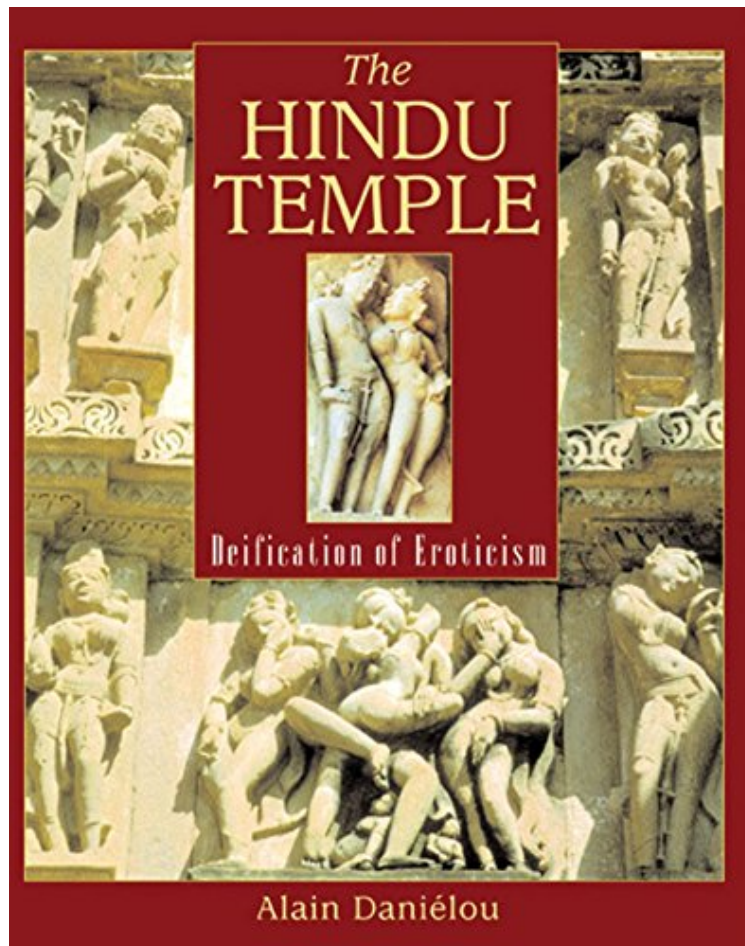


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Alain Danilou, Alain Danielou : The Hindu Temple: Deification of Eroticism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hindu Temple: Deification of Eroticism:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A fine spiritual guide to the major temples of IndiaBy Midwest Book ReviewAlain Danielou's Hindi Temple is here translated into English for the first time, and provides a fine spiritual and travel guide to the major temples of India. The focus on their erotic sculptures and Hindu faith makes for an excellent set of insights.3 of 21 people found the following review helpful. introduction to religionBy Alex Ferdmanthis book should be called - introduction to hindu religion.most of the book deals with explanations how hindu religionconnected to hindu temple.low quality pictures dont addanything.some two pages talk about eroticism.

Danielou's masterpiece on the erotic nature of the sacred symbolism of the Hindu temple. Includes stunning photographs from the major temple complexes of India. By Alain Danielou, one of the greatest authorities on

Hinduism. Ancient Indian architectural treatises state that a temple lacking erotic imagery would be ineffective and maleficent. The erotic statues and representations that cover the outer and inner walls of the Hindu temple serve both a magical and an instructional purpose. Through the power of the yantras--the magical diagrams created by the placement of the erotic imagery--the architect made the temple a faithful reflection of the divine. At the same time this imagery educated the faithful about the fundamental aspects of the Hindu religion, wherein the union of opposites in the sexual act is the perfect image of the creative principle, and erotic enjoyment is a reflection of divine bliss. Alain Danielou's masterpiece on the Hindu temple, now translated for the first time into English, provides a stunningly illustrated tour of the major temple complexes of India. The erotic sculptures that cover the walls of these temples are not merely symbolic portrayals of voluptuous acts but serve as profound reminders that man is closest to the divine during the instant of sexual transcendence.

.com Tucked away in remote Indian jungles are little-known masterpieces of Hindu architecture. What these temples mean and how they were used are the subjects of Alain Danielou's introduction to these magnificent Shaivite structures. Lifelong Indologist and translator of the Kama Sutra, Danielou gives us a grand tour of these temples by drawing from accounts in ancient texts. In very short segments, he directs us to the temple plan, the architect, erotic representations, the meanings of life, the sanctuary, and other aspects of the temple and its erotic sculpture and symbols. Originally published in two French titles, *The Hindu Temple* includes original photographs by Raymond Burnier and others who trekked across India to capture these out-of-the-way temples on film. The photographs, along with a number of exceptional color plates, suffer slightly in quality, but the effect is not lost. *The Hindu Temple* is a noteworthy introduction to a spirituality that Danielou claims to be the fountainhead of the all religions. Whether or not true, the art and the power live and still inspire today. --Brian Bruya
From *Library Journal*
The late Danielou was one of the greatest Western writers on Hinduism, and this text translates and amalgamates two of his texts: *L'erotisme divinise* and *Le temple hindou*. Danielou writes with great clarity and authority, and his understanding of the ancient Hindu religious aesthetic is nothing short of breathtaking. Despite the book's subtitle, Danielou's work provides less of the thrill of voyeurism than the excitement of learning and illumination. In addition, the illustration of his words by the splendid photographs of Raymond Burnier delivers the meaning of the text with added force. Highly recommended. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This book . . . is a tremendous way to break out of the spell of Western society." (Michael Peter Langevin, *Magical Blend*, Summer 2001)"The focus on their erotic sculptures and Hindu faith makes for an excellent set of insights." (The Midwest Book , December 2001)"Alain Danielou's books are remarkable for their clarity and scholarship. An uninhibited celebration of erotic and mystical ecstasy." (Interview Magazine)"Danielou is one of the greatest Western authorities on Hinduism. . . His talents seem unending." (Mohini Kent, *Times of India*)"Must read." (Today's Books, March 7, 2001)"Danielou writes with great clarity and authority, and his understanding of the ancient Hindu religious aesthetic is nothing short of breathtaking. Highly recommended." (Library Journal, March 1, 2001, Volume 126 No. 4)