

Tantra

The Roots of Tantra

Among the many spiritual traditions born and developed in India, Tantra has been the most difficult to define. Almost everything about it its major characteristics, its sources, its relationships to other religions, even its practices are debated among sc

A Brief History of Tantra Literature

In the West, the varied body of texts and traditions known as Tantra for more than two centuries has had the capacity to scandalize and shock. For European colonizers, Orientalist scholars and Christian missionaries of the Victorian era, Tantra was generally seen as the most degenerate and depraved example of the worst tendencies of the so-called 'Indian mind': a pathological mixture of sensuality and religion that prompted the decline of modern Hinduism. Yet for most contemporary New Age and popular writers, Tantra is celebrated as a much-needed affirmation of physical pleasure and sex: indeed as a 'cult of ecstasy' to counter the perceived hypocritical prudery of many Westerners. In recent years, Tantra has become the focus of a still larger cultural and political debate. In the eyes of many Hindus, much of the western literature on Tantra represents a form of neo-colonialism, which continues to portray India as an exotic, erotic, hyper-sexualized Orient. Which, then, is the 'real' Tantra? Focusing on one of the oldest and most important Tantric traditions, based in Assam, northeast India, Hugh B Urban shows that Tantra is less about optimal sexual pleasure than about harnessing the divine power of the goddess that flows alike through the cosmos, the human body and political society. In a fresh and vital contribution to the field, the author suggests that the 'real' meaning of Tantra lies in helping us rethink not just the history of Indian religions, but also our own modern obsessions with power, sex and the invidious legacies of cultural imperialism.

The Power of Tantra

Tantra occupies a unique position in Western understandings of Hindu spirituality. Its carnal dimension has made its name instantly recognizable, but this popular fascination with sex has obscured its philosophical depth and ritual practices, to say nothing of its overall importance to Hinduism. This book offers a clear, well-grounded overview of Tantra that offers substantial new insights for scholars and practitioners. André Padoux opens by detailing the history of Tantra, beginning with its origins, founding texts, and major beliefs. The second part of the book delves more deeply into key concepts relating to the tantric body, mysticism, sex, mantras, sacred geography, and iconography, while the final part considers the practice of Tantra today, both in India and in the West. The result is an authoritative account of Tantra's history and present place in the world.

Tantra in Bengal

Unveiled in this book are the secrets of the occult sciences of Yantra, Mantra and Tantra to help the reader achieve worldly success and spiritual enlightenment. Detailed instructions are given for the preparation and application of Yantras for specific purposes: to win favours, defeat for selecting and using Mantras to attain miraculous powers, and fulfilment of one's desires, are explained in detail. In the Tantra section of the book, methods of treatment of diseases by herbs are given. Information is provided about Tantric articles and where to obtain them.

The Hindu Tantric World

Tantra in Practice is the eight volume of Princeton Readings in Religions and the first substantial anthology of Tantric works ever to appear in English. The thirty-nine contributors, drawn from around the world, are leading scholars of Tantra. Each contributor has provided a translation of a key work, in most cases translated here for the first time. Each chapter in the volume begins with an introduction in which the translator discusses the history and influence of the work, identifying points of particular difficulty or interest. David White has provided a general introduction to the volume that serves as an ideal guide to the riches contained between the covers of this book. He has organized the volume thematically, providing fascinating juxtapositions of works from different regions, periods, and traditions. Two additional tables of contents are provided, organizing the works by tradition and by country of origin. The range of works represented here is remarkable, spanning the continent of Asia and the traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Islam over more than a millennium. With the publication this volume, the long disparaged and neglected Tantric traditions of Asia receive the attention they so rightly deserve. This is a groundbreaking work.

Tantra, Its Mystic and Scientific Basis

The author presents a rich and variegated picture of the sakta/ tantra art of Orissa, highlighting the evolving iconography of individual images. He focuses on different forms and depictions of the goddess as Sakti, painstakingly analyzing the architecture of a number of temples and their images.

Secrets of Yantra, Mantra and Tantra

A provocative study of contemporary Tantra as a dynamic living tradition. Tantra, one of the most important religious currents in South Asia, is often misrepresented as little more than ritualized sex. Through a mixture of ethnography and history, Hugh B. Urban reveals a dynamic living tradition behind the sensationalist stories. Urban shows that Tantric desire goes beyond the erotic, encompassing such quotidian experiences as childbearing and healing. He traces these holistic desires through a series of unique practices: institutional Tantra centered on gurus and esoteric rituals; public Tantra marked by performance and festival; folk Tantra focused on magic and personal well-being; and popular Tantra imagined in fiction, film, and digital media. The result is a provocative new description of Hindu Tantra that challenges us to approach religion as something always entwined with politics and culture, thoroughly entangled with ordinary needs and desires.

Tantra in Practice

Drawing from original texts on self-mastery, Evola discusses two Hindu movements--Tantrism and Shaktism--which emphasize a path of action to gain power over energies latent within the body.

Tantra and Sakta Art of Orissa

The Kularnava is perhaps the foremost Tantra of the Kaula School and is constantly cited as an authority in Tantric literature. It is worthy of close study by those who would understand the tenets and practice of the tradition of which it is a Sastra. The Introduction by Arthur Avalon gives a concise outline of the work. Sri M.P. Pandit who is a keen student of the Tantras and Vedas has rendered the work in English in eleven chapters. The readings are free translations, with annotations where necessary, omitting technical details but preserving the spirit and essential import of the original in his characteristically lucid style. The Kularnava prescribes the modes of preparation for the high quest; it draws upon ethics, religion, philosophy, yoga to elevate human life gradually to the level of godly life. It comprehends the multiple personality of man and provides for the healthy growth of his mental faculties, purification of his physical faculties through ritual, japa, mantra and upasana. Who is fit for the path of Tantra? Who is competent to guide the novice on the double - edged razor path? What is the responsibility of a Guru to a disciple? These and other relevant questions are raised and answered in a satisfying manner.

The Path of Desire

Tantra Is A Distinct Philosophical System Many Feel Eager To Know About It, But Few Love The Time And Energy To Understand. The Intricacies Of Tantra. So, A Short-Cut Is Necessary. In The Present Work, An Attempt Has Been Made To Set Forth The Highlights Of The Tantra Works And Their Authors. A Bibliography, Intended To Help Further Reading, Has Been Added.

Discourses on Tantra

A Perfect Reference Tool For The Scholar Of Hinduism And Theology.

The Yoga of Power

Tantra seemingly combines sexuality, sensual pleasure, and the full range of physical experience with the religious life and has proven a key factor in the imagining of India. This book offers a critical account of how the phenomenon has come to be.

The Art of Tantra

Elucidation of eight tantric sadhanas.

Kularnava Tantra

Tantra is a family of rituals modeled on those of the Vedas and their attendant texts and lineages. These rituals typically involve the visualization of a deity, offerings, and the chanting of his or her mantra. Common variations include visualizing the deity in the act of sexual union with a consort, visualizing oneself as the deity, and "transgressive" acts such as token consumption of meat or alcohol. Most notoriously, non-standard or ritualized sex is sometimes practiced. This accounts for Tantra's negative reputation in some quarters and its reception in the West primarily as a collection of sexual practices. Although some today extol Tantra's liberating qualities, the role of women remains controversial. Traditionally there are two views of women and Tantra. Either the feminine is a metaphor and actual women are altogether absent, or Tantra involves the transgressive use of women's bodies to serve male interests. Loriliai Biernacki presents an alternative view, in which women are revered, worshipped, and considered worthy of spiritual attainment. Her primary sources are a collection of eight relatively modern Tantric texts written in Sanskrit from the 15th through the 18th century. Her analysis of these texts reveals a view of women that is generally positive and empowering. She focuses on four topics: 1) the "Kali Practice," in which women appear not only as objects of reverence but as practitioners and gurus; 2) the Tantric sex rite, especially in the case that, contrary to other Tantric texts, the preference is for wives as ritual consorts; 3) feminine language and the gendered implications of mantra; and 4) images of male violence towards women in tantric myths. Biernacki, by choosing to analyse eight particular Sanskrit texts, argues that within the tradition of Tantra there exists a representation of women in which the female is an authoritative, powerful, equal participant in the Tantric ritual practice.

A Companion to Tantra

For those who wonder what relation actual Tantric practices bear to the "Tantric sex" currently being marketed so successfully in the West, David Gordon White has a simple answer: there is none. Sweeping away centuries of misunderstandings and misrepresentations, White returns to original texts, images, and ritual practices to reconstruct the history of South Asian Tantra from the medieval period to the present day. Kiss of the Yogini focuses on what White identifies as the sole truly distinctive feature of South Asian Tantra: sexualized ritual practices, especially as expressed in the medieval Kaula rites. Such practices

centered on the exchange of powerful, transformative sexual fluids between male practitioners and wild female bird and animal spirits known as Yoginis. It was only by "drinking" the sexual fluids of the Yoginis that men could enter the family of the supreme godhead and thereby obtain supernatural powers and transform themselves into gods. By focusing on sexual rituals, White resituates South Asian Tantra, in its precolonial form, at the center of religious, social, and political life, arguing that Tantra was the mainstream, and that in many ways it continues to influence contemporary Hinduism, even if reformist misunderstandings relegate it to a marginal position. Kiss of the Yogini contains White's own translations from over a dozen Tantras that have never before been translated into any European language. It will prove to be the definitive work for persons seeking to understand Tantra and the crucial role it has played in South Asian history, society, culture, and religion.

A Glossary of Tantra, Mantra and Yantra

The Hindu pantheon is rich in images of the divine feminine—deities representing a wide range of symbolic, social, and meditative meanings. David Kinsley's new book documents a highly unusual group of ten Hindu tantric goddesses, the Mahavidyas, many of whom are strongly associated with sexuality and violence. What is one to make of a goddess who cuts her own head off, or one who prefers sex with a corpse? The Mahavidyas embody habits, attributes, or identities usually considered repulsive or socially subversive and can be viewed as "antimodels" for women. Yet it is within the context of tantric worship that devotees seek to identify themselves with these forbidding goddesses. The Mahavidyas seem to function as "awakeners"—symbols which help to project one's consciousness beyond the socially acceptable or predictable. Drawing on a broad range of Sanskrit and vernacular texts as well as extensive research in India, including written and oral interpretations of contemporary Hindu practitioners, Kinsley describes the unusual qualities of each of the Mahavidyas and traces the parallels between their underlying themes. Especially valuable are the many rare and fascinating images he presents—each important to grasping the significance of the goddesses. Written in an accessible, engaging style, Kinsley's book provides a comprehensive understanding of the Mahavidyas and is also an overview of Hindu tantric practice. The Hindu pantheon is rich in images of the divine feminine—deities representing a wide range of symbolic, social, and meditative meanings. David Kinsley's new book documents a highly unusual group of ten Hindu tantric goddesses, the Mahavidyas, many of w

Rituals and Practices of Tantra

A definitive manual for completing the spiritual path through the practice of Highest Yoga Tantra. Actual Tantra, also known as "Secret Mantra" or "Vajrayana," is a special method taught by Buddha to purify our world, our self, our enjoyments and our activities. Although there is great interest in Tantra, very few people understand its real meaning. This book represents a significant milestone in revealing the profound mysteries of Tantra to the modern world. Drawing from his own experience and the works of Je Tsongkhapa and other great Yogis, Geshe Kelsang presents an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the four classes of Tantra in general, and to the generation and completion stages of Highest Yoga Tantra in particular. "The Vajrayana path is like a vehicle that takes us directly to our final destination and the common paths are like the road on which the vehicle travels. Therefore, to extract the greatest essence from this precious human life by attaining full enlightenment, we need first to train in the common paths of Lamrim, and then in the uncommon Vajrayana paths." Geshe Kelsang Gyatso

Tantra

The sage Parashurama understood that the esoteric sense that leads the seeker to realization is the essential meaning of the tantras. This book expounds the Preliminary Sutras of Parashurama, with Sanskrit text, translation and Sri Pandit's luminous commentary. It is followed by a section of aphoristic comments on a number of subjects that are suitable for meditation, reflection and contemplation.

Tantra and Religion

The ever-increasing popularity of Yoga and related practices makes a desktop reference like this indispensable. With over twenty-five hundred entries and extensive illustrations, it combines comprehensiveness with accessibility. The book is arranged and written in a manner that will inform rather than overwhelm the lay reader, while at the same time offering valuable references for the professional researcher and the historian of religion. This new edition includes information about contemporary Yoga teachers. It also provides fuller descriptions and illustrations of Yoga poses, and features additional cross references.

Tantra

Advanced text discusses the inherent quadrality of the Gods and Goddesses, and how creation systems work. Through a series of meditations and visualizations, the authors show how kundalini energy can be safely activated and cycled, bringing you through a psychic loop that empowers you to discover new knowledge, and bring it back into consciousness with you.

The Power of Tantra

In the vast tapestry of spiritual traditions, Tantra stands out as a profound and transformative path that weaves together the threads of body, mind, and spirit. Often misunderstood and misrepresented, Tantra is not merely a practice of physical intimacy but a comprehensive system of spiritual development that embraces all aspects of life. Tantra: The Ultimate Knowledge delves into the depths of this ancient wisdom, exploring its origins, philosophies, and practices. This book aims to demystify Tantra, presenting it as a holistic approach to achieving self-realization and liberation. Through the integration of various techniques such as mantras, mudras, visualization, and breathwork, Tantra offers a unique path to expand consciousness and connect with the divine. Central to the practice of Tantra is the understanding and manipulation of energy within the body. This energy, often referred to as prana or life force, flows through a network of channels known as nadis. The convergence points of these nadis are the chakras, or energy centers, which play a crucial role in maintaining physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. In this journey, you will discover how Tantra celebrates the unity of the physical and spiritual realms, teaching that every experience, every sensation, is a gateway to the divine. By working with the chakras, practitioners can awaken and harmonize their inner energy, leading to profound states of awareness and bliss. Techniques such as kundalini awakening focus on activating the dormant energy at the base of the spine, allowing it to rise through the chakras and bring about transformative experiences. Join us as we unravel the mysteries of Tantra, exploring its rich history, its profound teachings, and its practical applications in daily life. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner or a curious seeker, this book will provide you with the insights and tools needed to embark on your own Tantric journey towards enlightenment. *All chapters in this book were originally part of our earlier work; 'Kundalini Science' series' 'Spiritual Psychology' books. If you enjoyed these, you'll find more in the full compilation.*

Renowned Goddess of Desire

Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism fundamentally rethinks the nature of the transgressive theories and practices of the Buddhist Tantric traditions, challenging the notion that the Tantras were \"marginal\" or primitive and situating them instead—both ideologically and institutionally—within larger trends in mainstream Buddhist and Indian culture. Critically surveying prior scholarship, Wedemeyer exposes the fallacies of attributing Tantric transgression to either the passions of lusty monks, primitive tribal rites, or slavish imitation of Saiva traditions. Through comparative analysis of modern historical narratives—that depict Tantrism as a degenerate form of Buddhism, a primal religious undercurrent, or medieval ritualism—he likewise demonstrates these to be stock patterns in the European historical imagination. Through close analysis of primary sources, Wedemeyer reveals the lived world of Tantric Buddhism as largely continuous with the Indian religious mainstream and deploys contemporary methods of semiotic and

structural analysis to make sense of its seemingly repellent and immoral injunctions. Innovative, semiological readings of the influential Guhyasamaja Tantra underscore the text's overriding concern with purity, pollution, and transcendent insight—issues shared by all Indic religions—and a large-scale, quantitative study of Tantric literature shows its radical antinomianism to be a highly managed ritual observance restricted to a sacerdotal elite. These insights into Tantric scripture and ritual clarify the continuities between South Asian Tantrism and broader currents in Indian religion, illustrating how thoroughly these \"radical\" communities were integrated into the intellectual, institutional, and social structures of South Asian Buddhism.

Kiss of the Yogini

This book entitled 'Tantra its relevance to modern times' which is a record of Tantra's long journey, presents an analytical and exhaustive study of the salient features of Tantra and all the elements of the Tantric Cult such as Guru, Sisya, Diksa, Mantra, Yantra, Pratima Puja, Cakra Puja, Pancamakara, Satkarma and Bali. The present work contains the names of Tantra works and their literary value, the names of the Saktapithas and their impact, comparisons of the Vedas, Buddhist Tantras, Islam and Marxism with Tantra, brief introductions of some legendary figures of Tantrika Sadhakas like Sri Ramkrishna, Vamakhya, Barada charan etc.

Tantric Visions of the Divine Feminine

The Book like its predecessor seeks to set forth a history of Tantra in India. Our attention has been paid chiefly to Tantric Therapy, a Mother neglected field. In it not only Hindu Tantras but also Buddhist Tantras have been dealt with and the influence of Tantra on life literature, music art and architecture have been described. Some important works both Hindu and Buddhist have been carefully analysed. A novel feature of this book is a list of Unpublished Tantras in India and abroad. This work has no pretention to completeness. This is to some extent a pioneering work on certain aspects of Tantra. It is expected to be useful to readers.

Tantra Yoga

Vijnana Bhairava Tantra is a part of Rudra Yamala Tantra which again belongs to the category of Bhairava Agamas. This is a Jnana Tantra which contains one hundred and twelve meditation techniques as different from outer rituals prescribed by other Tantras. The techniques taught by many gurus of today in all mystic schools are found in the list of these 112 methods. We find the practitioners of these techniques more in East and North of India than in the South. Especially for the followers of the Trika system of Kashmir Shaivism, this book is a favourite. There are many commentaries available on these verses. Nevertheless, I too have tried to explain them in the light of my understanding and experience. Those who are adept in the control of Prana and mind, Dharana and Dhyana could find it easy to practice these methods. For others, this book just satisfies their idle curiosity. The speciality of this Tantra lies in its simple and direct approach in teaching the meditation methods without beating around the bush indulging in theoretical jargon. Those who are interested in Tantra need to search for a competent guru, learn the subtleties of these methods from him directly, practice and experience the results mentioned in this book. We hope that this book too, like our earlier books, will be appreciated by readers.

Tantric Grounds and Paths

Sri Aurobindo writes \"The Tantric system is in its aspiration one of the greatest attempts yet made to embrace the whole of God manifested & unmanifested in the adoration, self-discipline & knowledge of a single human soul\". This compilation from Sri Aurobindo's writings focuses on a remarkable though grossly misunderstood Yogic system, the Tantra.

Encyclopaedia Of Tantra (vols.5 Set) (pb)

Tantra

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