

Hindu Myths Wendy Doniger

Other Peoples' Myths Hindu Myths The Implied Spider The ^A Woman Who Pretended to Be Who She Was Hindu Myths The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology Hindu Myths The Ring of Truth The Mouse and the Myth The Absence of Myth Women, Androgynes, and Other Mythical Beasts Performance and Performativity in Contemporary Indian Fiction in English The Goddess and the Sun in Indian Myth The Bloomsbury Reader in Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion Off with Her Head! Creation Myths of the World Hindu Myths On Hinduism Myth and Knowing: An Introduction to World Mythology Transformations of Myth Through Time Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger O' Flaherty Doniger Dorene Koehler Sophia Heller Wendy Doniger Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru Raj Balkaran Sarah J. Bloesch Howard Eilberg-Schwartz David A. Leeming Wendy Doniger Scott A. Leonard Harcourt Brace & Co

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other people s myths celebrates the universal art of storytelling and the rich diversity of stories that people live by drawing on biblical parables greek myths hindu epics and the modern mythologies of woody allen and soap operas wendy doniger o flaherty encourages us to feel anew the force of myth and tradition in our lives and in the lives of other cultures she shows how the stories of mythology whether of greek gods chinese sages or polish rabbis enable all cultures to define themselves she raises critical questions about the way we

interpret mythical stories especially the way different cultures make use of central texts and traditions and she offers a sophisticated way of looking at the roles myths play in all cultures

recorded in sacred sanskrit texts including the rig veda and the mahabharata hindu myths are thought to date back as far as the tenth century bce here in these seventy five seminal myths are the many incarnations of vishnu who saves mankind from destruction and the mischievous child krishna alongside stories of the minor gods demons rivers and animals including boars buffalo serpents and monkeys immensely varied and bursting with colour and life they demonstrate the hindu belief in the limitless possibilities of the world from the teeming miracles of creation to the origins of the incarnation of death who eventually touches them all

wendy doniger's foundational study is both modern in its engagement with a diverse range of religions and refreshingly classic in its transhistorical cross cultural approach by responsibly analyzing patterns and themes across context doniger reinvigorates the comparative reading of religion tapping into a wealth of narrative traditions from the instructive tales of judaism and christianity to the moral lessons of the bhagavad gita she extracts political meaning from a variety of texts while respecting the original ideas of each a new preface confronts the difficulty of contextualizing the comparison of religions as well as controversies over choosing subjects and positioning arguments and the text itself is expanded and updated throughout

many cultures have myths about self imitation stories about people who pretend to be someone else pretending to be them in effect masquerading as themselves this great theme in literature and in life tells us that people put on masks to discover who they really are under the masks they usually wear so that the mask reveals rather than conceals the self beneath the self in this book noted scholar of hinduism and mythology wendy doniger offers a cross cultural exploration of the theme of self impersonation whose widespread occurrence argues for both its literary power and its human value the stories she considers range from ancient indian literature through medieval european courtly literature and shakespeare to hollywood and bollywood they illuminate a basic human way of negotiating reality illusion identity and authenticity not to mention memory amnesia and the process of aging many of them involve marriage and adultery for tales of sexual betrayal cut to the heart of the crisis of identity these stories are extreme examples of what we common folk do unconsciously

every day few of us actually put on masks that replicate our faces but it is not uncommon for us to become travesties of ourselves particularly as we age and change we often slip carelessly across the permeable boundary between the un self conscious self indulgence of our most idiosyncratic mannerisms and the conscious attempt to give the people who know us personally or publicly the version of ourselves that they expect myths of self imitation open up for us the possibility of multiple selves and the infinite regress of self discovery drawing on a dizzying array of tales some fact some fiction the woman who pretended to be who she was is a fascinating and learned trip through centuries of culture guided by a scholar of incomparable wit and erudition

this work deals at length with various theories about religion prevalent at the time when megasthenes visited india very interesting and scholarly views have been put forth regarding investigations of megasthenes their reliability and the reliability of his reporters

these tales of hindu gods and demons express in vivid symbols the metaphysical insights of ancient indian priests and poets this selection and translation of seventy five seminal myths spans the wide range of classical indian sources from the serpent slaying indra of the vedas c 1200 bc to the medieval pantheon mdash the phallic and ascetic siva the maternal and bloodthirsty goddess the mischievous child krishna the other avatars of vishnu and the many minor gods demons rivers and animals sacred to hinduism the traditional themes of life and death are set forth and interwoven with many complex variations which give a kaleidoscopic picture of the development of almost three thousand years of indian mythology nbsp

upholds a disney vacation as a religious experience offers insightful arguments relating to the nature of play as well as nietzschean philosophy reading religion rituals mark significant moments in our lives perhaps none more significant than moments of lightheartedness joy and play rituals of play are among the most sacred of any of the rites in which humanity may engage although we may fail to recognize them they are always present in culture providing a kind of psychological release for their participants child and adult alike disneyland is an example of the kind of container necessary for the construction of rituals of play this work explores the original disney theme park in anaheim as a temple cult it challenges the disciplines of mythological studies religious studies film studies and depth psychology to broaden traditional definitions of the kind of cultural apparatus that constitute temple culture and ritual it does so by suggesting that hollywood s entertainment industry has developed a

platform for mythic ritual after setting the ritualized stage this book turns to the practices in disneyland proper analyzing the patron s traditions within the framework of the park and beyond it explores disneyland s spectacles through selected shows and parades and concludes with an exploration of the park s participation in ritual renewal there is much to commend in koehler s study surely her work should encourage others to examine myth construction and sacred secular rituals in popular culture h celebration

in this provocative work sophia heller challenges the assumption that we cannot be without myth that myth is necessary to vital soulful living indeed heller argues we have been living in a world without myth for a long time the absence of myth examines the loss of a religious mode of being in the world and demonstrates how theorists who insist on the presence of myth deny its historical end absence of myth may seem obvious evidenced by our lack of cult and ritual and by our de animated natural world as well as in the emergence of conceptual thought and psychological awareness which could only arise with the dissolution of a prereflective mythic mode of being in the world but what appears to be straightforward becomes complicated when myth is intentionally conflated with thought and reflection usually in the attempt to cultivate a mythic consciousness that aims to restore meaning to life and assuage the spiritual malaise of contemporary culture myth cannot rest in peace it must be continually unearthed redefined and recontextualized such that modern and postmodern notions of myth are made to substitute for something that has never been experienced only imagined

an important provocative and original work of great interest to indian scholars historians of religions psychologists and historians of ideas but accessible also to the cultivated reader even if one does not always agree with the author s interpretation one cannot but admire her vast and precise learning her splendid translations and exegesis of so many and so different sanskrit texts and her uninhibited brilliant and witty prose mircea eliade university of chicago this is a book which is as rich in detail as the carvings of the great hindu temples it shares with them a delight in the interplay of myth and mundane experience and above all an empathy with the hindu preoccupation with the meaning of human existence in all its complexity g m carstairs times literary supplement

this book starts with a consideration of a 1997 issue of the new yorker that celebrated fifty years of indian independence and goes on to explore the development of a pattern of

performance and performativity in contemporary indian fiction in english salman rushdie arundhati roy and vikram chandra such fiction which constructs identity through performative acts is built around a nomadic understanding of the self and implies an evolution of narrative language towards performativity whereby the text itself becomes nomadic a comparison with theatrical performance peter brook s mahabharata and girish karnad s theatre of roots serves to support the argument that in both theatre and fiction the concepts of performance and performativity transform classical indian mythic poetics in the mythic symbiosis of performance and storytelling in indian tradition within a cyclical pattern of estrangement from and return to the motherland and or its traditions myth becomes a liberating space of consciousness where rigid categories and boundaries are transcended

in analyzing the parallels between myths glorifying the indian great goddess durgā and those glorifying the sun sūrya found in the mārkaṇḍeya purāṇa this book argues for an ideological ecosystem at work in the mārkaṇḍeya purāṇa privileging worldly values of which indian kings the goddess devī the sun sūrya manu and mārkaṇḍeya himself are paragons this book features a salient discovery in sanskrit narrative text just as the mārkaṇḍeya purāṇa houses the devī mātmya glorifying the supremacy of the indian great goddess durgā it also houses a sūrya mātmya glorifying the supremacy of the sun sūrya in much the same manner this book argues that these mātmyas were meaningfully and purposefully positioned in the mārkaṇḍeya purāṇa while previous scholarship has considered this haphazard interpolation for sectarian aims the book demonstrates that deliberate compositional strategies make up the saura Śākta symbiosis found in these mirrored mātmyas moreover the author explores what he calls the dharmic double helix of brahmanism most explicitly articulated by the structural opposition between pravṛtti worldly and nivṛtti other worldly dharmas as the first narrative study of the sūrya mātmya along with the first study of the mārkaṇḍeya purāṇa or any purāṇa as a narrative whole this book will be of interest to academics in the field of religion hindu studies south asian studies goddess studies narrative theory and comparative mythology

this is the first reader to gather primary sources from influential theorists of the late 20th and early 21st centuries in one place presenting the wide ranging and nuanced theoretical debates occurring in the field of religious studies each chapter focuses on a major theorist and contains an introduction contextualizing their key ideas one or two selections representative of the theorist s innovative methodological approach es discussion questions to

extend and deepen reader engagement divided in three sections the first part includes foundational comparative debates mary douglas s articulation of purity and impurity phyllis tribble s methods of reading sacred texts wendy doniger s comparative mythology catherine bell s reimagining of religious and secular ritual the second part focuses on methodological particularity alice walker s use of narrative charles long s critique of eurocentricism caroline walker bynum s emphasis on gender and materiality the third section focuses on expanding boundaries gloria anzaldúa s work on borders and languages judith butler s critique of gender and sex norms saba mahmood s expansion on the critique of colonialism s secularizing demands reflecting the cultural turn and extending the existing canon this is the anthology instructors have been waiting for for further detail on the theorists discussed please consult cultural approaches to studying religion an introduction to theories and methods edited by sarah j bloesch and meredith minister

explores the theme that women are objectified as sexual and reproductive bodies by symbolic beheading in myths and by such practices as veiling head coverings and cosmetic highlighting shows how women s heads link them to speech identity and mind all characteristics classically reserved for men and how beheading women reduces them to mute and anonymous flesh most of the examples are drawn from oriental classical greek and roman and early christian contexts but some modern cases are also examined the seven essays were presented at a panel of the american academy of religion date and place not noted annotation copyright by book news inc portland or

the most comprehensive resource available on creation myths from around the world their narratives themes motifs similarities and differences and what they reveal about their cultures of origin abc clio s breakthrough reference work on creation beliefs from around the world returns in a richly updated and expanded new edition from the garden of eden to the female creators of acoma indians to the rival creators of the basonge tribe in the congo creation myths of the world an encyclopedia second edition examines how different cultures explain the origins of their existence expanded into two volumes the new edition of creation myths of the world begins with introductory essays on the five basic types of creation stories analyzing their nature and significance following are over 200 creation myths each introduced with a brief discussion of its culture of origin at the core of the new edition is its enhanced focus on creation mythology as a global human phenomenon with greatly expanded coverage of recurring motifs comparative themes the influence of geography the

social impact of myths and more

in this magisterial volume of essays wendy doniger enhances our understanding of the ancient and complex religion to which she has devoted herself for half a century this series of interconnected essays and lectures surveys the most critically important and hotly contested issues in hinduism over 3 500 years from the ancient time of the vedas to the present day the essays contemplate the nature of hinduism hindu concepts of divinity attitudes concerning gender control and desire the question of reality and illusion and the impermanent and the eternal in the two great sanskrit epics the ramayana and the mahabharata among the questions doniger considers are are hindus monotheists or polytheists how can atheists be hindu and how can unrepentant hindu sinners find salvation why have hindus devoted so much attention to the psychology of addiction what does the significance of dogs and cows tell us about hinduism how have hindu concepts of death rebirth and karma changed over the course of history how and why does a pluralistic faith remarkable for its intellectual tolerance foster religious intolerance doniger concludes with four concise autobiographical essays in which she reflects on her lifetime of scholarship hindu criticism of her work and the influence of hinduism on her own philosophy of life on hinduism is the culmination of over forty years of scholarship from a renowned expert on one of the world s great faiths

myth and knowing is by far the most comprehensive world mythology textbook the text reader format provides both jargon free discussions of current themes and thinkers in the ongoing scholarly conversation about myth and a broad selection of complete myths chosen for literary merit and the cultural sensitivity of their translations rather than being genre driven the book emphasizes the psychological religious and cultural meanings of myth presenting these with the intent of fostering in students a love of literature

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