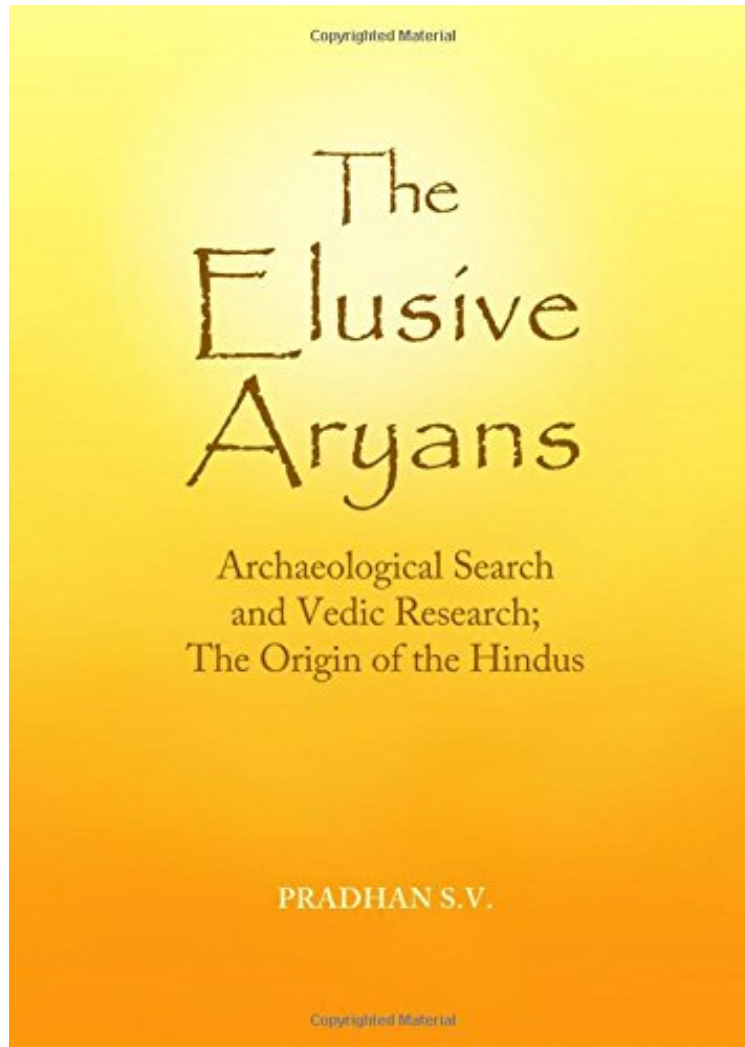


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## The Elusive Aryans: Archaeological Search and Vedic Research; the Origin of the Hindus (India Studies)

Pradhan Sv

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The question of the original home of the Aryans and their migrations to India is only part of the problem of their

"elusiveness." Their subsequent assimilation and nativization in India also contributed to this elusive quality. This socio-cultural process can be traced through a study of their gods, rituals, and philosophy. Thus changes in the nature and function of Rgvedic gods; the appearance of upstart gods in the late Rgvedic period; the elaboration of the soma ritual with elaborate supplementary rituals; the introduction of the new ritual of Agnicayana; the rise of the eschatology of "punarjanma" (rebirth) and "samsara" (eternal return) based on "karma"; and the ideal of "mukti", or liberation from life, in place of the former ideal of a life of "saradah satam" (a hundred autumns) are symptoms of, as well as a witness to, the transformation of the original identity of the Aryans as revealed in the Family Books of the Rgveda. This cultural transformation is no less significant than the "Yaksa prasna" (knotty question) of their original home and their "indubitable" archaeological traces. The book addresses itself to both these questions, and, for that purpose, takes another look at some of the archaeological material and Aryan life and thought as reflected in Vedic literature.

About the Author Pradhan S.V. received an MA from Elphinstone College, Bombay, and a PhD from the University of Manitoba. He has taught at the University of Manitoba, Dalhousie University, Canada, and the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad, India. He is the author of *Philocrisy and its Implications: Essays on Coleridge* (Allied, 1999), and of papers on critical theory, J.S. Mill, E.M. Forster, and the Indus Valley in the *British Journal of Aesthetics*; *Studies in Romanticism*; *Philological Quarterly*; *Dalhousie*; *the Centennial*; and *Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute*.