

# Hindu Myths Wendy Doniger

Hindu MythsOther Peoples' MythsThe Implied SpiderHindu MythsThe ^AWoman Who Pretended to Be Who She WasSplitting the DifferenceHindu MythsOff with Her Head!The Absence of MythThe HindusThe Mouse and the MythPerformance and Performativity in Contemporary Indian Fiction in EnglishThe Bloomsbury Reader in Cultural Approaches to the Study of ReligionThe Donigers of Great NeckThe Ring of TruthMyth and Knowing: An Introduction to World MythologyMyths of CreationThe Origins of Evil in Hindu MythologyThe Myth ConnectionMyth Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Wendy Doniger Howard Eilberg–Schwartz Sophia Heller Wendy Doniger Dorene Koehler Maria–Sabina Draga Alexandru Sarah J. Bloesch Wendy Doniger Doniger Scott A. Leonard Sindhu S. Dange Wendy Doniger Chitra Sankaran William G. Doty

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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

a widely acclaimed work celebrating the art of storytelling using examples from biblical parables to woody allen wendy doniger o flaherty enchants her readers into rediscovering the forces of myths and traditions in their own lives reopening the american mind to a new understanding of itself and its world

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

hindu and greek mythologies teem with stories of women and men who are doubled this text recounts and compares a range of these the comparisons show that differences in gender are more significant than differences in culture

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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

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 engrossing and definitive narrative account of history and myth that offers a new way of understanding one of the world's oldest major religions the hindus elucidates the relationship between recorded history and imaginary worlds the hindus brings a fascinating multiplicity of actors and stories to the stage to show how brilliant and creative thinkers have kept hinduism alive in ways that other scholars have not fully explored in this unique and authoritative account debates about hindu traditions become platforms to consider history as a whole

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

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

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 trible 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

this is the story of the contrasting judaisms that wendy doniger s two parents brought from their very different homes in europe during world war i of their paths to a shared but sharply bifurcated life in america during world war ii her father a publisher her mother a political activist and of the ways in which their attitudes to religion in general and judaism in particular influenced the author s development as a jewish woman and a scholar of religion

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

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

a type of folklore myth is central to all cultures written by a leading authority and of use to high school students undergraduates and general readers this reference offers a convenient overview of the role of myth around the world the volume defines and classifies types of myth and provides examples from different cultural traditions it then overviews various approaches to studying myth this is followed by a look at myth in relation to its contexts such as religion politics and popular culture the volume closes with a bibliography of print and electronic resources and a glossary

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