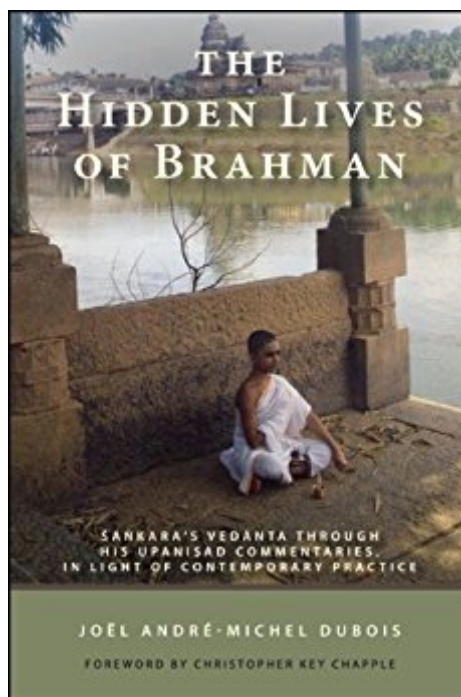


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The Hidden Lives Of Brahman: Sankara's Vedanta Through His Upanisad Commentaries, In Light Of Contemporary Practice (SUNY Series In Religious Studies)



Synopsis

Uses both textual and ethnographic sources to demonstrate that in Ā aá ...karaâ™s vedĀ•nta, brahman is an active force as well as a transcendent ultimate.Ā aá ...karaâ™s thought, advaita vedĀ•nta or non-dual vedĀ•nta, is a tradition focused on brahman, the ultimate reality transcending all particular manifestations, words, and ideas. It is generally considered that the transcendent brahman cannot be attained through any effort or activity. While this conception is technically correct, in *The Hidden Lives of Brahman*, JoĀ«l AndrĀ©-Michel Dubois contends that it is misleading. Hidden lives of brahman become visible when analysis of Ā aá ...karaâ™s seminal commentaries is combined with ethnographic descriptions of contemporary BrĀ•hmin students and teachers of vedĀ•nta, a group largely ignored in most studies of this tradition. Du bois demonstrates that for Ā aá ...kara, as for BrĀ•hmin tradition in general, brahman is just as much an active force, fully connected to the dynamic power of words and imagination, as it is a transcendent ultimate.â œThe central idea of a multifaceted braham in Ā aá ...karaâ™s thought is original and will be well received.â •â ” Frederick Smith, coeditor of *Modern and Global Ayurveda: Pluralism and Paradigms*â œThe authorâ™s detailed descriptions of the actual pedagogical practices of contemporary BrĀ•hmin training is a welcome contribution. One gets a real sense of the teacher-student relationship from this book.â •â ” Andrew O. Fort, author of *JĀ«vanmukti in Transformation: Embodied Liberation in Advaita and Neo-VedĀ•nta*â œ[Dubois] captures the sounds, sights, and tastes of Indiaâ™s BrĀ•hmin schools and centers of study, conveying a sense of what he calls the â ^hidden livesâ™ of young people who later emerge to carry on the tradition of advaita vedĀ•nta. In elegant, descriptive language, Dubois evokes the mood and energy of the daily life followed by these young men as they prepare for highly specialized careers.â •â ” from the Foreword by Christopher Key Chapple

JoĀ«l AndrĀ©-Michel Dubois is Professor of Humanities and Religious Studies at California State University, Sacramento.

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