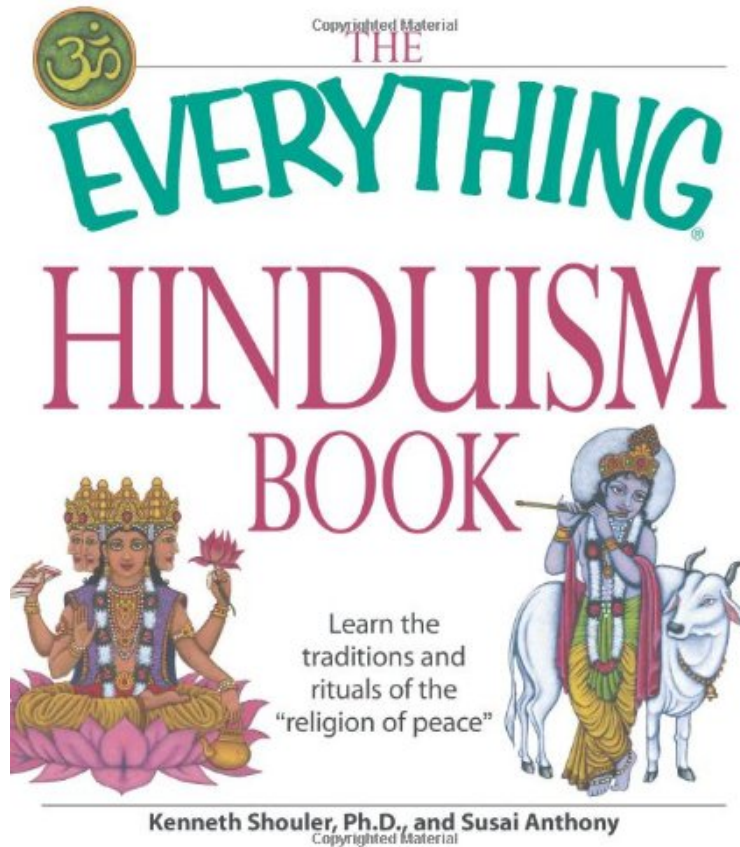


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The Everything Hinduism Book: Learn the traditions and rituals of the "religion of peace"

Kenneth Schouler

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Kenneth Schouler : The Everything Hinduism Book: Learn the traditions and rituals of the "religion of peace" before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Everything Hinduism Book: Learn the traditions and rituals of the "religion of peace":

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. HelpfulBy ramagnesHelpful8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Christian missionary's views on Hinduism - a funny bookBy S. PyneThis is a funny book. Here is an easy exercise to see why this book is funny --Go to the Index (via link for 'Click to look Inside').Now try searching for these terms - Siva/Shiv, Visnu, Ganesha, Rama, Devi, Durga, Kali, Laxmi, Saraswati - 0 (zero) pages! That is, the Hindu pantheon - a total of 0 pages!*EVERYTHING* Hinduism indeed. (Imagine an Everything Christianity book that does not mention God (analogous to Siva) or Christ (Rama) or Mary (Devi) but contains chapters on Aquinas (Sankara) and the Chinese philosophers!)How about checking for Ramayana or Mahabharata - the most popular Hindu texts/epics and holy references? DIY.Now check for Socrates, Tolstoy, Thoreau, Martin Luther - a full chapter!In the Acknowledgments, the first author admits of getting his inputs on Indian culture from a Catholic priest born in India.

The 2nd author, a South Indian Christian by name, authored 'Hindutva: The Hydra at Work' and is one "who sees Hinduism clearly for what it is" (leading to a significant amount of discussion on the problems of Dalits and Hindutva). Well, their clarity of vision is precisely a Christian missionary's age-old take on Hinduism. Only Hinduism is blessed with such experts. In the book, Hinduism is portrayed in general in positive light. But while the authors are ok with accepting Hinduism as philosophy, they are deeply unfamiliar or uncomfortable with its popular, religious and realistic aspects. One nice thing about the book is the collection of chapters on the different orthodox and heterodox schools (darsana-s) of Indian philosophy, but if you want to learn about Indian philosophy, this is hardly the preferred text to buy. Try to avoid the book.

Yoga. Karma. Reincarnation. Most Americans are familiar with a few basic ideas of Hinduism, but are unfamiliar with the big picture. This beginners guide covers the major Hindu thinkers and their philosophies as well as the dharma, the moral way of life that Hindus practice. In a straightforward style, the authors explain the philosophy, gods, texts, and traditions of the worlds third-largest religion, including: the power of karma; Yoga as a path to God; the authority of the Vedas; the development of Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism; the legacy of Mohandas Gandhi; Hinduism in popular culture; and more. This guide is stimulating reading for westerners who want to learn the basics of this ancient and mystic religion.

About the Author Kenneth Shouler, Ph.D. (Harrison, NY), is an associate professor at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York. He has written dozens of newspaper and magazine articles and is the author of several books, including The Everything Guide to Understanding Philosophy