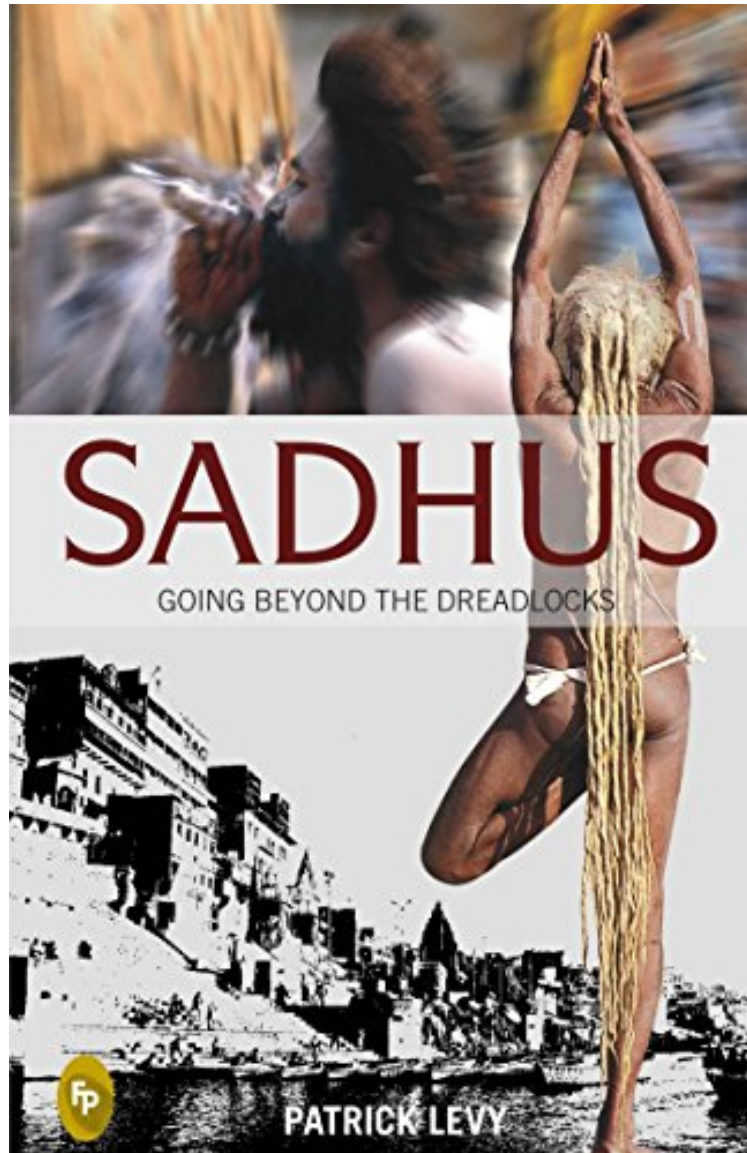


(Ebook free) Sadhus: Going Beyond the Dreadlocks

Sadhus: Going Beyond the Dreadlocks

Patrick Levy

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Patrick Levy : Sadhus: Going Beyond the Dreadlocks before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sadhus: Going Beyond the Dreadlocks:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One of a Kind Read! By Rob Rideout I loved this book, as I too hung out with many sadhus in India during 1994-95. I can relate to everything the author describes in such perfect expressions of what India is really like- especially with the sadhus. I was delighted to see that Mahavatar Babaji was

included, but blown away by how He was described- with dreadlocks and a light beard. Most accounts of Balak Baba, whom many thought was another form of Him since His passing in 1984, fit this description. But of course, Babaji can appear in any disguise. However, I too felt I had Babaji's darshan at Christmas 1994, in a cave in Haidakhan, and He too appeared to me the same way! I wrote all about this, and much more, in my inspirational memoir, Still Singing, Somehow. Patrick Levy's descriptions of the daily scenes in India are some of the best I've ever read. He knows India very well, and has laced his dialogue between characters with much esoteric and metaphysical knowledge. This book can boggle the mind about what is real and what is not. I see too that the character of the French writer is the author's alter ego, before his semi transformation into a western sadhu, as the one telling the story. Having written a book myself, I really respect the way Patrick Levy put together his fascinating jig saw puzzle of sadhus conversations and dialogue, India's complexity, the physical and mental challenges of renunciation, and the real feeling of what it's like to be there. The greatest truth I gleaned from his experience, is "There is nothing to do". "A Course In Miracles" states the same truth as, "You don't have to do anything. You are already there". Why the sadhus do what they do, and choose their distinct lifestyle is the big question, and well worth reading about in this one of a kind book. I plan to re-read it again, for the inspiration that it gives me to meditate! Thank you Patrick Levy for such a truthful look into the world of sadhu spirituality, described so beautifully. You're a great writer!

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great book
By Dennis York
I don't write very many reviews, but this very excellent book deserves as positive a review as possible. I would give this book 10 stars if I could. Patrick Levy has done for those of us who are unable to travel to Varanasi in the flesh the great service of taking us there through his very lucid discussions with the various sadhus he encountered on his long journeys throughout India. This book should be read by far more people than it has. It is essential reading. I can't praise it enough! Thank you very much, Patrick Levy!!!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well-written first-hand account of an unfamiliar culture
By V. Srinivasa Raghavan
Not an easy read, but a good book. As they in India, a saint's past should not be probed. But laymen like us do have a curiosity of the daily lives of saints and sadhus. The author, a Frenchman, travels with his Guru and experiences the life of the wandering sadhus. His master comes across as an easy-going, practical, jovial, yet a very kind and realized soul, who is always in a cheerful mood no matter what. The author is fortunate. I loved the way the Guru advised a villager who was ill-treating his daughter after the death of his wife. While there is always a variation in a human nature, and the Sadhus are no exception, the author's portrayal of them made me respect them for the choices they had made in life, and their carefree life with very few possessions and a life of wandering is so different from our lives. The devotion of the ordinary Indians to them is also very moving, and this wonderful relation of house-holders supporting sadhus, and they in turn blessing the house-holders and not exploiting their hospitality is so Indian. Such sympathetic accounts of this vanishing culture makes me admire the ancient culture of India even more.

The Book There are millions of them - these Indian wandering renunciants, begging monks, mystical walkers, roaming philosophers, miracle-workers, hashish smokers, holy men... but little is known about them. They are often photographed yet their words are seldom heard. Some began this way of life from childhood, others were civil servants, shop keepers, real estate agents, thieves... they left their families and jobs to become renunciants, sadhus. They refuse to work; and vow not to accept any wages. They pursue the path of liberation. A few accomplish rigorous austerities, but most of them dedicate themselves to non-action. In a world verging on its short term ecological doom and demographic tsunami, the sadhus are the messengers of a kind of freedom and moderation that our commercial civilization has forgotten, with its preaching of labour, consumption, economic growth and competition. Patrick Levy recounts their everyday lives, the respect they are given and how they make use of it, their teachings, their philosophy and the way they transform it into a lifestyle. 'Sadhus' is a novel written in the form of a road movie. It is a spiritual journey into the world of the sadhus.

The Author Patrick Levy is a French writer who lives six months a year in Uttar Pradesh, India, his second mother, as he likes to say. He is a strange phenomenon amongst authors on the spirituality scene. He claims to be an atheist but is greatly interested in religions and spirituality. "Everything that belongs to humanity, belongs to me," he says to justify his broad curiosity. He has travelled the world in search of spiritual masters and experiences; practiced Kabbalah, Sufism, Buddhism and Vedanta, and has published books about his explorations. 'Does God believe in God?'- his first book, established the direction of this spiritual globetrotter's atypical course. He recounted his ten year long spiritual quest in the study and practice of five different religions. His approach to religions and spiritual practices has been one of caution but also depth, going beyond dogmas and beliefs with humour and candour. His previous book, 'The Kabbalist', (also translated in Hebrew) is a best-seller in France and was awarded a Special distinction by the panel of judges of "Spirituality Today" prize in 2002.