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Axel Michaels

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#9635736 in Books Axel Michaels 2008-05-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.30 x 1.00 x 9.30l, 1.34
#File Name: 0195343026312 pagesSiva in Trouble Festivals and Rituals at the Pasupatinatha Temple of
Deopatan | File size: 52.Mb

Axel Michaels : Siva in Trouble: Festivals and Rituals at the Pasupatinatha Temple of Deopatan (South Asia Research) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Siva in Trouble: Festivals and Rituals at the Pasupatinatha Temple of Deopatan (South Asia Research):

The town of Deopatan, three kilometers northeast of Kathmandu, is above all famous for its main sanctum, the temple of Pa?upati, the "lord of the animals," a form of 'Siva and the tutelary deity of the kings of Nepal since ancient times. By its name alone, the temple attracts thousands of pilgrims each year and has made itself known far beyond the

Kathmandu Valley. However, for the dominant Newar population the town is by no means merely the seat of 'Siva or Pa?upati. It is also a city of wild goddesses and other deities. Due to this tension between two strands of Hinduism -- the pure, vegetarian Smarta Hinduism and the Newar Hinduism which implies alcohol and blood sacrifices -- 'Siva/Pa?upati has more than once been in trouble, as the many festivals and rituals described and analyzed in this book reveal. Deopatan is a contested field. Different deities, agents social groups, ritual specialists, and institutions are constantly seeking dominance, challenging and even fighting each other, thus contributing to social and political dynamics and tensions that are indeed distinct in South Asia. It is these aspects on which Axel Michaels concentrates in this book.

a multi-faceted and first-hand account of religious practice at and around Nepal's eminent temple complex, this book is an excellent monograph and can be regarded as essential reading on Himalayan religion. * Martin Gaenzle, Asienforum *About the AuthorProfessor of Classical Indology, University of Heidelberg