

The Vision And Way Of Vasistha

this is swami venkatesananda s longer yoga vasistha his two volume book is here offered between two covers its purpose is to provide a means to eliminate psychological conditioning and to attain liberation containing the instructions of the sage vasistha to lord rama this scripture is full of intricately woven tales the kind a great teacher might tell to hold the interest of a student

untold stories from the ramayana in every treta yuga there is rama avatara one may think oh that must be boring every time same activity but it is never boring how many times have we heard these ramayana stories but still when someone is reading ramayana everyone comes to hear is not boring

so to experience it can't be boring at all that is the proof

tantra is a family of rituals modeled on those of the vedas and their attendant texts and lineages these rituals typically involve the visualization of a deity offerings and the chanting of his or her mantra common variations include visualizing the deity in the act of sexual union with a consort visualizing oneself as the deity and transgressive acts such as token consumption of meat or alcohol most notoriously non standard or ritualized sex is sometimes practiced this accounts for tantra's negative reputation in some quarters and its reception in the west primarily as a collection of sexual practices although some today extol tantra's liberating qualities the role of women remains controversial traditionally there are two views of women and tantra either the feminine is a metaphor and actual women are altogether absent or tantra involves the transgressive use of women's bodies to serve male interests lorilai biernacki presents an alternative view in which women are revered worshipped and considered worthy of spiritual attainment her primary sources are a collection of eight relatively modern tantric texts written in sanskrit from the 15th through the 18th century her analysis of these texts reveals a view of women that is generally positive and empowering she focuses on four topics 1 the kali practice in which women appear not only as objects of reverence but as practitioners and gurus 2 the tantric sex rite especially in the case that contrary to other tantric texts the preference is for wives as ritual consorts 3 feminine language and the gendered implications of mantra and 4 images of male violence towards women in tantric myths biernacki by choosing to analyse eight particular sanskrit texts argues that within the tradition of tantra there exists a representation of women in which the female is an authoritative powerful equal participant in the tantric ritual practice

list of members

wendy doniger o'flaherty weaves a brilliant analysis of the complex role of dreams and dreaming in indian religion philosophy literature and art in her creative hands enchanting indian myths and stories illuminate and are illuminated by authors as different as aeschylus plato freud jung kurt gödel thomas kuhn borges picasso sir ernst gombrich and many others this richly suggestive book challenges many of our fundamental assumptions about ourselves and our world mark c taylor new york times book review dazzling analysis the book is firm and convincing once you appreciate its central point which is that in traditional hindu thought the dream isn't an accident or byway of experience but rather the locus of epistemology in its willful confusion of categories its teasing readiness to blur the line between the imagined and the real the dream actually embodies the whole problem of knowledge o'flaherty wants to make your mental flesh creep and she succeeds mark caldwell village voice

has appendices

has appendices

classical poem summary of gunadhya's brhatkatha sanskrit fiction with sanskrit text and english

translation

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