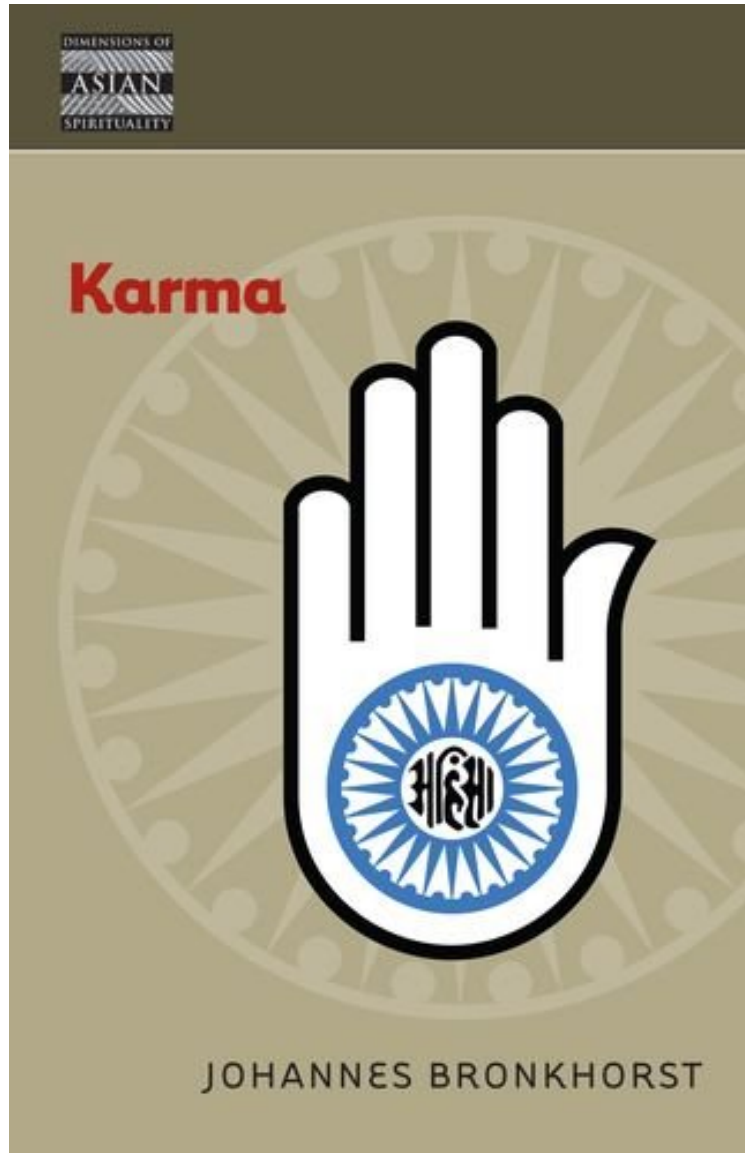


[PDF] Karma (Dimensions of Asian Spirituality)

## Karma (Dimensions of Asian Spirituality)

*Johannes Bronkhorst*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#6609558 in Books University of Hawaii Press 2011-08-24 2011-08-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1  
8.50 x .50 x 5.511, .70 #File Name: 0824835700152 pages | File size: 22.Mb

**Johannes Bronkhorst : Karma (Dimensions of Asian Spirituality)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Karma (Dimensions of Asian Spirituality):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. interestingBy Kindle CustomerA good introduction as well as controversial (I suspect). Bronkhorst is a big name in Indology and as such seems to have been asked to write an introduction to karma in Asian spirituality (mostly India). The result is a book that lives in both worlds: it's easily accessible, with vignets explaining terminology and context. On the other hand, every once in a while, I'm seems he

expresses controversial opinions as facts. Personally, as former university student of Indian Religion and History, I missed footnotes. Not that there aren't any, but I do wonder whether the editors edited some out because this book is aimed at a more general audience. Still, I'd definitely recommend this book as a reference and overview as well as an introduction for the general reader interested in Indian spirituality. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great read  
By Customer I strongly suggest anyone interested in yoga philosophy read this book. It is an accessible, thorough study from an author who clearly knows the material. Although yoga philosophy is rarely referenced, the understanding of karma and its unfolding into the world (prakrti) is essential for an appreciation of Patanjali's Sutras. This book manages to do explain the different forms of karma in a clear and intelligent manner. EDITORIAL The interplay between the Buddha's understanding of karma and the Brahmins' reluctant acceptance is discussed very well by the author. It is this interplay (a Brahmin/Samkhya response to the Dharma of the Buddha) which I believe is the primary insight needed to appreciate Patanjali's teaching and a key to its hermetics. So a bit of a stretch by this reviewer, I admit, but an out-of-the-box recommendation to buy this book. Enjoy!

Karma has become a household word in the modern world, where it is associated with the belief in rebirth determined by one's deeds in earlier lives. This belief was and is widespread in the Indian subcontinent as is the word karma itself. In lucid and accessible prose, this book presents karma in its historical, cultural, and religious context. Initially, karma manifested itself in a number of religious movements most notably Jainism and Buddhism and was subsequently absorbed into Brahmanism in spite of opposition until the end of the first millennium C.E. Philosophers of all three traditions were confronted with the challenge of explaining by what process rebirth and karmic retribution take place. Some took the drastic step of accepting the participation of a supreme god who acted as a cosmic accountant, others of opting for radical idealism. The doctrine of karma was confronted with alternative explanations of human destiny, among them the belief in the transfer of merit. It also had to accommodate itself to devotional movements that exerted a major influence on Indian religions. The book concludes with some general reflections on the significance of rebirth and karmic retribution, drawing attention to similarities between early Christian and Indian ascetical practices and philosophical notions that in India draw their inspiration from the doctrine of karma.

It provides an elegantly presented, synthesizing tour of "Greater Magadha" and its legacy in Indian religions and philosophies through the lens of theories of karma (the idea that one's actions determine future rebirths and are thus at the crux of the problem of suffering and its potential remedy). The issues raised are still complex, covering all the major traditions of ancient and classical India, but all the terms are explained, core positions are illustrated with passages from the primary sources, and the "lucid and accessible prose" (as promised on the back cover) smooths the way.-- "Religious Studies " It provides an elegantly presented, synthesizing tour of Greater Magadha and its legacy in Indian religions and philosophies through the lens of theories of karma (the idea that one's actions determine future rebirths and are thus at the crux of the problem of suffering and its potential remedy). The issues raised are still complex, covering all the major traditions of ancient and classical India, but all the terms are explained, core positions are illustrated with passages from the primary sources, and the lucid and accessible prose (as promised on the back cover) smooths the way. (Religious Studies )