



The Goddess in India: The Five Faces of the Eternal Feminine

Devdutt Pattanaik

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The first exhaustive collection of goddess mythologies from India.

- Explores the evolution of goddess worship in India over 4,000 years.
- Stunning color photographs illustrate many stories of goddess lore never before available in one collection.

In India it is said that there is a goddess in every village, a nymph in every lake. Demonesses stand guard on village frontiers, ogresses howl on crossroads, and untamed forests resound with the laughter of celestial virgins. It is a land of mysterious Apsaras and seductive Yakshinis, of terrifying Dakinis and wise Yoginis-- each with a story to tell.

In this wide-reaching exploration of ancient Hindu lore and legends, author Devdutt Pattanaik discovers how earth, women and goddesses have been perceived over 4,000 years. Some of the tales recounted are revered classics, others are common and folklorish, often held in disdain by priests. Until now, most have remained hidden, isolated in distant hamlets or languishing in forgotten libraries, overwhelmed by the din of masculine sagas.

As the tales come to light through word and stunning color imagery, the author identifies the five faces given to the eternal feminine as man sought to unlock the mysteries of life: the female half of existence is at first identified with Nature, gradually deified and eventually objectified. She comes to be seen as the primal mother, fountainhead of life and nurturance. The all-giving mother then transforms into the dancing nymph, a seductress offering worldly pleasures that bind man in the cycle of life. As this nymph is domesticated, the dominant image of woman becomes the chaste wife with miraculous powers. Finally the submissive consort redefines herself as the wild and terrifying goddess who does battle, drinks blood, and demands appeasement.

Exploring mysteries of gender and biology, and shedding light on the roots of taboos and traditions practiced in India today, the author shows how the image of the Mother Goddess can be both worshipped and feared when she carries the face of mortal woman.

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Wendell Holloway:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book The Goddess in India: The Five Faces of the Eternal Feminine it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can more quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

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