti (devotion). Here, Hildebeitel ties together a thread that runs through the entire story, which is the Buddha's tendency to present dharma as a kind of civil discourse. In this sense, dharma challenges people to think critically or at least more creatively about their ethical principles and the foundations of their own spiritual values. A closing chapter on dharma in the twenty-first century explores its new cachet in an era of globalization, its diasporic

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implications, its openings into American popular culture, some implications for women, and the questions it is still raising for modern India.

## **Is the Goddess a Feminist?**

Anyone who knows India is aware of its sophisticated aesthetic philosophy and equally rich history of making everyday things beautiful. Yet, most Indians, and travellers to India, have also experienced the great contrast between its ingrained beauty and its contemporary ugliness. Towards Ananda examines the many reasons for such a paradox, with particular focus on the visual arts. Unlike most books on Indian art and aesthetics which emphasize the 'glorious past' of the classical traditions, this one is centred on the present and the future—on contemporary art and its place in the emerging global art world. The author explores ancient theories of aesthetics in the light of contemporary challenges, and journeys across the country to distil the complex forces which have shaped Indian aesthetics. He also gives us an overview of Western ideologies and art movements, and their conflict with Eastern perspectives. In the course of the narrative, the author illustrates the application of the aesthetic values of balance, rhythm, harmony and proportionality in art—as also in economics, development strategies, health, education, city planning, architecture, and product design. Though the primary focus is India, the issues discussed, of purpose and practice, content and context, market forces and institutions, extend to all societies that are becoming homogenized by



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globalization. A book that engages the reader both intellectually and emotionally, Towards Ananda is a seamless chain of ideas about the production and consumption of art in modern times. As an insider's view of the art world, it offers valuable insights into how artists see, think and work. And since art can never be separate from the experience of reality, it is also a provocative commentary on the state and society that we are a part of.

## **Rethinking Secularism**

Bringing together Hildebeitel's major essays on the the Mahabharata, the Ramayana, and the south Indian cults of Draupadi and Kirtivarman along with new articles written especially for this collection, this two volume work offers a comprehensive re-reading of the Indian epic tradition by the foremost scholar in Indian epic studies today.

## **Reading the Fifth Veda**

## **Followers of Krishna**

The book is a beautiful narrative of bygone Bundelkhand and verily brings it alive. Based entirely on archaeological remains and epigraphic records of the region, it is an authentic as well as analytical account of Indian's heartland. It defines Bundelkhand tracing the origin of its name and fixing its frontiers in historical perspective. Its social and political formations have been presented with as much

precisions as permitted by the sources, documenting in the process the details of interaction between the Little and Great Traditions. Conceived around the core-theme of Religion, the narrative nowhere separates from contemporary political or social structure and economic life or artistic expression. Sources so far unutilised have been utilises and sites so far unnoticed have been noticed. Incorporating a lot that is worth-recording and remembering about Ancient and Early-Medieval Bundelkhand, the book attempts to cover a period of more than three millennia from the dawn of civilization to the downfall of the Candellas in the fourteenth century A.D. with as many details and as much analysis as can be reasonably accommodated, maintaining the unity of scheme and impression.

## **Ancient Bundelkhand**

History of Ahirs, Indic people.

## **The Cult of Draupadi, Volume 2**

Writing histories of literature means making selections, passing value judgments, and incorporating or rejecting foregoing traditions. The book argues that in many parts of India, literary histories play an important role in creating a cultural ethos. They are closely linked with nationalism in general and various regional 'sub-nationalisms' in particular. The contributors to this volume look at a great variety of aspects of the historiography of modern regional languages of India. Please note:

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## **Living Together Separately**

The sharp contrast between cultures with a monotheistic paternal deity and those with pluralistic maternal deities is a theme of abiding interest in religious studies. Attempts to understand the implications of these two vast organizing principles for religious life lead to an overwhelmingly diverse set of facts and their meanings. In Freud's India, the companion volume to Freud's Mahs-- Sigmund Freud and Girindrasekhar Bose. Hildebeitel examines the attempts of these two men to communicate with and understand each other and these issues in the heated context of emotionally divisive allegiances. The book is elegant in its nuanced attention to these two thinkers and its tightly controlled exploration of what their interactions reveal about their contributions and limitations as representatives of the psychology and religion of their respective cultures. Anxieties about mothers, says Hildebeitel, separate Eastern from Western imaginations. They separate Freud from Bose, and they separate Hindu foundational texts from the foundational texts of Judaism.

## **Indian Review of Books**

\*\*\* In BCL3. A reprint of Chicago's 1973 edition. Treats representations of the king in Indian, Iranian, and Celtic epics, particularly the Mahabharata.

## **Freud's India**

Over half a million Jews entered the U.S. Armed Forces during the Second World War. They joined every branch of the military and saw action on all fronts. Author Moore describes the struggles these GI Jews faced, having to battle not only the enemy but also the prejudices of their fellow soldiers. Through memoirs, oral histories, and letters, Moore charts the lives of fifteen young Jewish men as they faced military service and tried to make sense of its demands. From confronting pork chops to enduring front-line combat, from the temporary solace of Jewish worship to harrowing encounters with death camp survivors, we come to understand how these soldiers wrestled with what it meant to be an American and a Jew. These men challenged perceptions of Jews as simply victims of the war, and encouraged Jews throughout the diaspora to fight for what was right.--From publisher description.

## **Journal of Folklore Research**

The Triumph of the Snake Goddess, a prose translation by the scholar and poet Kaiser Haq, is the first comprehensive retelling of this epic in modern English. Haq's Prologue explores the oral, poetic, and manuscript traditions, and Wendy Doniger's Introduction examines the significance of snake worship in classical Sanskrit texts.

## **The cult of Draupadi**

Surdas, regarded as the epitome of artistry in Old Hindi religious poetry from the end of the sixteenth century to the present, refashioned the narrative of Krishna and his lover Radha into elegant, approachable lyrics. His popularity led to the proliferation, through an energetic oral tradition, of poems ascribed to him, the "S rs gar."

## **The Goddesses' Henchmen**

"With admirable erudition, Lopez-Ruiz brings to life intimacies and exchanges between the ancient Greeks and their Northwest Semitic neighbors, portraying the ancient Mediterranean as a fluid, dynamic contact zone. She explains networks of circulation, shows creative uses of traditional material by peoples in motion, and radically transforms our understanding of ancient cosmogonies."---Page duBois, author of Out of Athens: The New Ancient Greeks --

## **Rethinking the Media Audience**

### **Dharma**

This is the first volume of a projected three-volume work on the little known South Indian folk cult of the

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goddess Draupadi and on the classical epic, the Mahabharata, that the cult brings to life in mythic, ritual and dramatic forms. It focuses on the Draupadi cult's own double mythology, moving from its storieis about Draupadi's 'primal temple' near the capital of the medieval South Indian Kingdom of Gingee to its version of the Mahabharata war on the North Indian plain of Kuruksetra. Throughout, Hildebeitel intertwines 'regional' data, gathered from both oral and written sources, with the 'epic', drawn from the cult's own performative traditions as well as from classical versions of the Mahabharata in both Tamil and Sanskrit. He re-examines many issues critical to Indological studies and takes up them while breaking new ground in investigating the further rapport between the Hindu goddess and the Indian epic. Future volumes will treat the rituals of the Draupadi cult and the Mahabharata as seen through a Draupadi cult retrospective. Contents List of Maps, List of Plates, List of Tables, Preface, Acknowledgements, Conventions, PART I: From Gingee: Introduction: Invocatory Songs to Draupadi, 'The Lady Who Resides in Gingee', The Draupadi Cult: Its Historical and Regional Settings, Social Background, Diffusion, Variation, and Change, The Sources of the Gingee Kingdom: The Living River and the Tree of Gold, Myths of the Melacceri Draupadi Temple, Muttal Ravuttan: Draupadi's Muslim Devotee, PART II: To Kuruksetra: The Draupadi Cult's Mahabharata: An Introduction, The Death of Baka: Prelude to the Drama Cycle, Additional Marriages, The two Sabhas: 'The Rajasuya Sacrifice' and 'Dice Match and Disrobing' , Arjuna's Tapas, Draupadi's Forest Exile and the Period in Disguise: Virapanicali, Puvalicci, and

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Kuravanci, Krsna the Messenger, Aravan's Sacrifice, Pormannan's Fight: Pottu Raja at Kuruksetra, Pormannan's Flight: The War Kings Weapons and Their Mythical Sources, Kuruksetra: The Mahabharata War, When Draupadi Walked on fire, Appendix 1: The Lunar Dynasty from its origins to draupadi's Second Advent at Gingee, Appendix 2. An outline History of Gingee, Abbreviations, Bibliography, Index.

## **When the Gods Were Born**

"A grandson's photo album. Old postcards. English porcelain. A granite headstone. These are just a few of the material objects that help reconstruct the histories of colonial people who lived during Japan's empire. These objects, along with oral histories and visual imagery, reveal aspects of lives that reliance on the colonial archive alone cannot. They help answer the primary question of *Lost Histories*: Is it possible to write the history of Japan's colonial subjects? Kirsten Ziomek contends that it is possible, and in the process she brings us closer to understanding the complexities of their lives. *Lost Histories* provides a geographically and temporally holistic view of the Japanese empire from the early 1900s to the 1970s. The experiences of the four least-examined groups of Japanese colonial subjects—the Ainu, Taiwan's indigenous people, Micronesians, and Okinawans—are the centerpiece of the book. By reconstructing individual life histories and following these people as they crossed colonial borders to the metropolis and beyond, Ziomek conveys the dynamic nature of an empire in motion and explains how individuals

navigated the vagaries of imperial life."

## **Manifest in Words, Written on Paper**

'Unfinished Gestures' presents the social and cultural history of courtesans in South India, focusing on their encounters with colonial modernity in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

## **Towards Ananda**

Throughout India and Southeast Asia, ancient classical epics—the Mahabharata and the Ramayana—continue to exert considerable cultural influence. Rethinking India's Oral and Classical Epics offers an unprecedented exploration into South Asia's regional epic traditions. Using his own fieldwork as a starting point, Alf Hildebeitel analyzes how the oral tradition of the south Indian cult of the goddess Draupadi and five regional martial oral epics compare with one another and tie in with the Sanskrit epics. Drawing on literary theory and cultural studies, he reveals the shared subtexts of the Draupadi cult Mahabharata and the five oral epics, and shows how the traditional plots are twisted and classical characters reshaped to reflect local history and religion. In doing so, Hildebeitel sheds new light on the intertwining oral traditions of medieval Rajput military culture, Dalits ("former Untouchables"), and Muslims. Breathtaking in scope, this work is indispensable for those seeking a deeper understanding of South Asia's Hindu and Muslim traditions. This work is the third volume in Hildebeitel's study of the Draupadi cult.



Other volumes include *Mythologies: From Ginee to Kuruksetra* (Volume One), *On Hindu Ritual and the Goddess* (Volume Two), and *Rethinking the Mahabharata* (Volume Four).

## **Epic India, Or, India as Described in the Mahabharata and the Ramayana**

While a growing private sector and a vibrant civil society can help compensate for the shortcomings of India's public sector, the state is—and will remain—indispensable in delivering basic governance. In *Rethinking Public Institutions in India*, distinguished political and economic thinkers critically assess a diverse array of India's core federal institutions, from the Supreme Court and Parliament to the Election Commission and the civil services. Relying on interdisciplinary approaches and decades of practitioner experience, this volume interrogates the capacity of India's public sector to navigate the far-reaching transformations the country is experiencing. An insightful introduction to the functioning of Indian democracy, it offers a roadmap for carrying out fundamental reforms that will be necessary for India to build a reinvigorated state for the twenty-first century.

## **A Rasa Reader**

It is by telling the stories of their lives that black writers affirm and legitimize their autonomy. So Smith argues in this exploration of the relationship between autobiography and fiction in Afro-American writing.

Smith sees plot construction and characterization as providing these narrators with a measure of authority unknown in their lives.

## **The Triumph of the Snake Goddess**

In India, God can be female. The goddesses of Hinduism and Buddhism represent the largest extant collection of living goddesses anywhere on the planet. Feminists in the West often draw upon South Asian goddesses as theological resources in the contemporary rediscovery of the Goddess. Yet, these goddesses are products of a male supremacist society. What is the impact of powerful female deities--their images, projections, textuality, and history--on the social standing and psychological health of women? Do they empower women, or serve the interests of patriarchal culture? Is the Goddess a Feminist? looks at the goddesses of South Asia to address these questions directly. Not a book about a single goddess or even about a variety of South Asian goddesses, the volume raises questions about images of deities as symbols and the ways in which they function. Contributors discuss contemporary Indian women who have embraced goddesses as spiritually and socially liberating, as well as the seeming contradictions between the power of Indian goddesses and the lives of Indian women. They also explore such topics as the element of male desire in the embodiment of female deities, the question of who speaks for the goddesses, and the politics and theology of Western feminist use of Hindu and Buddhist goddesses as models for their feminist

## **The Power of Stars**

Offers An Exploration Into South Asia`S Regional Epic Traditions. Analysis How The Oral Traditions Of The South India Cult Of The Goddess Draupadi And Five Regional Martial Oral Epics Compare With One Another And Tie In With The Sanskrit Epics. Indispensable For A Deeper Understanding Of South Asia`S Hindu And Muslim Traditions.

## **GI Jews**

This study aims to engage the textual realities of medieval literature by shedding light on the material lives of poems during the Tang, from their initial oral or written instantiation through their often lengthy and twisted paths of circulation. Tang poems exist today in stable written forms assumed to reflect their creators' original intent. Yet Tang poetic culture was based on hand-copied manuscripts and oral performance. We have almost no access to this poetry as it was experienced by contemporaries. This is no trivial matter, the author argues. If we do not understand how Tang people composed, experienced, and transmitted this poetry, we miss something fundamental about the roles of memory and copying in the circulation of poetry as well as readers' dynamic participation in the creation of texts. We learn something different about poems when we examine them, not as literary works transcending any particular physical form, but as objects with distinct

Dalits Religion Postmodernism S By Hiltabreit  
136 1999 05 21 Pararhant  
physical attributes, visual and sonic. The attitudes of the Tang audience toward the stability of texts matter as well. Understanding Tang poetry requires acknowledging that Tang literary culture accepted the conscious revision of these works by authors, readers, and transmitters. 2012 Joseph Levenson Book Prize, Pre-1900 Category, China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies

## **Literature and Nationalist Ideology**

From the early years of the Common Era to 1700, Indian intellectuals explored with unparalleled subtlety the place of emotion in art. Their investigations led to the deconstruction of art's formal structures and broader inquiries into the pleasure of tragic tales. Rasa, or taste, was the word they chose to describe art's aesthetics, and their passionate effort to pin down these phenomena became its own remarkable act of creation. This book is the first in any language to follow the evolution of rasa from its origins in dramaturgical thought—a concept for the stage—to its flourishing in literary thought—a concept for the page. A Rasa Reader incorporates primary texts by every significant thinker on classical Indian aesthetics, many never translated before. The arrangement of the selections captures the intellectual dynamism that has powered this debate for centuries. Headnotes explain the meaning and significance of each text, a comprehensive introduction summarizes major threads in intellectual-historical terms, and critical endnotes and an extensive bibliography add further depth to the

selections. The Sanskrit theory of emotion in art is one of the most sophisticated in the ancient world, a precursor of the work being done today by critics and philosophers of aesthetics. A Rasa Reader's conceptual detail, historical precision, and clarity will appeal to any scholar interested in a full portrait of global intellectual development. A Rasa Reader is the inaugural book in the Historical Sourcebooks in Classical Indian Thought series, edited by Sheldon Pollock. These text-based books guide readers through the most important forms of classical Indian thought, from epistemology, rhetoric, and hermeneutics to astral science, yoga, and medicine. Each volume provides fresh translations of key works, headnotes to contextualize selections, a comprehensive analysis of major lines of development within the discipline, and exegetical and text-critical endnotes, as well as a bibliography. Designed for comparativists and interested general readers, Historical Sourcebooks is also a great resource for advanced scholars seeking authoritative commentary on challenging works.

## **Informed Power**

The subject of this study is in any case the literacy of the Greeks and Romans from the time when the former were first provably able to write a non-syllabic script, in the eighth century B.C., until the fifth century A.D.

## **The Destiny of a King**

The Rajputs ruled the vast majority of the kingdoms that were joined together after Indian independence to form the state of Rajasthan, "Land of Kings." An important part of Rajput religion is the worship of "heroes" who have died in battle. This practice has attained new significance in recent years, as right-wing Hindu activists have deployed narratives about heroism in Rajput wars with Muslim emperors. In this book, Lindsey Harlan explores the idea of the Rajput hero. She is particularly interested in the role played by gender in stories about heroes and in their worship. She looks at the differences between female and male storytellers, the relationships of the hero to the women in his tale, and the relationship of the hero to the goddess for whom he is both sacrifice and henchman. She obtains her materials from interviews with Rajput families and their servants, from songfests, from bystanders at shrines, from ritual specialists. Ultimately she shows how heroic traditions encapsulate and express ideals of perfection and masculinity, defined most visibly against the backdrop of domesticity and femininity. More broadly she argues that heroes reflect ever-changing valuations of history, and serve as sources of inspiration for facing contemporary challenges (domestic, communal, national) and concerns about the future.

## **Rethinking India's Oral and Classical Epics**

Completely revised and updated, this new edition provides a readable, beautifully illustrated journey

through world cultures and the vibrant array of sky mythology, creation stories, models of the universe, temples and skyscrapers that each culture has created to celebrate and respond to the power of the night sky. Sections on the archaeoastronomy of South Asia and South East Asia have been expanded, with original photography and new research on temple alignments in Southern India, and new material describing the astronomical practices of Indonesia, Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries. Beautiful photographs of temples in India and Asia have been added, as well as new diagrams explaining the alignment of these structures and the astronomical underpinnings of temples within the Pallava and Chola cultures. From new fieldwork in the Four Corners region of North America, Dr. Penprase has included accounts of Pueblo skywatching and photographs of ceremonial kivas that help elucidate the rich astronomical knowledge of the Pueblo people. The popular "Archaeoastronomy of Skyscrapers" section of the book has been updated as well, with new interpretations of skyscrapers in Indonesia, Taiwan and China. With the rapid pace of discovery in astronomy and astrophysics, entirely new perspectives are emerging about dark matter, inflation and the future of the universe. The Power of Stars puts these discoveries in context and describes how they fit into the modern perspective of cosmology, which has arisen from the universal human response to the sky that has inspired both ancient and modern cultures.

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