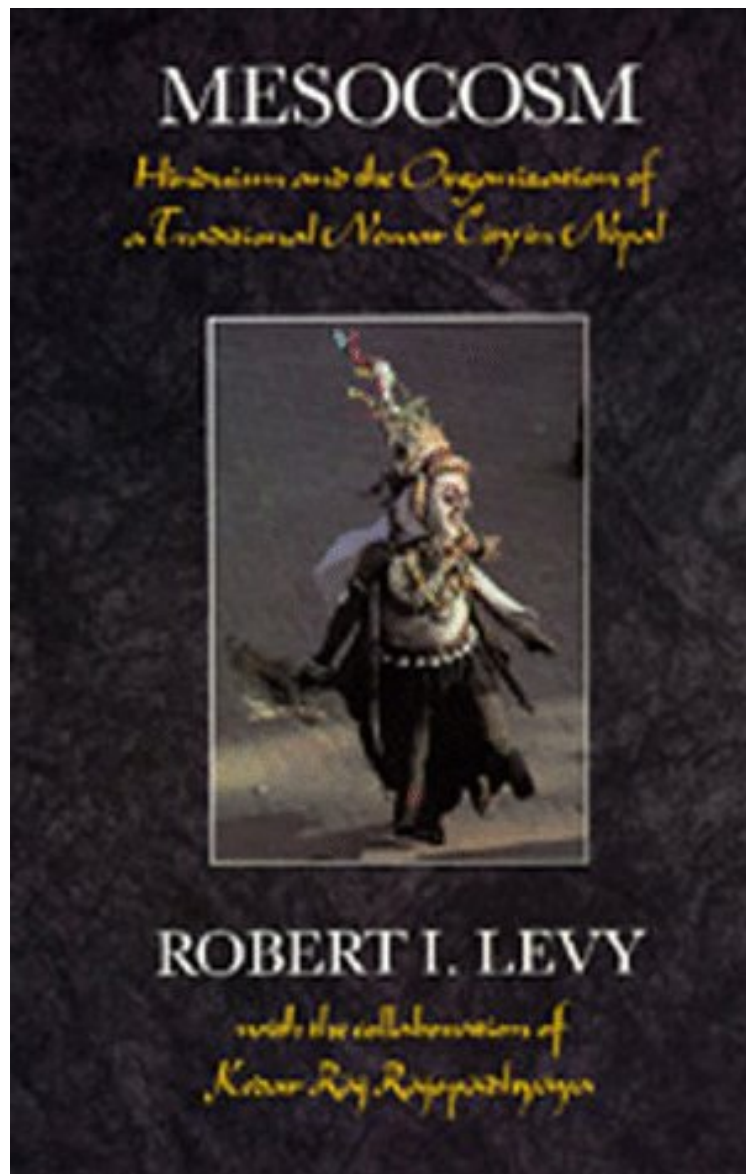


(Read free) Mesocosm: Hinduism and the Organization of a Traditional Newar City in Nepal

Mesocosm: Hinduism and the Organization of a Traditional Newar City in Nepal

Robert I. Levy

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#5271979 in Books 1991-05-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.84 x 6.34 x 9.32l, #File Name: 0520069110800 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Robert I. Levy : Mesocosm: Hinduism and the Organization of a Traditional Newar City in Nepal before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mesocosm: Hinduism and the

Organization of a Traditional Newar City in Nepal:

Mesocosm is a study of Hinduism in its most fully realized form as a symbolic system for organizing the life of a particular kind of city what the author terms an "archaic" city. The work is a detailed description and analysis of the symbolic world of Bhaktapur, a unicultural city in the Kathmandu Valley, a city which is perhaps the last surviving example of a type of organization once widespread in the ancient world. Robert Levy views Bhaktapur as a structured "mesocosm," mediating between the microcosm of individual self-conception and the macrocosm of the culturally conceived larger universe. The city is a bounded entity, grounded on a minutely divided and interrelated sacralized space. It uses that space, roles assigned by an elaborate caste system, a semantically differentiated pantheon, and the tempos and forms of the festival year and rites of passage to construct a "civic dance," a web of communication and instruction which deeply affects the experience of Bhaktapur's citizens. Levy investigates the meaning of the community to the people who live there and suggests how the religious forms that have challenged Hinduism in South Asia—Christianity and, above all, Islam—are profoundly antithetical to Hinduism as the organizing principle for cities such as Bhaktapur. Mesocosm is a groundbreaking contribution to anthropology, social and religious history, and Indian and Nepalese studies.

From the Inside Flap "A first-rate anthropological study of Hinduism. . . . The scholarship is clearly of superior quality. There is no study with the [same] kind of comprehensive breadth and treatment. Robert Levy and Kedar Rajopadhyaya show us how to do anthropology at this time in our history." Triloki N. Pandey, University of California, Santa Cruz "I have no doubt that Mesocosm will become a classic in South Asian anthropology and Indology leaving aside its implications for our understanding of other traditional cities in ancient European and Middle Eastern as well as more recent Oriental civilizations. . . . A very welcome and clear ordering of the very detailed and complex material." Michael Witzel, Harvard University