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**Khajuraho in Pictures Jaina-rūpa-maṇḍana** Abhinav Publications *The JAINA-RUPA-MANDANA Volume I is an authentic work on Jaina iconography from the pen of a well-known authority on the subject, Dr. Umakant P.Shah, an eminent Indologist and art-historian with specialization in Jaina art and literature. Illustrated profusely with over two hundred monochrome plates, the work is a standard textbook and a very useful guide to all students in Indian art and archaeology and to Museum Curators. The work is supplemented with a large number of iconographic tables for images of all important Jaina gods and goddesses. Dr. Shah, the author, has for the first time given solutions to various basis problems of Jaina iconography supported with ample evidence from both archaeology and literature including unpublished original texts still in manuscripts.*

**Dikpala Images on the Khajuraho Temples**

**Marvelous Khajuraho Temples (Photo Book)** Mahesh Dutt Sharma *World famous erotic temple arts.*

**The Religious Imagery of Khajuraho** *Illustrations: 101 colour plates and 125 b/w illustrations* Description: *The book offers a closer view of the divinities and their configurations, particularly in the major Hindu temples of Khajuraho. It concentrates on the iconic schemes and patheons of two magnificent temples, one a rare preserved shrine of Vaikuntha-Vishnu and the other dedicated to Siva. It highlights the important cult of the Yoginis and the syncretic role of Surya in Khajuraho's pantheon. In the process of viewing the temple as a whole and its images within a well-integrated scheme, several earlier non-specified images could be seen in their proper context and for the first time identified and interpreted. The images of planetary divinities on the podium around the Lakshmana temple, or the Sveta-dvipa scene (Back Cover) are some such new interpretations offered in the book. The book presents an account of the topography of this medieval sacred centre, its patrons, the Chandella rulers, and erudite court culture. The elite's love for double-entendre is revealed in the sculptural art as well as poetic stanzas of their inscriptions on temples. The language of puns and enigma (sandhya-bhasha helps us*

in understanding the significance of erotic sculptures which apparently are sensual figures but actually conceal a deeper symbolism. **Studies in Jaina Art and Iconography and Allied Subjects in Honour of Dr. U.P. Shah** Abhinav Publications The Present Volume Is Published By The Oriental Institute, M.S. University Of Baroda In Sacred Memory Of Late Dr. U.P. Shah, Ex-Deputy Director And General Editor, Ramayana Deptt. Of The Institute. It Contains Research Articles Specially Written By Scholar-Friends Of Dr. Shah From The World Over, Ranging From Jaina Philosophy, Jaina Iconography, Art-History To Indian Literature In General, As His Interest Too Ranged To All The Afore-Mentioned Subjects. As Will Be Evident From The Life-Sketch And The Bibliography Of His Works, Dr. Shah Made An Impact In The Field Of Jaina Iconography And Art-History, Though He Handled, With Equal Felicity, Subjects Related To Oriental Studies. Some Of The Articles Appearing In This Volume Break New Ice Regarding Certain Knotty Points Of Jaina Philosophical Thought And Religious Practices. It Would Be Helpful To View The Contents Of This Volume From The Standpoint Of Long, Mutual Affinity And Correlatedness Of The Ancient Vedic And Jaina Traditions That Flourished Coevally Over A Great Stretch Of Time In This Country Of Uncommon Tolerance And Understanding Of Opposing Ideas And Ideals, Evincing Brilliant Insights Into The Problems Of Being And Consciousness Ever Probed By Human Mind. The Methodology Of Symbolical Representation Of Transcendental Principles And Perceptions Evolved In Both Jaina And Brahmanical Traditions Of Thought Is Well-Documented In This Volume, Which Will Prove To Be A Treasure For The Students Of Oriental Studies In General And Indology In Particular

**Immortal Khajuraho Khajuraho, with Latest Discoveries** Khajuraho-The Name Itself Is Synonymous With Architectural Excellence And Breathtaking Craftsmanship. The World Heritage Temples Of Khajuraho Can Be Regarded As One Of The Wonders Of The East, A Symbol In Stone, Representing The Cosmic System Of Hindu Temples, With A Dash Of Erotica Along With Other Wordly And Divine Scenes. Scholars Will Welcome Dr. Mishra`S Archaeological Material On Different Aspects Of The Excavations Conducted In Khajuraho Since 1980, With Details On The Geography Of The Mounds, The Remains Uncovered And An Analysis Of The Discoveries Made. It Is Noteworthy That The Excavation Of The Shatdhara Mound In The North East Of Khajuraho Takes The History Of The Place To Pre-Chandella Times Readers May Find Useful The Chapter On Conservation And Preservation Efforts At Khajuraho. The Excavation Of The Bijamandala Mound In The Millennium Year By Dr. Mishra Is An Important Discovery.

**'Yogini' in South Asia Interdisciplinary Approaches** Routledge In different stages in the history of South Asian religions, the term yoginī has been used in various contexts to designate various things: a female adept of yoga, a female tantric practitioner, a sorceress, a woman dedicated to a deity, or a certain category of female deities. This book brings together recent interdisciplinary perspectives on the medieval South Asian cults of the Yoginis, such as textual-philological, historical, art historical, indological, anthropological, ritual and terminological. The book discusses the medieval yoginī cult, as illustrated in early Śaiva tantric texts, and their representations in South Asian temple iconography. It looks at the roles and hypostases of yoginīs in contemporary religious traditions, as well as the transformations of yoginī-related ritual practices. In addition, this book systematizes the multiple meanings, and proposes definitions of the concept and

models for integrating the semantic fields of 'yoginī.' Highlighting the importance of research from complementary disciplines for the exploration of complex themes in South Asian studies, this book is of interest to scholars of South Asian Studies and Religious Studies. **Material Culture and Asian Religions Text, Image, Object** Routledge Traditionally, research on the history of Asian religions has been marked by a bias for literary evidence, privileging canonical texts penned in 'classical' languages. Not only has a focus on literary evidence shaped the dominant narratives about the religious histories of Asia, in both scholarship and popular culture, but it has contributed to the tendency to study different religious traditions in relative isolation from one another. Today, moreover, historical work is often based on modern textual editions and, increasingly, on electronic databases. What may be lost, in the process, is the visceral sense of the text as artifact – as a material object that formed part of a broader material culture, in which the boundaries between religious traditions were sometimes more fluid than canonical literature might suggest. This volume brings together specialists in a variety of Asian cultures to discuss the methodological challenges involved in integrating material evidence for the reconstruction of the religious histories of South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia. By means of specific 'test cases,' the volume explores the importance of considering material and literary evidence in concert. What untold stories do these sources help us to recover? How might they push us to reevaluate historical narratives traditionally told from literary sources? By addressing these questions from the perspectives of different subfields and religious traditions, contributors map out the challenges involved in interpreting different types of data, assessing the problems of interpretation distinct to specific types of material evidence (e.g., coins, temple art, manuscripts, donative inscriptions) and considering the issues raised by the different patterns in the preservation of such evidence in different locales. Special attention is paid to newly-discovered and neglected sources; to our evidence for trade, migration, and inter-regional cultural exchange; and to geographical locales that served as "contact zones" connecting cultures. In addition, the chapters in this volume represent the rich range of religious traditions across Asia – including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shinto, and Chinese religions, as well as Islam and eastern Christianities. **Enigmas of Karnataka Mystery meets History** Notion Press Did the illustrious Hoysala king, Vishnuvardhana, create a fictional tale about his dynasty's founder? Is Bengaluru's Kadlekai Parishe a wholly British invention with no roots to the City's founding years? Acutely aware of their inferior status in the royal hierarchy, did the Wodeyars use the origin stories they had fabricated two centuries earlier to enter into matrimonial alliances in north India? Is the greatest icon of temple-building in Karnataka, Jakanacharai, a mere legend? Did Ramanuja, the famed Vishishtadvaita philosopher, order the disfigurement of the Gommateshwara statue to achieve narrow religious ends? The construct of Indian history is embellished with its fair share of assumptions and glaring omission of facts; much of it infused with bias. To add to the conundrum, many a time, our forebears in Karnataka devised their own version of events that were often steeped in legend. This propensity for myth-making tossed accuracy into a grey area, which gave birth to a wealth of enigmas in its wake. Backed by insights from esteemed scholars, this book aims to separate fiction from fact. Unlock the hidden truths

behind hoary myths and legends shrouded in the mists of time. The reality of history as you know it will stagger you. **KHAJURAHO TEMPLES : a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Photo Book)** A UNESCO world heritage site in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India, Khajuraho is a famous tourist and archaeological site known for its sculptured temples dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Jain patriarchs. Of the 85 original temples-most constructed of hard river sandstone-about 22 are still reasonably well preserved. The temples are generally divided into three groups: Western, Eastern and Northern. The Eastern group mainly consisting of Jain temples. It is wrongly believed that Khajuraho temples are filled with erotic sculpture. Erotic scenes represent a relatively small part of the carvings, but sensuous eroticism prevails in all the sculptures. **Indian Art & Culture** Arihant Publications India limited Each candidate aspiring to clear the Civil Services Examination is expected to have adequate knowledge about the elegant aspects of India's traditions and aspects. This book on Indian Art and Culture has been divided into 16 Chapters covering the different aspects of India's Heritage and Culture such as Art & Culture: An Introduction, Indian Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Music, Dance, Theatre & Drama, Cinema, Traditional Martial Art, Social Culture, Religion, Philosophy, Language & Literature, Handicraft, Festivals & Fairs and Miscellaneous, which are asked in the Civil Services Examinations conducted by UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) and State PCS. Exercises with objective questions have been given after each chapter. The book also contains Practice Sets prepared according to the UPSC syllabus for thorough practice which would help the students to achieve success in the examinations. **Main Features of the Book:** Chapterwise comprehensive coverage in point cum para format Important facts given in the form of the box within chapter Text is well supported with the images Proper usage of charts and tables for better knowledge Chapterwise significant questions for revision of facts **Homage to Khajuraho Hanuman's Tale The Messages of a Divine Monkey** Oxford University Press Hanuman, the devoted monkey helper of Rama and Sita, has long been recognized as a popular character in India's ancient Ramayana epic. But more recently he has also become one of the most beloved and worshiped gods in the Hindu pantheon - enshrined in majestic new temples, but equally present in poster art, advertising, and mass media. Drawing on Sanskrit and vernacular texts, classical iconography and modern TV serials, and extensive fieldwork and interviews, Philip Lutgendorf challenges the academic cliché of Hanuman as a "minor" or "folk" deity by exploring his complex and growing role in South Asian religion and culture. This wide-ranging study examines the historical evolution of Hanuman's worship, his close association with Shiva and goddesses, his invocation in tantric ritual, his physical immortality and enduring presence in sacred sites, and his appeal to devotees who include scholars, wrestlers, healers, politicians, and middle-class urbanites. Lutgendorf also offers a rich array of entertaining stories not previously available in English: an expanding epic cycle that he christens the "Hanumayana." Arguing that Hanuman's role as cosmic "middle man" is intimately linked to his embodiment in a charming and provocative simian form, Lutgendorf moves beyond the Indian subcontinent to interrogate the wider human fascination with anthropoid primates as boundary beings and as potent signifiers of both Self and Other. **Carving Devotion in the Jain Caves at Ellora** BRILL Drawing on art historical,

epigraphical, and textual evidence, this book is the first full-scale reconstruction of medieval Jain activities at Ellora. It not only highlights the understudied Jain caves, but examines them in concert with Ellora's Hindu and Buddhist monuments. **Cross-Cultural Issues in Art Frames for Understanding** Routledge This book provides an engaging introduction to aesthetic concepts, expanding the discussion beyond the usual Western theorists and Western examples. **Fodor's Essential India with Delhi, Rajasthan, Mumbai & Kerala** Fodor's Travel For a limited time, receive a free Fodor's Guide to Safe and Healthy Travel e-book with the purchase of this guidebook! Go to [fodors.com](http://fodors.com) for details. Written by locals, Fodor's Essential India is the perfect guidebook for those looking for insider tips to make the most out their visit to Delhi, Mumbai, and beyond. Complete with detailed maps and concise descriptions, this India travel guide will help you plan your trip with ease. India is a country of vibrant and enticing contrasts: exquisite palaces are juxtaposed against simple temples, and modern high-tech industry coexists with ancient customs and rituals. There's much to see and do in this vast and geographically diverse country, and Fodor's Essential India covers the must-see sights better than anyone else. Fodor's Essential India Includes: •UP-TO-DATE COVERAGE: India is changing rapidly, and this fully updated guide includes the best new hotels, restaurants, and more in its vibrant cities and stunning countryside, from Delhi and Rajasthan to Mumbai, Kerala and Goa. •ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES GUIDE: A spectacular color photo guide captures the ultimate unmissable experiences and attractions throughout India to inspire you. •DETAILED MAPS: Full-color and full-size street maps throughout will help you plan efficiently and get around confidently. •GORGEOUS PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATED FEATURES: Full-color photos will help inspire you. The illustrated features on the iconic Taj Mahal, the holy city of Varanasi on the Ganges, and the amazing cave temples at Ajanta and Ellora will give you a deeper understanding of these historic sites. The "Understanding India" chapter, with illustrated sections on modern society, religion, food, dance, music, and shopping, provides insight into contemporary Indian life as well as the past. •ITINERARIES AND TOP RECOMMENDATIONS: Sample itineraries will help you plan and customize your own itinerary so you can make the most of your time. Includes tips on where to eat, stay, and shop as well as information about nightlife, sports and the outdoors. "Fodor's Choice" designates our best picks in every category. •INDISPENSABLE TRIP PLANNING TOOLS: A full-color feature on getting around India includes indispensable information on buses, trains, taxis, and rickshaws, along with tipping information and an easy-to-use "Travel Times Chart." Convenient overviews show each region and its highlights, and detail-rich chapter planning sections have on-target advice and tips for planning your time and for getting around the country by car, bus, and train. •COVERS: Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai, Goa, Kerala, Kolkata, The Taj Mahal, Rajasthan, Beaches, and more. ABOUT FODOR'S AUTHORS: Each Fodor's Travel Guide is researched and written by local experts. Fodor's has been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for over 80 years. Planning on visiting more of Asia? Check out Fodor's Essential Thailand and Fodor's Essential China. **Advanced Spiritual Intimacy The Yoga of Deep Tantric Sensuality** Simon and Schuster A practical guide for both individuals and couples to transform sexual energy into spiritual and erotic fulfillment • Explains how to awaken advanced stages of sexual development

for spiritual intimacy and deep erotic satisfaction • Includes illustrated instructions for exercises and techniques based on yoga, kundalini, breathing practices, mantra chanting, and chakra meditation • Explores how this practice can deepen a life partnership, enhance creativity, heal emotional scars, and awaken new understandings of gender Sexual development does not end in adolescence. There are advanced stages of glandular, emotional, and erotic development based in the lifelong “puberty of the spine.” Known in India as kundalini awakening, these stages form the energetic basis of all yoga forms and deeper erotic aspirations. They present an opportunity for couples and individuals to explore the consciousness-expanding abilities of sexual energy as both spirituality and sexuality transform into what Michel Foucault called *ars erotica*, far beyond the Freudian *scientia sexualis* sexuality of the Western world. Offering a guide to the advanced stages of human sexuality and a passionately infused tantric yoga practice, Stuart Sovatsky explains how to awaken the complete spinal puberty, resulting in spiritual intimacy and orgasmic pineal maturity that far surpasses the gratifications of modern sexuality. With illustrated instructions, he reveals flow-yoga asanas, mantras, and devotional breathing practices for solo kundalini yoga as well as couples’ yoga practices and chakra meditations to awaken the heart and the divinely eroticized mind. He shares inspiring stories from those on this path about ever-deepening life partnerships, enriched family life, enhanced personal creativity, profound new understandings of conception, masculinity, femininity, and gender itself as well as healing emotional scars of romantic breakups and sexual abuse. Sovatsky shows that by transcending conventional Western sexuality and returning to the *ars erotica* beliefs of ancient India, we can harness the divine energy--glimpsed for only an instant by most people--at the heart of all erotic yearning. **Encyclopaedia of Tourism Resources in India** Gyan Publishing House **The Rough Guide to India** Rough Guides The

guide to India is a useful handbook to an extraordinary country. The introductory colour section includes photography of the country's many highlights in the 42 Things Not To Miss section, from boating on the backwaters of Kerala to taking in a cricket match at the Oval Maiden in Mumbai. It provides comprehensive accounts of every attraction from the vibrant cities and elaborate temples to Himalayan peaks and palm-fringed beaches. There is also practical advice on activities as diverse as camel trekking in the Rajasthan desert, rafting on the Indus and hiking through the lunar landscapes of Ladakh. The listings sections provide hundreds of insider reviews of the best hotels, hostels, restaurants, bars, shops and museums in every city and village. The authors also give an informed insight into India's history, politics, religion, music and cinema, providing a valuable context to the reader's trip.

**Karnataka's Rich Heritage - Art and Architecture From Prehistoric Times to the Hoysala Period** Notion Press You may have a lot of questions about the art and architecture of Karnataka. There may be queries about the various heritage touring circuits. You might like to understand what went into designing, planning and constructing monuments over a thousand year ago. You may still wish to know how art and architecture progressed during the ancient and medieval times in Karnataka. This book attempts to answer a lot of these questions, for example: 1.What is the name of the first established Village in South India and where is it located? 2.Where did the earliest gold miners live in Karnataka? 3.Which was the first Agrahara

established in Karnataka? 4. Which is the first existing temple dedicated to Siva in Karnataka? 5. Which is the first existing temple dedicated to Krishna in Karnataka? 6. What roles did temples have other than being the places of worship? 7. Which is the first temple dedicated to Rama in Karnataka? 8. What was Karnataka referred to as in the Puranic times? 9. Which is the first existing temple dedicated to Shakti in Karnataka? 10. How old is the Kannada language?

**The Hindu Temple** Motilal Banarsidass Publ. **Chandella Art** Aakar Books S.K. Sullerey Is Professor And Head, Department Of Post Graduate And Research In Ancient Indian History, Culture And Archaeology At Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.). **Elements of Jaina Iconography Latest Khajuraho Guide Romantic & Hilarious, Illustrated with Photos and Maps Iconography of Sadasiva** Abhinav Publications The Book Deals With The Iconography Of Sadasiva, An Important Form Of Lord Siva. It Has Four Chapters: Sadasiva, Mahasadasiva, The Consort Of Sadasiva, And Resume. The Sadasiva Aspect Of Siva, Having Five Heads And Ten Arms, Did Not Receive Much Attention From The Scholars So Far. The Present Book Envisages To Bring Together All The Material Bearing On The Subject. A Number Of Photographs, Mostly Of Unpublished Sculptures, Bronzes And Miniature Paintings Representing Different Phases Of Indian Art, Illustrate The Text And Make The Book Useful For The Students Of Art, Iconography, Religion And Philosophy. The Seven Appendices, Appended At The End, Provide Information As Gleaned From Religious And Secular Literature Related To The Subject. **The Temple Road Towards a Great India Birla Mandirs as a Strategy for Reconstructing Nation and Tradition** Wydawnictwo UJ This book presents an analysis of the foundations organised by the Birla family in India. Several generations were involved in the renovation and establishment of sanctuaries, temples and other sacral buildings. As a result, between 1933 and 1998, nineteen Birla Mandirs were established, mainly in northern and central India. All the temples have the capacity to surprise with their various decorative motifs, not seen in other places, which – apart from their aesthetic function – above all bear important symbolic content. Therefore, is it possible to treat the Birla Mandirs as a specific medium – the carrier of a particular message that is not only religious, but with a significance that permeates other layers of social and political discourse. This message, as the authors of the book claim, have a bearing on the socio-political thought of India – supported by the creation and propagation of ideas related to identity and a national art. It also conveys the idea of hierarchical Hindu inclusivism which, although considering all religions as equal, treats Hinduism in a unique way – seeing within it the most perfect form of religion, giving man the opportunity to learn the highest truth. The book also examines whether the temples founded by the Birla family and the religious activities undertaken therein apply the concept of “inventing” tradition, and whether traditions created (or “modernised”) in contemporary times are a way of enhancing the appeal of the message conveyed from temple to society. “The Vastness of Culture” is a series of publications presenting cultural studies and emphasizing the role of comparative research and analyses that reveal similarities, differences and intercultural influences. In our publications, cultures and civilizations are in a state of constant flux, engaging in dialogue, creating new understandings, competing for meaning under the influence of global content, without any clear boundaries, but with a vastness that forces

questions to be raised. **A Survey of Hinduism Third Edition** State University of New York Press The third edition of this well-regarded introduction to Hinduism adds new material on the religion's origins, on its relations with rival traditions, and on Hindu science. **I Shall Always Love You** Srishthi Publishers & Distributors Shiv Sanyal is a celebrated artist. When he meets an enigmatic woman, he creates a sculpture of her, his masterpiece. He is shocked when he is publicly humiliated for copying a Khajuraho figurine that looks just like this mysterious woman. He decides to visit Khajuraho to unveil the truth. Stumbling upon revelations and facts long hidden, he discovers his connection to the glorious past of Khajuraho. Unexpected events in Khajuraho and Mumbai force him and his friends to go on a quest to find a hidden treasure with clues in a missing Khajuraho sculpture. They travel across India and visit various ancient temples to find clues leading to the treasure. What is this treasure? Who is compelling them to seek it? Who is Shiv's friend and who is his enemy? How has the universe woven the lives of his friends into his life? **I Shall Always Love You** is a thrilling tale of love that never dies, treasures that lay buried, and truths that go deeper than the seas. **Journal of Indian History Puratan The Dancing Girl A History of Early India** Institute of Southeast Asian Studies This book provides valuable insight on the history of India from ancient times to 1600 CE for Indians and non-Indians, and for the Indian Diaspora, which is estimated to be over 25 million, spreading across no less than 110 countries. The chapters cover many important aspects of history, from the ancient urban culture of the Indus Valley Civilization; Vedic Age's lasting legacy, Hinduism associated with the two great epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata; and the founding of Buddhism and Jainism; to the Muslim conquests and the resultant Indo-Islamic and Mughal heritage. Indian influence travelled beyond its shores to Southeast Asia, China, Korea and Japan. The Angkor Wat, Borobudur and Prambanan temples reflect the cultural impact of the early Indian Diaspora. The famous Chinese monk Xuanzang who journeyed to Nalanda to study at that great University wrote extensively about India. This book will kindle interest in research on tracing the origins of the Indian Diaspora and the ancient ties that linked India to the rest of the world. **Archaeological Excavations in Central India Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh** Mittal Publications **Hinduism and the Religious Arts** A&C Black The roots between the Hindu religion and the wider culture are deep and uniquely complex. No study of either ancient or contemporary Indian culture can be undertaken without a clear understanding of Hindu visual arts and their sources in religious belief and practice. Defining what is meant by religion - no such term exists in Sanskrit - and what is understood by Hindu ideals of beauty, Heather Elgood provides the best synthesis and critical study of recent scholarship on the topic. In addition, this book offers critical background information for anyone interested in the social and anthropological roots of artistic creativity, as well as the rites, practices and beliefs of the hundreds of millions of Hindus in the world today. **Glory of Jaina Tirthankaras Gardner's Art through the Ages: Non-Western Perspectives** Cengage Learning The 13th Edition of GARDNER'S ART THROUGH THE AGES: NON-WESTERN PERSPECTIVES takes this brilliant bestseller to new heights in addressing the challenges of today's classroom. The most widely read history of art in the English language for more than 80 years, GARDNER has built its stellar reputation on

the inclusion of the most significant images and monuments, discussions of these images in their full historical and cultural context, reproductions of unsurpassed quality, scholarship that is up-to-date and deep, and more help for students and instructors than any other survey text. The 13th Edition adds to this heritage with new images and new full-color reconstructions, as well as a unique scale feature that helps students visualize the size of each work. Students will also benefit from the clarity that only a book written by a single author can provide, as well as from The Big Picture overviews at the end of every chapter, a special global timeline, and ArtStudy Online (a free interactive study guide that includes image flashcards and quizzes to help students master the material quickly). Dynamic lecture tools -- including a digital library with a full zoom and side-by-side comparison capability and the exciting Google Earth technology -- will save instructors time in preparing for class and personalizing their lectures. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

**Hindu Images and Their Worship with Special Reference to Vaisnavism A Philosophical-theological Inquiry** Taylor & Francis Hinduism comprises perhaps the major cluster of religio-cultural traditions of India, and it can play a valuable role in helping us understand the nature of religion and human responses to life. Hindu image-worship lies at the core of what counts for Hinduism -- up-front and subject to much curiosity and misunderstanding, yet it is a defining feature of this phenomenon. This book focuses on Hindu images and their worship with special reference to Vai??avism, a major strand of Hinduism. Concentrating largely, but not exclusively, on Sanskritic source material, the author shows in the course of the book that Hindu image-worship may be understood via three levels of interpretation: the metaphysical/theological, the narrativ or mythic, and the performative or ritual. Analysing the chief philosophical paradigm underlying Hindu image-worship and its implications, the book exemplifies its widespread application and tackles, among other topics such as the origins of image-worship in Hinduism, the transition from Vedic to image worship, a distinguishing feature of Hindu images: their multiple heads and limbs. Finally, with a view to laying the grounds for a more positive dialogic relationship between Hinduism and the "Abrahamic" faiths, which tend to condemn Hindu image-worship as "idolatry", the author examines the theological explanation and justification for embodiment of the Deity in Hinduism and discusses how Hinduism might justify itself against such a charge. Rich in Indological detail, and with an impressive grasp of the philosophical and theological issues underlying Hindu material culture, and image-worship, this book will be of interest to academics and others studying theology, Indian philosophy and Hinduism.

**History of Humanity: From the seventh to the sixteenth century** UNESCO Volume IV deals with the 'Middle Ages'. It starts with the expansion of Islam and closes with the discovery of the New World. Various events during this period led to a significant expansion in communications: the rapid spread of Islam and of Gengis Khan's Mongol Empire, as well as the Crusades and the development of trans-Saharan and maritime routes around Africa to the Indian Ocean, leading to multiplied exchanges between the peoples and cultures of Africa, Asia and Europe. **Journal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai**