

Discovering The Vedas Origins Mantras Rituals

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this is a remarkable book it untangles the many complexities of the vedas and combines staal's scholarly respect for the texts with explanations that are lucid and occasionally witty his insights are thoughtful and perceptive romila thapar in this unprecedented guide to the vedas frits staal the celebrated author of agni the vedic ritual of the fire altar and universals studies in indian

logic and linguistics examines almost every aspect of these ancient sources of indic civilisation staal extracts concrete information from the oral tradition and archaeology about vedic people and their language what they thought and did and where they went and when he provides essential information about the vedas and includes selections and translations staal sheds light on mantras and rituals that contributed to what came to be known as hinduism significant is a modern analysis of what we can learn from the vedas today the original forms of the vedic sciences as well as the perceptive wisdom of the composers of the vedas the author puts vedic civilisation in a global perspective through a wide ranging comparison with other indic philosophies and religions primarily buddhism for staal originally a logician the voyage of discovering the vedas is like unpeeling an onion but without the certainty of reaching an end even so his book shows that the vedas have a logic all their own accessible finely argued and with a wealth of information and insight discovering the vedas is for both the scholar and the interested lay reader

large state temples in ancient egypt were vast agricultural estates with interests in mining trading and other economic activities the temple itself served as the mansion or palace of the deity to whom the estate belonged and much of the ritual in temples was devoted to offering a representative sample of goods to the gods after ritual performances produce was paid as wages to priests and temple staff and presented as offerings to private mortuary establishments this redistribution became a daily ritual in which many basic necessities of life for elite egyptians were produced this book evaluates the influence of common temple rituals not only on the day to day lives of ancient egyptians but also on their special events economics and politics author katherine eaton argues that a study of these daily rites ought to be the first step in analyzing the structure of more complex societal processes

popularly hinduism is believed to be the world s oldest living religion this claim is based on a continuous reverence to the oldest strata of religious authority within the hindu traditions the vedic corpus which began to be composed more than three thousand years ago around 1750 1200 bce the vedas have been considered by many as the philosophical cornerstone of the brahmanical traditions □stika even previous to the colonial construction of the concept of hinduism however what can be pieced together from the vedic texts is very different from contemporary hindu

religious practices beliefs social norms and political realities this book presents the results of a study of the traditional education and training of brahmins through the traditional system of education called gurukula as observed in 25 contemporary vedic schools across the state of maharashtra this system of education aims to teach brahmin males how to properly recite memorize and ultimately embody the veda this book combines insights from ethnographic and textual analysis to unravel how the recitation of the vedic texts and the vedic traditions as well as the identity of the traditional brahmin in general are transmitted from one generation to the next in contemporary india

this volume is the outcome of a seminar on the history of mathematics held at the chennai mathematical institute during january february 2008 and contains articles based on the talks of distinguished scholars both from the west and from india the topics covered include 1 geometry in the sulvasatras 2 the origins of zero which can be traced to ideas of lopamansi's grammar 3 combinatorial methods in indian music which were developed in the context of prosody and subsequently applied to the study of tonal and rhythmic patterns in music 4 a cross cultural view of the development of negative numbers from brahmagupta c 628 ce to john wallis 1685 ce 5 kunnaka bhavana and cakravala the techniques developed by indian mathematicians for the solution of indeterminate equations 6 the development of calculus in india covering the millennium long history of discoveries culminating in the work of the kerala school giving a complete analysis of the basic calculus of polynomial and trigonometrical functions 7 recursive methods in indian mathematics going back to lopamansi's grammar and culminating in the recursive proofs found in the malayalam text yuktibhāṣya 1530 ce and 8 planetary and lunar models developed by the kerala school of astronomy the articles in this volume cover a substantial portion of the history of indian mathematics and astronomy this book will serve the dual purpose of bringing to the international community a better perspective of the mathematical heritage of india and conveying the message that much work remains to be done namely the study of many unexplored manuscripts still available in libraries in india and abroad

rabbi on the ganges a jewish hindu encounter is the first work to engage the new terrain of hindu jewish religious encounter the book offers understanding into points of contact between the two religions of hinduism and judaism providing an important comparative account the work

illuminates key ideas and practices within the traditions surfacing commonalities between the jnana and torah study karmakanda and jewish ritual and between the different hindu philosophic schools and jewish thought and mysticism along with meditation and the life of prayer and kabbalah and creating dialogue around ritual mediation worship and dietary restrictions the goal of the book is not only to unfold the content of these faith traditions but also to create a religious encounter marked by mutual and reciprocal understanding and openness

four generations of ten families speak about their lives ancestral lineages choices as pandits wives and children ways of coping with an avalanche of changes in modern india they are virtually unrecognized survivors of a 3 700 year old heritage the last in india who perform the ancient animal and soma sacrifices according to vedic tradition

this project aims to conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of a selection of prominent epic literary works from different cultures and time periods by examining the themes narratives cultural contexts and literary techniques used in these epics this study seeks to highlight the universal and unique aspects of epic storytelling across different civilizations the selected epics for analysis include homer s the iliad and the odyssey valmiki s ramayana and virgil s the aeneid the project involves in depth textual analysis historical research and critical interpretation to provide insights into the evolution and significance of epic literature

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Introduction

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