
Begone Godmen

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LILIAN HOBBS

Gods, Demons & Spirits SUNY Press

This book offers an account of the Sai Baba movement as a pathway for charting the varied cartographies, sensory formations, and cultural memories implicated in urbanization and globalization. It is based on ethnographic research carried out in India, Kenya, and the US.

Festivals of Bhārata Jaico Publishing House

[B]elongs in every thinker's (or freethinker's) reference library. - Free Inquiry[F]ills a void in the reference literature of religion by focusing on atheism, skepticism, and humanism....the work should be purchased by libraries serving seminaries and other religious institutions and by academic libraries that support programs in religion or philosophy. -American Reference Books Annual[A]n indispensable research tool for all nonbelievers and scholars in the field of religion.... displays an impressive grasp of the field. -Michael Martin, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, Boston UniversityIn the tradition of Voltaire's Philosophical

Dictionary, Ambrose Bierce's Devil's Dictionary, and Joseph McCabe's Rationalist Encyclopedia, this accessible dictionary addresses the contemporary need for a reference book that succinctly summarizes the key concepts, current terminology, and major contributions of influential thinkers broadly associated with atheism, skepticism, and humanism. In the preface, author Bill Cooke notes that his work is intended for freethinkers in the broadest sense of the word: people who like to think for themselves and not according to the preplanned routes set by others. This dictionary will serve as a guide for all those people striving to lead fulfilling, morally responsible lives without religious belief. Readers are offered a wide range of concepts, from ancient, well-known notions such as God, free will, and evil to new concepts such as eupraxsophy. Also included are current buzzwords that have some bearing on the freethought worldview such as metrosexual. The names of many people whose lives or work reflect freethought principles form a major portion of the entries. Finally, a humanist calendar is included, on which events of interest to freethinkers are noted. This unique, accessible, and highly informative work will be a welcome addition to the libraries

of open-minded people of all philosophic persuasions. Bill Cooke (Amherst, NY) is International Director of the Center for Inquiry, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo, formerly Senior Lecturer at the School of Visual Arts at the University of Auckland at Manukau in New Zealand, and the author of *A Rebel to His Last Breath: Joseph McCabe and Rationalism and Heathen in Godzone: Seventy Years of Rationalism in New Zealand*.

Feng Shui: Teaching About Science and Pseudoscience
BRILL

Mihir Bose was born in January 1947. Eight months later, India became a modern, free nation. The country he knew growing up in the 1960s has undergone vast and radical change. India today exports food, sends space probes to Mars, and, all too often, Indian businesses rescue their ailing competitors in the West. In *From Midnight to Glorious Morning?*, Bose travels the length and breadth of India to explore how a country that many doubted would survive has been transformed into one capable of rivaling China as the world's preeminent economic superpower. Multifarious challenges still continue to plague the country: although inequality and corruption are issues not unique to India, such a rapid ascent to global prominence creates a precarious position. However, as Bose outlines, this rapid ascent provides evidence that India is ever capable of making great strides in the face of great adversity. Bose's penetrating analysis of the last seventy years asks what is yet to be done for India in order to fulfill the destiny with which it has been imbued. The predictions of doom in August 1947 have proved to be unfounded; the growth of the nation in population and capital has been

exponential, and there is much to celebrate. But Bose's nuanced, personal, and trenchant book shows that it is naïve to pretend the hoped-for bright morning has yet dawned.

Prometheus Books

This book provides a richly documented account of the historical, cultural, philosophical and practical dimensions of feng shui. It argues that where feng shui is entrenched educational systems have a responsibility to examine its claims, and that this examination provides opportunities for students to better learn about the key features of the nature of science, the demarcation of science and non-science, the characteristics of pseudoscience, and the engagement of science with culture and worldviews. The arguments presented for feng shui being a pseudoscience can be marshalled when considering a whole range of comparable beliefs and the educational benefit of their appraisal. Feng shui is a deeply-entrenched, three-millennia-old system of Asian beliefs and practices about nature, architecture, health, and divination that has garnered a growing presence outside of Asia. It is part of a comprehensive and ancient worldview built around belief in chi (qi) the putative universal energy or life-force that animates all existence, the cosmos, the solar system, the earth, and human bodies. Harmonious living requires building in accord with local chi streams; good health requires replenishment and manipulation of internal chi flow; and a beneficent afterlife is enhanced when buried in conformity with chi directions. Traditional Chinese Medicine is based on the proper manipulation of internal chi by acupuncture, tai-chi and qigong exercise, and herbal dietary supplements. Matthews has produced another tour de force that will repay close study by students, scientists, and all

those concerned to understand science, culture, and the science/culture nexus. Harvey Siegel, Philosophy, University of Miami, USA With great erudition and even greater fluidity of style, Matthews introduces us to this now-world-wide belief system. Michael Ruse, Philosophy, Florida State University, USA The book is one of the best research works published on Feng Shui. Wang Youjun, Philosophy, Shanghai Normal University, China The history is fascinating. The analysis makes an important contribution to science literature. James Alcock, Psychology, York University, Canada This book provides an in-depth study of Feng Shui in different periods, considering its philosophical, historical and educational dimensions; especially from a perspective of the 'demarcation problem' between science and pseudoscience. Yao Dazhi, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Witchcraft in Western India Haus Publishing

Gods, Demons and Spirits is a worthy successor to the bestseller BEGONE GODMEN. In it, Dr. Abraham Kovoov, the famed rationalist, continues his relentless crusade against charlatans and miracle-men with greater vigour. It is a scathing exposure of the conning methods employed by pseudo-gods, bogus gurus and assorted fakes to entrap their gullible victims. *The Illustrated Weekly of India* Harsh Surana

Exploring lived atheism in the South Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, this book offers a unique insight into India's rapidly transforming multi-religious society. It explores the social, cultural, and aesthetic challenges faced by a movement of secular activists in their endeavors to establish atheism as a practical and comprehensive way of life. On the basis of original ethnographic material and engaged conceptual analysis, Total

Atheism develops an alternative to Eurocentric accounts of secularity and critically revisits central themes of South Asian scholarship from the hitherto marginalized vantage point of radically secular and explicitly irreligious atheists in India. Bibliographic Guide to Psychology University of Washington Press

Through shrewd marketing and publicity, Hindu spiritual leaders can play powerful roles in contemporary India as businessmen and government officials. Focusing on the organizations and activities of Hindu ascetics and gurus, Lise McKean explores the complex interrelations among religion, the political economy of India, and global capitalism. In this close look at the business of religion, McKean traces the ideological and organizational antecedents to the Hindu nationalist movement. The Indian state's increasing patronage of Hindu institutions makes competition for its support greater than ever. Using materials from guru's publications, the press, and extensive field research, McKean examines how participation by upper-caste ruling class groups in the Divine Life Society and other Hindu organizations further legitimates their own authority. With a remarkable selection of photographs and advertisements showing icons of spirituality used to sell commodities from textiles to cement to comic books, McKean illustrates the pervasive presence of Hindu imagery in India's burgeoning market economy. She shows how gurus popularize Hindu nationalism through imagery such as the goddess, Mother India, and her martyred sons and daughters. *In Search of Sai Divine* Partridge Publishing

R.K. Narayan And His Social Perspective Deals With The Caste-Ridden Hindu Society Which Narayan Presents In His Novels. His Characters Are Fatalists With Explicit Faith In The Invisible. The

Book Presents Their Half-Hearted Attempts At Self-Assertion. However, Their So-Called Sentimentalism Does Not Bear Fruit And They Fall Back To Their Former Position Accepting Defeat In Life. The Book Brings Out Vividly Narayan S Atti-Tude To Life, His Firm Grip Of Hindu Ethos Of Which He Is The Product, And His Failure To Come Out Of It, Though The West Wind Has Blown Much Of Its Dust. However Detached He Sounds Himself To The Readers, His True Spirit Finds Vivid Expression In The Book. At Any Rate R.K. Narayan Is A Thoroughly Indian Novelist Par Excellence, And The Aspect Is Hardly To Be Overlooked.

Organized Rationalism and Criticism of Religion in India M.D. Publications Pvt. Ltd.

This unique and thrilling book is a compilation of almost all available materials published in the press during 1972-95 on various events and matters connected with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the greatest of the spiritual Masters of the contemporary world. These press reports had created many controversies about this renowned Godman. The compiler has presented convincing replies to those controversies and made a thorough critical assessment of all the press reports on Baba.

India Since Independence Springer

India is frequently represented as the quintessential land of religion. Johannes Quack challenges this representation through an examination of the contemporary Indian rationalist organizations: groups who affirm the values and attitudes of atheism, humanism, or free-thinking.

A Bible Correspondence Course Bharatha Samskruthi Prakashana
Claims of the miraculous are foundational to faith and skepticism, making and breaking religious careers and movements in their

wake. Drawing on a variety of South Asian religious traditions- Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity- this book revolves around the theme of conundrum, demonstrating how miracles offer divine proof, tenacious embarrassment, and, in many cases, both. The contributors explore not only how modern miracles are conundrums themselves but also how they make conundrums out of assumed divides between scientific and supernatural realms, modernity and tradition, the West and the rest, and ethnographer and native. Book jacket.

Body, City, and Memory in a Global Religious Movement

Berghahn Books

A professional magician exposes mystics, mediums, psychic surgeons, and others who claim to possess supernatural or paranormal powers, demonstrating how their feats are little more than well-planned tricks that any competent magician can duplicate

Indian Books Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Proceedings of the 22d-33d annual conference of the Library Association in v. 1-12; proceedings of the 34th-44th, 47th-57th annual conference issued as a supplement to v. 13-23, new ser. v. 3-ser. 4, v. 1.

1980 Oxford University Press

Study covers Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

Competing Visions of a Global Saint Motilal Banarsidass
Publishe

Begone Godmen! describes Dr. Kovoov's encounters with assorted fakes attempting to cash on the credulity of their victims. It is a work of detection and exposure, as enjoyable a any thriller, and a warning against the bogus gurus the reader may

come across.

Who is a Hindu? SUNY Press

The present collection brings together a set of essays which shed light on recent research into non-religion, secularity and atheism—topics which have been emerging as important areas of current research in a number of different disciplines. The essays cover a wide span—in terms of the various stances they discuss (secular, atheist, non-religious), the settings in which these topics are relevant (families, wider society, politics, demography) and the different perspectives which relate to socialisation and social relations (belief acquisition, discrimination). Written by authors from a variety of national settings and academic disciplines, the collection presents a range of methodologies, combining theoretical approaches with quantitative and qualitative research findings. The authors address issues related to an important academic field which had been neglected for some time, but which has been made relevant by the increasing percentage of people professing a non-religious stance. This collection represents a major contribution to this area of academic research, not only because it puts the themes of non-religion and secularity firmly on the academic map, but also because it offers a variety of different viewpoints and aims to bring clarity into the use of concepts and terminology. The authors make important contributions to the emerging body of research in this area and point out areas where further research is needed. The first essay provides a thorough introduction to this field, taking stock of the work done so far, highlighting the overarching issues, and embedding the essays in the wider context of existing literature. This book was originally published as a special issue of the

Journal of Contemporary Religion.

Indian Books in Print MacMillan Publishing Company

Festivals and Holy Days are very familiar, very important interwoven part of our religious and social life. Leaving aside the holy days, undoubtedly, festivals are objects of natural love to the entire human race. Poet Laureate Kalidasa, has observed this truth and says 'Human beings are fond of festivities' ("utsava priya khalu manuShyaaH" shaakuntala Act 6). They are especially happy occasions of life. The most common method in which people all over the world celebrate festivals is by getting together with family and friends, enjoying the savory gourmet foods, drinking to the best of their ability (at times, even spending beyond their means), singing, dancing and chit chatting to their hearts content, forgetting their troubles, if any. In this book we will elaborate in a chronological order beginning with the first month of the year, incorporating any special features in the description of festivals (parvas). Our other books here can be searched using #BharathaSamskruthiPrakashana

Nature, Society, and Thought Stosius Incorporated/Advent Books Division

Nearly a century after his death, the image of Sai Baba, the serene old man with the white beard from Shirdi village in Maharashtra, India, is instantly recognizable to most South Asians (and many Westerners) as a guru for all faiths—Hindus, Muslims, and others. During his lifetime Sai Baba accepted all followers who came to him, regardless of religious or caste background, and preached a path of spiritual enlightenment and mutual tolerance. These days, tens of thousands of Indians and foreigners make the pilgrimage to Shirdi each year, and Sai Baba

temples have sprung up in unlikely places around the world, such as Munich, Seattle, and Austin. Tracing his rise from small village guru to global phenomenon, religious studies scholar Karlene McLain uses a wide range of sources to investigate the different ways that Sai Baba has been understood in South Asia and beyond and the reasons behind his skyrocketing popularity among Hindus in particular. Shining a spotlight on an incredibly forceful devotional movement that avoids fundamental politics and emphasizes unity, service, and peace, *The Afterlife of Sai Baba* is an entertaining—and enlightening—look at one of South Asia's most popular spiritual gurus.

Enlightenment East and West Begone Godmen

This book shows that mysticism is incomplete without scientific rationalism, and that our current social and political projects cannot be completed without assimilating the values and practices of mysticism. It discusses cross-cultural ethics, mysticism and value theory, mysticism and metaphysics, mysticism and the theory of knowledge, ethics and religion, parapsychology, patriarchy, and social and political history.

Begone Godmen SAGE Publishing India

A compelling account of India's complicated and often contradictory relationship with technology.