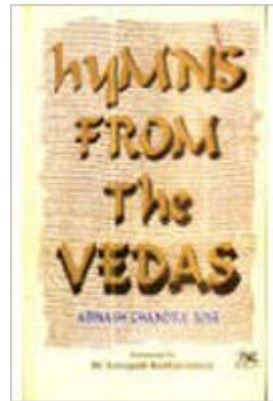


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Hymns From The Vedas



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Customer Reviews

Rigveda is the earliest scriptures of Hinduism from which many cultural and spiritual traditions arose. In this book the author has translated a selected group of hymns from the four Vedas; the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, and Samaveda and presented in the order of five yogas of Bhagavadgita, namely; Jnanayoga (path of knowledge), Karmayoga (path of action), Bhaktiyoga (path of devotion), Vibhutyoga (path of splendor), and Rajayoga (path of mysticism). In addition, two more chapters about the hymns of Death and Earth have been included which illustrates the Vedic seers zest for life, their deep attachment for spiritual values, and respect for the departed soul. A large part of Rig Vedic hymns were chanted (Samaveda was sung) at rituals. Yajurveda, the sacrificial formula in the prose form were also chanted at the ritual, and Atharvaveda is the Veda of prayers. Some hymns from Atharvaveda are related to removing spells and charms, but majority of them carry the spirit of Rigveda, and generally mystical in character, which lie midway between the Vedas and the Upanishads. A brief summary of this book is as follows: The Vedic concept of spiritual values has been presented in a nutshell. It is said that in the beginning of creation, Rita (Eternal Order) and Satya (Truth) were born out of blazing Tapas (austerity and discipline). This is the foundation of Vedic culture and religion. The Atharvaveda speaks of two more concepts; Shradda (reverence, faith) and Vrata (dedicated work), both of which are required in the realization of truth and in the pursuit of Satya and Rita. Atharvaveda also speaks of Diksha (consecration) which according to Yajurveda leads to Faith and Truth.

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