

Hinduism Sacred Texts Vedas Upanishads Agamas Puranas

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Explore the foundational sacred texts of Hinduism, including the revered Vedas, philosophical Upanishads, ritualistic Agamas, and narrative Puranas, which collectively illuminate the rich spiritual heritage and practices of this ancient tradition.

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Hinduism Sacred Texts

Your essential guide to the Vedas When were the Vedas written, and why? Who were the people who composed them? Where did they come from, how did they live? Questions, conjectures and debates go hand in hand with the Vedas, the sacred keystone texts of Hinduism. Now, noted historian Roshen Dalal sifts through centuries of information and research to present, in a straightforward and succinct manner, an account of the Vedas that is authoritative yet accessible, thus appealing to both scholars and lay readers. In this book, key insights into the Vedas are complemented by a celebration of the poetry that lies within the texts. Using socio-economic data and archaeological and linguistic research, the author introduces us to the Vedic era, enabling us to understand the culture and philosophy that produced these ancient and sublime texts. • Based on original research and numerous authoritative sources, including auxiliary texts and early commentaries • Appendices featuring selected hymns from all four Vedas, and listing all the hymns that make up the Rig Veda • Conveniently cross-referenced with a wealth of information

The Vedas

"Hindu scriptures" presents a collection of traditional Hindu texts in English translation. The ancient scriptures of Hinduism are in Sanskrit. These texts are classified into two: Shruti and Smriti. Shruti is apauruey, "not made of a man" but revealed to the rishis (seers), and regarded as having the highest authority, while the smriti are manmade and have secondary authority. They are the two highest sources of dharma, the other two being ia chra/Sadchara (conduct of noble people) and finally tma tui ("what is pleasing to oneself"). Hindu scriptures were composed, memorized and transmitted verbally, across generations, for many centuries before they were written down. Over many centuries, sages refined

the teachings and expanded the Shruti and Smriti, as well as developed Shastras with epistemological and metaphysical theories of six classical schools of Hinduism. Shruti (lit. that which is heard) primarily refers to the Vedas, which form the earliest record of the Hindu scriptures, and are regarded as eternal truths revealed to the ancient sages (rishis). There are four Vedas Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda. Each Veda has been subclassified into four major text types the Samhitas (mantras and benedictions), the Aranyakas (text on rituals, ceremonies, sacrifices and symbolic-sacrifices), the Brahmanas (commentaries on rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices), and the Upanishads (text discussing meditation, philosophy and spiritual knowledge). The first two parts of the Vedas were subsequently called the Karmaka (ritualistic portion), while the last two form the Jnaka (knowledge portion, discussing spiritual insight and philosophical teachings). The Upanishads are the foundation of Hindu philosophical thought, and have profoundly influenced diverse traditions. Of the Shrutis (Vedic corpus), they alone are widely influential among Hindus, considered scriptures par excellence of Hinduism, and their central ideas have continued to influence its thoughts and traditions. The Upanishads have played a major role ever since their appearance. There are 108 Mukti Upanishads in Hinduism, of which between 10 and 13 are variously counted by scholars as Principal Upanishads. The most notable of the Smritis ("remembered") are the Hindu epics and the Puranas. The epics consist of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. The Bhagavad Gita is an integral part of the Mahabharata and one of the most popular sacred texts of Hinduism. It is sometimes called Gitopanishad, then placed in the Shruti ("heard") category, being Upanishadic in content. The Puranas, which started to be composed from c. 300 CE onward, contain extensive mythologies, and are central in the distribution of common themes of Hinduism through vivid narratives. The Yoga Sutras is a classical text for the Hindu Yoga tradition, which gained a renewed popularity in the 20th century. Since the 19th-century Indian modernists have re-asserted the 'Aryan origins' of Hinduism, "purifying" Hinduism from its Tantric elements and elevating the Vedic elements. Hindu modernists like Vivekananda see the Vedas as the laws of the spiritual world, which would still exist even if they were not revealed to the sages. In Tantric tradition, the Agamas refer to authoritative scriptures or the teachings of Shiva to Shakti, while Nigamas refers to the Vedas and the teachings of Shakti to Shiva. In Agamic schools of Hinduism, the Vedic literature and the Agamas are equally authoritative.

Hindu Scriptures

India has emerged as the oldest continuous civilization on earth. The culture of the ancient people of India was the 'arya' culture. The Hindu religion and all its subsidiaries have evolved from this arya culture. Hinduism has the most amount of sacred material than any other religion. The ancient sacred Hindu scriptures include the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, Manu-smriti, Vishnu Purana, Darshanas, and Brahma-shastras. These scriptures are explained in detail in this book. Other texts, such as, Veda Samhitas, Chanting methods, Vedangas, Yuga, Pralaya, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, Yoga methods, Tantra, and Shivashtikas are briefly explained. It is a comprehensive book, it includes a useful glossary at the end. Anyone who wishes to know more about Hinduism and its scriptures should have this book.

Hindu Scriptures

The Vedas are the eternal source of knowledge from which all the other Hindu Scriptures originated. When we say eternal books of knowledge, it carries a sense of oneness with the Supreme Lord. Scriptures are the holy books of a religion that are pious and revered. All the religions in the world have one scripture each whereas Hinduism has many Scriptures. Hindu scriptures are divided into Shruti and Smriti. The Shruti is the primary authority and the Smriti is the secondary. The Shruti literally means what is heard. The great rishis of yore heard the eternal truth which was later compiled by the great rishi Veda Vyasa in the four Vedas - Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda. Smritis on the other hand include Itihasas or epics, Puranas or chronicles, Agamas or the manuals of worship and Darshanas or the schools of philosophy. All these are the supreme books of human knowledge and form the foundation of Hindu religion.

Indian Scriptures

Reserve your copy today. Save 20% by ordering before March 15 "In this excellent work on the Puranas, Dr. Srinivasan has again made the highly complex and sophisticated literature of an equally complex and sophisticated culture accessible to the contemporary reader. He has a gift for communicating complex ideas in a way that makes them clear and easy to grasp, but does so without losing sight of their inherent complexity." Jeffery D. Long, Professor of Religion and Asian Studies, Elizabethtown College

The Puranas: A Magnifying Glass for Vedic Wisdom

Hinduism is unique in the sense that, not only it is the most ancient continuously practiced religion, but also has the most amount of sacred material than any other religion. The sacred Hindu scriptures are placed into three categories, namely Shruti, Smriti, and a subsidiary category. Shruti scriptures are the Vedas including the Upanishads. Shruti texts are the most sacred Hindu scriptures. A brief review of the Shruti scriptures is given in another of my books. This book is a brief review of the Smriti texts and the subsidiary category texts. Smriti means what is remembered. The scriptures belonging to smriti category have secondary authority only. There is a multitude of smriti texts. The main scriptures that come under smriti texts are: The two great epics Ramayana and Mahabharata (Bhagavad-Gita is part of Mahabharata), Puranas, and Dharma Shastras. The subsidiary category includes Darshanas, Tantras, and Shivagamas. Darshanas are the six philosophical systems that are based on the Vedas and developed by six sages. The Darshana scriptures are called Dharma-sutras. The most famous of the sutras is the Brahma-sutras. Another set of scriptures, parallel to the Vedic scriptures, is called Tantra. The Tantric literature mainly consists that of Shaktism. Shivagamas are the basic scriptures of the Shaivas. In this second edition book, new articles have been included, Vishnu Purana has been vastly expanded, and many other articles have been improved.

A Journey Through Hindu Scriptures: Bhagavad-Gita, Puranas, Manu-Smriti, Brahma-Sutras, Darshanas, Tantra, and Shivagama

Hindu Scriptures is a unique collection of Hindu texts spanning more than twenty centuries. Two anthologies entitled Hindu Scriptures have previously appeared in the Everyman series alone, that of Nicol MacNicol in 1938 and that of Professor R.C. Zaehner in 1966. This present title is the enlarged edition of R.C. Zaehner's anthology, with the addition of three fresh translations, its broad range includes arcane hymns of the ancient Aryans, a manual of prescriptions governing every aspect of the daily life of the orthodox, and rich poetry that describes with heady sensuality the dalliance of Krsna and the cowherd women of Vraja in the nights of the autumn moon. The texts are arranged in chronological order and the Introduction explains the reasons for their inclusion, sets them in context, and briefly characterizes their contents.

Hindu Scriptures

Wisdom from Ages contains selected articles from Hindu Scriptures. The ancient Hindu Scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas, Bhagavad Gita, Shrimad Bhagavata, etc., are the very foundation of Hindu spiritual tradition. The Vedas house the earliest poetry and prose literature and incorporate a vast body of Sanskrit poetry, ritual treatises, dialogues, and philosophical discourses, which are the oldest surviving literature of India and among the oldest literature anywhere in the world. They have no date or human author. They were composed over a period of many centuries by inspired Seers or Rishis. A spirit of enquiry dominated the minds of the Sages and they were urged by a compelling thirst for Truth of the secret of the Universe.

Wisdom from the Ages

The Upanishads represent the loftiest heights of ancient Indo-Aryan thought and culture. They form the wisdom portion or Gnana-Kanda of the Vedas, as contrasted with the Karma-Kanda or sacrificial portion. In each of the four great Vedas-known as Rik, Yajur, Sama and Atharva-there is a large portion which deals predominantly with rituals and ceremonials, and which has for its aim to show man how by the path of right action he may prepare himself for higher attainment. Following this in each Veda is another portion called the Upanishad, which deals wholly with the essentials of philosophic discrimination and ultimate spiritual vision. For this reason the Upanishads are known as the Vedanta, that is, the end or final goal of wisdom (Veda, wisdom; anta, end)

The Upanishads

Hinduism is unique in the sense that, not only it is the most ancient continuously practiced religion, but also has the most amount of sacred material than any other religion. The sacred Hindu scriptures are placed into three categories, namely Shruti, Smriti, and a subsidiary category. Shruti scriptures are the Vedas including the Upanishads. Shruti texts are the most sacred Hindu scriptures. A brief review of the Shruti scriptures is given in another of my books. This book is a brief review of the Smriti texts and the subsidiary category texts. Smriti means what is remembered. The scriptures belonging to smriti category have secondary authority only. There is a multitude of smriti texts. The main scriptures that come under smriti texts are: The two great epics Ramayana and Mahabharata (Bhagavad-Gita is

part of Mahabharata), Puranas, and Dharma Shastras. The subsidiary category includes Dharshanas, Tantras, and Shivagamas. Dharshanas are the six philosophical systems that are based on the Vedas and developed by six sages. The Dharshana scriptures are called Dharma-sutras. The most famous of the sutras is the Brahma-sutras. Another set of scriptures, parallel to the Vedic scriptures, is called Tantra. The Tantric literature mainly consists that of Shaktism. Shivagamas are the basic scriptures of the Shaivas.

A Journey Through Hindu Scriptures

Hinduism is an ancient religion, philosophy and way of life. Unlike other great religions that are based on a small set of books, there are hundreds of texts in Hinduism, most of which are very voluminous. They span not merely centuries, but millennia. And most importantly, these ancient scriptures are all in Sanskrit which many do not know. Therefore for a beginner with an interest in Hinduism it is a daunting task as you don't know where to start such a study. In *The Essentials of Hinduism*, Trilochan Sastry unpacks all the ancient texts from the Vedas to the epics covering the entire range of scriptures and everything you need to know about them in an easy-to-read and accessible way making it of special interest to Hindus and those from other religions and nations, and even those who are agnostic or atheistic.

Textual Sources for the Study of Hinduism

Hinduism is unique in the sense that, not only it is the most ancient continuously practiced religion, but also has the most amount of sacred material than any other religion. The sacred Hindu scriptures are placed into three categories, namely Shruti, Smriti, and a subsidiary category. Shruti means what is heard. They contain the ever present divine revelations. Shruti scriptures are the Vedas which consist of the samhita parts of Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda, and the appendages of the Vedas, namely, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and the Upanishads. Shruti texts are the most sacred Hindu scriptures. A brief review of the Shruti scriptures is given in this present book. In this fifth edition book, a new article has been included, and many of the articles have been modified and improved.

The Essentials of Hinduism

What This Book Aims To Achieve Is To Su-Ess, Contrary To Conventional Belief, The Striking Similarity Of Expression And The Unity Of Ap- Proach In The Holy Texts Of The Major Reli- Gions Of The World, Separated By Centuries. On The Major Issues Concerning God And Man, Passages Have Been Presented From The Upanishads And The Bible, Side By Side So That Even The Cursory Reader Can Appreciate The Identity Of Thought And Expression In The Two Scriptures. The Upanishads And The Bible Dispels The Prevalent Misconception That Hinduism Is A Poly- Theistic Religion. The Upanishads Not Only Proclaim That There Is Only One God, But Also Su-Ess The Omnipresence And Immanence Of Cpd, Reminding Us Of The Famous Words Of Jesus Christ That: The Kingdom Of God Is Within You. As The Passages Quoted In The Book Illustrate, Both The Upanishads And The Bible Sing The Praises Of God, The Bountiful Creator, God, The Eternal, The Glorious, The Inscrutable, The Omnipotent, Omniscient, Supreme One, Who Is Spirit, Seer, Self, Soul As Also The Truth And The Word. They Also Offer Similar Guidelines For Prayer, Purification And God-Realization. In A World Tom By Strife Based On Religion And Creed, This Book Su-Esses The Unity Of Approach In Man'S Search Of The Spirit, In The Two Major Religions Of The World.

A Journey Through Sacred Hindu Scriptures: The Vedas and the Upanishads

The Bagavad Gita is a conversation between Lord Krishna and the Pandava prince Arjuna taking place on the battlefield before the start of the Kurukshetra War. Responding to Arjuna's confusion and moral dilemma about fighting his own cousins, Lord Krishna explains to Arjuna his duties as a warrior and prince, and elaborates on different Yogic and Vedantic philosophies, with examples and analogies. This has led to the Gita often being described as a concise guide to Hindu theology and also as a practical, self-contained guide to life. During the discourse, Lord Krishna reveals His identity as the Supreme Being Himself (Svayam Bhagavan), blessing Arjuna with an awe-inspiring vision of His divine universal form. Two words that are of paramount importance in grasping the Upanishads are Brahman and Atman. The Brahman is the universal spirit and the Atman is the individual Self. Differing opinions exist amongst scholars regarding the etymology of these words. Brahman comes from the root brh which means "The Biggest The Greatest The ALL." Brahman is "the infinite Spirit Source and fabric and core and destiny of all existence, both manifested and unmanifested and the formless infinite substratum

and from whom the universe has grown." Brahman is the ultimate, both transcendent and immanent, the absolute infinite existence, the sum total of all that ever is, was, or shall be. The word Atman means the immortal perfect Spirit of any living creature, being, including trees etc. The idea put forth by the Upanishadic seers that Atman and Brahman are One and the same is one of the greatest contributions made to the thought of the world. The Rigveda is an ancient Indian sacred collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns. It is counted among the four canonical sacred texts of Hinduism known as the Vedas. Some of its verses are still recited as Hindu prayers, at religious functions and other occasions, putting these among the world's oldest religious texts in continued use. The Rigveda contains several mythological and poetical accounts of the origin of the world, hymns praising the gods, and ancient prayers for life, prosperity, etc.

The Upanishads and the Bible

Providing a wire-frame for the juxtaposition of the hoary sacred texts of Hinduism, the book offers a first acquaintance with them in a simplistic and authentic way -- all peppered with bite-sized excerpts ranging from the holy Vedas to the Puranic tales along with meaningful insights that whet the appetite.

A Book of Hindu Scriptures

Includes English traslation of selected verses from four Vedas.

The Upanishads

The Focus Of This Book Is On The Essential Beliefs Of The Hindu Religion; It Introduces The Reader To The Vedas Including Sanskrit To English Translation Of Mantras. The Book Also Focuses On Spiritual Aspects Of The Raj Yoga, Definitions Of Certain Words Like Mantra, Karma, Etc.

MEET THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES OF HINDUISM

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The Vedas

One of the most stupendous manifestations of the Spirit is undoubtedly that which has been handed down to us under the generic name of the Vedas. The Vedas are still too much neglected not only in the world at large but also in their country of origin. this Vedic anthology will make direct and fruitful knowledge of the Vedas available to a wider range of people than the small elite of pandits and Indologists. This anthology collects the most crucial texts of the Indian Sacred Scriptures--in all more than 500--newly translated into contemporary English. Dr. Panikkar`s principle has been to select and place together texts so as to offer a selection of texts that cover the full range of `The Vedic Experience` and at the same time to show how they manifest the universal rhythms of nature, history, and Man. Excerpts are taken from the oldest hymns, such as the Rig Veda; from the Brahmanas, the Aranyakas, or Forest Treatises, and finally the Upanishads, which represent the mystical and philosophical culmination of the Vedas. This is a book for meditation, for reading, public and private, as well as for thorough study at this wellspring of human wisdom. It should, moreover, facilitate that meeting of East and West so long desired and delayed, and now so imperative.

The Essence of the Hindu Religion

Composed in Sanskrit between 900 and 600 BC, the Upanishads are man's oldest works of philosophy. The translations presented here are the oldest and most important of those that exist.

A Journey Through Sacred Hindu Scriptures

A concise introduction to one of the world's great religions, this book explores the complexities of the Hindu pantheon and relates it to the classical schools of Hindu philosophy. Outlining the historical and geographical background to Hinduism, the book introduces the reader to the classic texts of Hinduism - the Vedas and the Upanishads - as well as its great epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. Concluding with a survey of Hindu culture, including marriage and burial customs, the caste system and festivals, the book aims to explain Hinduism's place in the modern world.

The Vedic Experience

This book is primarily about the Rgveda, the avowed source text of all Hindu religious texts. It is a collection of 1028 mostly unrelated hymns. The language in which it is composed is known as 'Vedic', from which Sanskrit is believed to have evolved later. About a fifth of the poems are prayers addressed to what could be 'Nature Gods'. Others cover a motley of subjects. About fifteen of these hymns relates to cosmogony, but differing in essentials. Vedic clearly belongs to the Indo-European language family. Apart from many cognate words that are common in all these languages, many of the stories mentioned in the Rgveda have a strong resemblance to mythologies in the other languages of the family; not just to the Zoroastrian ones, but also to those of Greek, Celtic, Nordic, Slavic, Hittite and others. Origin of Vedas also discusses a wide range of issues related to the origin and expansion of the Indo-European language family. The author has managed to collect together a lot of information about the Rgveda; some of which most would not have heard about earlier. Those interested in these may go through chapter 4 and 9.

The Atharva-Veda Described

Vedanta is the most encompassing and open of the six orthodox systems of Hinduism and is considered the quintessence of Eastern thought and mysticism. An important part of modern intellectual Hinduism, Vedanta is often regarded as a truly universal religion and had many adherents in the West. At the center of Vedanta lie the texts of the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. Beginning with the premise that man is a divine being whose greatest source of strength is his intuition, Vedanta seeks not merely the accumulation of knowledge, but rather the annihilation of all knowledge. Its goal is an unclouded inner world that will allow us to exist untroubled by the complexity of the outside world. For those interested in the concise and intelligent overview, as well as those who seek a better understanding of what is at the heart of Hinduism, Vedanta is a unique and thought-provoking guide.

Upanishads

The Most Sacred Book Of The Hindu And Part Of Sacred Books Of The East Series.

Philosophical Foundations of Hinduism

Religion, a set of organized beliefs, practices, and systems that relate to the worship of a controlling force, plays a crucial role in contemporary society. True doctrines of each religion lead us to become spiritual in nature which, in turn, propels us towards promoting the well-being of humanity. Therefore, integrating religion, spirituality, and humanity can cultivate and promote a focus on living consciously, harmoniously, and righteously. Shawn Paul blends science, social science, and spiritual science into a format of practical living based on human ideals and values to present a well-balanced view of each major religion. He not only examines the limitations of organized religious practices, but also highlights the true doctrines of each faith and their significance in human lives. While logically critiquing traditional religious practices, their significance and limitations, and the way they impact society, Paul also summarizes major themes and corresponding holy verses while encouraging compassion, peace, and love through spiritual consciousness and service to humanity. Religions, Spirituality, and Humanity shares a comprehensive examination of organized religious practices and their significance that inspires a harmonious life of personal fulfillment focused on contributing to the greater good and a peaceful coexistence.

The Book of the Vedas

Sri Aurobindo has unlocked the secret of the Rig Veda and in this book he has provided the translations for all hymns to Agni, the mystic fire, from the Rig Veda. Included for reference are the actual Sanskrit texts for each hymn. The "Doctrine of the Mystics" reveals the underlying philosophical, psychological

and spiritual truths experienced by the sages. This book is for the seeker, the yogi, and the sage as well as the philosopher or student of comparative religion.

Origin of Vedas

The Upanishads are sometimes referred to as Vedanta, variously interpreted to mean either the "last chapters, parts of the Veda" or "the object, the highest purpose of the Veda". The concepts of Brahman (Ultimate Reality) and Atman (Soul, Self) are central ideas in all the Upanishads, and "Know your Atman" their thematic focus. The Upanishads are the foundation of Hindu philosophical thought and its diverse traditions. Of the Vedic corpus, they alone are widely known, and the central ideas of the Upanishads are at the spiritual core of Hindus.

The Religion and Philosophy of the Veda and Upanishads

Dating back some five thousand years, Hinduism is the dominant faith of India and an increasingly powerful spiritual force in the West. Now, in Hinduism, Vasudha Narayanan offers an illuminating, compact introduction to this highly complex and ancient religion.

Vedanta

The Rigveda is a monumental text in both world religion and world literature, yet outside a small band of specialists it is little known. Composed in the latter half of the second millennium BCE, it stands as the foundational text of what would later be called Hinduism. The text consists of over a thousand hymns dedicated to various divinities, composed in sophisticated and often enigmatic verse. This concise guide from two of the Rigveda's leading English-language scholars introduces the text and breaks down its large range of topics--from meditations on cosmic enigmas to penetrating reflections on the ability of mortals to make contact with and affect the divine and cosmic realms through sacrifice and praise--for a wider audience.

The Bhagavadgītā

This work continues in the superbly priced series of compact, beautifully presented editions of sacred texts selected from the major writings of the world's spiritual traditions in reliable and accessible translations. At the beginning of the 21st Century, there is a longing for spiritual truths and values, an urge to break free from the orthodoxies of our own cultural heritage and to explore beyond its frontiers in search of fulfilment and enlightenment. This search for truth leads us to the great sacred texts of the world.

Religions, Spirituality, and Humanity

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Hymns to the Mystic Fire

cultivate compassion and mindfulness. Each section of the book focuses on a

Sixty Upanishads of the Veda

The Upanishads