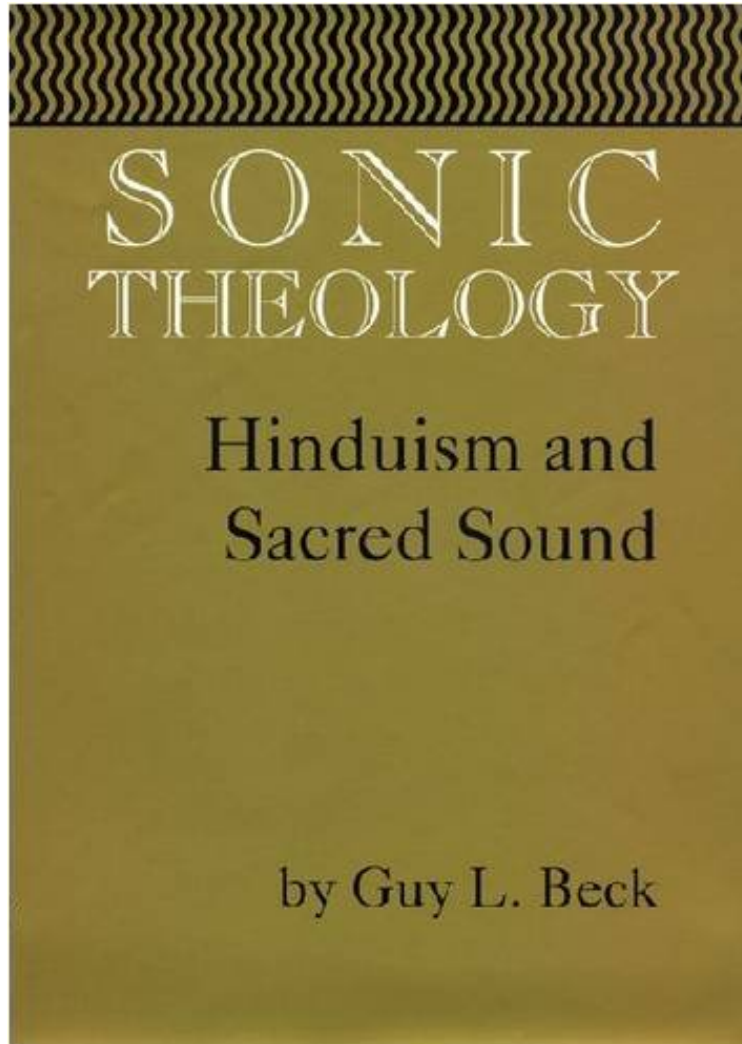


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## Sonic Theology (Studies in Comparative Religion (Paperback))

*Guy L. Beck*

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#922870 in Books Guy L Beck 2009-01-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .70 x 5.981, 1.01 #File Name: 1570038430312 pagesSonic Theology Hinduism and Sacred Sound | File size: 31.Mb

**Guy L. Beck : Sonic Theology (Studies in Comparative Religion (Paperback))** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sonic Theology (Studies in Comparative Religion (Paperback)):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Vital Work on a Hitherto-Neglected Core TopicBy MarkOne of my favorite academic books on Hinduism. It pioneered the academic study of the role of sound in Hinduism, and did within the genuine structure of Hinduism in different theological and philosophical schools. The topic adds context and depth to one's understanding of Hinduism and its practices and doctrines.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Breath of Fresh AirBy Jonathan EdwardsHello my Friends! An excellent book. It was my understanding that Sonic Theology was about the role of music in religion. But Mr. Beck goes way beyond that and explores the path

that sound can heal regardless of religion, or no religion. He does spend a lot of time on Hinduism, because in Hinduism sound IS THE ULTIMATE REALITY. Luckily, I bought this book a week before I went to The Internastional Symposium on Sound, Music, and Healing. If you are at all interested in drumming or gongs and bells used for healing, this book is for you! Thanks for letting me share. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Rare contribution  
By James H. Bae  
As a writer and researcher in the area of Hinduism and Yoga, I read and review a number of books everyday. This work successfully opens the field for study in sacred sound in the Hindu Tradition. Although a number of works deal with mantra in relation to the various soteriological traditions of India, none have truly brought all of the knowledge together as efficiently and decisively as he has. His comparative approach and weaving together of helpful, contextual historical information make it a valuable study. His treatment of the grammarian traditions and their theories on language, meaning and mantra are insightful. I heartily recommend this work for those interested in learning more about the role of sound in soteriology. As India's legacy is its oral tradition, this book provides a unique perspective into the Indic spiritual traditions. Beck's approach has reset the perspective and opened a doorway to the heart of Hinduism. As one of my mentor's stated, "Only a fine musician could have written such a book." Tip\*\* If you want a starter book on the topic, look up Harold Coward and David Goa, Mantra: Hearing the Divine in India.

The Hindu world is permeated by sound: drums, bells, gongs, cymbals, conches, flutes, and an array of vocalizations play a central role in worship. Guy L. Beck contends that the traditional Western focus on Hinduism's visual component has often been at the expense of the religion's most important feature-its emphasis on sound. In *Sonic Theology* Beck addresses this longstanding imbalance, contending that Hinduism is essentially a sonic theology. Beck argues that sound participates at every level of the Hindu cosmos. Comparing the centrality of sound in Hindu theology to its place in other religions, Beck raises issues about sound and language that not only reshape our understanding of Hindu worship but also invite a fresh approach to comparative theology.

"Sonic Theology makes a significant contribution to the ongoing Western understanding of the audible or sonic dimension in Hinduism, and it also provides a welcome corrective in the academy by focusing on sacred sound.... Sonic Theology has not only tuned itself to the sonic experience in theology, it has struck a note that will reverberate for years to come." - *History of Religion*  
About the Author  
Guy L. Beck is an assistant professor in the School of Continuing Studies at Tulane University and the editor of *Alternative Krishnas: Regional and Vernacular Variations on a Hindu Deity and Sacred Sound: Experiencing Music in World Religions*.