Discovering The Vedas: Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights

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Synopsis

BOOKS

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book begins very well and no doubt the author is a scholar of immense learning and integrity, but eventually the book flounders in poorly explained speculations. The opening is very well done, featuring a concise and insightful history of early India, speculation on who exactly were the famed 'Aryans' who allegedly wrote the Vedas, including state of the art linguistic techniques for tracing the historical movements of peoples which I found really fascinating. He them summarizes, in a chapter each, the four Vedas traditionally recognized as genuine (which I take to mean: considered "revealed" or of divine origin in some capacity, anyway). Up to this point the book is a great introduction the ancient India in general and the Vedas in particular. From here it starts to get more and more scattered, and the bizarre language used becomes more and more apparent. Staal boasts early on in the book of being fluent in 5 or 6 languages (if memory serves me the author is Dutch), and while generally grammatically correct, the English is intensely bizarre at times - I read voluminously, but I found that over and over again I had to re-read sentences - not because of their lofty thoughts or complexity, but simply because the phrasing was so alien and unlike anything a native English speaker would write. Don't get me wrong, his English is still great, but if you read the book you will probably discover this for yourself and it can be frustrating at times. But this is a minor criticism. The major thing that keeps this a 'good' book when it could have been great is, perhaps ironically, Staal's overabundance of enthusiasm for his subject.
Discovering the Vedas: Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights
Mantras para la Vida: Utiliza los Mantras de Kundalini Yoga como herramienta vital (Spanish Edition)
The Celestial Key to the Vedas: Discovering the Origins of the World's Oldest Civilization
HINDUISM: Hinduism for Beginners: Guide to Understanding Hinduism and the Hindu Religion, Beliefs, Customs, Rituals, Gods, Mantras and Converting to Hinduism
The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities, and Meaning of Table Manners
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The Three Great Moksha Mantras: Sutras on the Meditative Secrets of the Gayatri Mantra and Mahamrityunjaya Mantra
Moldavite Magick: Tap Into The Stone Of Transformation Using Mantras (Crystal Mantra Magick) (Volume 1)
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The Vedas Four Vedas In English
The Holy Vedas; Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, Atharva Veda
The Rig Veda [Unabridged, English Translation] (The Vedas Book 2)
Commentaries on the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita: The Three Branches of India’s Life-Tree
The Wisdom of the Vedas (Theosophical Heritage Classics)
Vedas - An Analytical Perspective
Commentaries on the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita: The Holy Vedas Atharva Veda (Great Epics of India: Vedas Book 4)
The Secret Teachings of the Vedas: The Eastern Answers to the Mysteries of Life

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