

Dreams Illusion And Other Realities

Tells a story about the strange relationship of two migrant workers who are able to realize their dreams of an easy life until one of them succumbs to his weakness for soft, helpless creatures and strangles a farmer's wife.

Wendy Doniger's foundational study is both modern in its engagement with a diverse range of religions and refreshingly classic in its transhistorical, cross-cultural approach. By responsibly analyzing patterns and themes across context, Doniger reinvigorates the comparative reading of religion, tapping into a wealth of narrative traditions, from the instructive tales of Judaism and Christianity to the moral lessons of the Bhagavad Gita. She extracts political meaning from a variety of texts while respecting the original ideas of each. A new preface confronts the difficulty of contextualizing the comparison of religions as well as controversies over choosing subjects and positioning arguments, and the text itself is expanded and updated throughout.

As technology continues to rapidly advance, individuals and society are profoundly changed. So too are the tools used to measure this universe and, therefore, our understanding of reality improves. *Boundaries of Self and Reality Online* examines the idea that technological advances associated with the Internet are moving us in multiple domains toward various "edges." These edges range from self, to society, to relationships, and even to the very nature of reality. Boundaries are dissolving and we are redefining the elements of identity. The book begins with explorations of the digitally constructed self and the relationship between the individual and technological reality. Then, the focus shifts to society at large and includes a contribution from Chinese researchers about the isolated Chinese Internet. The later chapters of the book explore digital reality at large, including discussions on virtual reality, Web consciousness, and digital physics. Cyberpsychology architecture Video games as a tool for self-understanding Avatars and the meaning behind them Game transfer phenomena A Jungian perspective on technology Politics of social media The history and science of video game play Transcendent virtual reality experiences The theophoric quality of video games A major theoretical statement by a distinguished political scholar explains why a policy of liberal hegemony is doomed to fail It is widely believed in the West that the United States should spread liberal democracy across the world, foster an open international economy, and build international institutions. The policy of remaking the world in America's image is supposed to protect human rights, promote peace, and make the world safe for democracy. But this is not what has happened. Instead, the United States has become a highly militarized state fighting wars that undermine peace, harm human rights, and threaten liberal values at home. In this major statement, the renowned international-relations scholar John Mearsheimer argues that liberal hegemony--the foreign policy pursued by the United States since the Cold War ended--is doomed to fail. It makes far more sense, he maintains, for Washington to adopt a more restrained foreign policy based on a sound understanding of how nationalism and realism constrain great powers abroad. *The Great Delusion* is a lucid and compelling work of the first importance for scholars, policymakers, and everyone interested in the future of American foreign policy.

"*The Future of an Illusion*" reveals Freud's reflections about religion as well as his hope that in the future science will go beyond religion, and reason will replace faith in God. The discussion with an imaginary critic revealed his internal debate, mirroring the debate about this subject in the outside world. However, it also enlightens his way of thinking: deconstructing and constructing at the same time. This volume considers Freudian ideas and their implications today, while focusing on the contradictions and gaps in Freud's proposals. The question of the coexistence between religion and psychoanalysis, as well as the place of ideals, belief, illusion, and imagination - and, no less important, the benevolent and destructive aspects of religion - also come into play.

This book presents a close reading of four Indian narratives from different time periods (epic, Upaniṣadic, pre-modern and contemporary): Ekalavya's story from the Mahābhārata (MBh 1.123.1-39), the story of Prajāpati, Indra and Virochana from the Chāndogya Upaniṣad (CU 8.7.1-8.12.5), the story of Śankara in the King's body from the Śankaradiḡvijaya, and A.R. Murugadoss's Hindi film *Ghajini* (2008), respectively. These stories are thematically juxtaposed with Patañjali's Yogasūtra and its vast commentarial body. The sūtras reveal hidden philosophical layers. The stories, on the other hand, contribute to the clarification of "philosophical junctions" in the Yogasūtra. Through sūtras and stories, the author explores the question of self-identity, with emphasis on the role of memory and the place of body in identity-formation. Each of the stories diagnoses the connection between self-identity and (at least a sense of) freedom. Employing cutting-edge methodology, crossing the boundaries of literary theory, story-telling, and philosophical reflection, this book presents fresh interpretations of Indian thought. It is useful to specialists in Asian philosophy and culture.

George Orr discovers that his dreams possess the remarkable ability to change the world, and when he falls into the hands of a power-mad psychiatrist, he counters by dreaming up a perfect world that can overcome his nightmares, in a new edition of the classic science fiction novel. Reprint. 20,000 first printing.

Williams breaks new ground in considering Indian pictures as sequences that tell a story in distinctive ways. Her narratological study considers many familiar genres of visual art - illustrated manuscripts, drawings on palm-leaf paper, wall paintings, shadow plays, temple sculpture, painted cloth patas, and other popular and fine art. Williams points out that we often treat images designed to be seen in sequence as separate pictures.

The author of *Conscious Dreaming* and *The Three "Only" Things* poses arguments for understanding one's dreams in order to resolve past events and prepare for the future, explaining the practices of ancient dreaming cultures and the dream experiences of famous historical figures.

Imagining Creation discusses a wide selection of creation stories from different cultures, regions, and periods, from the Ancient Near East and India, Bible and Koran, to modern Africa and Europe.

A prize-winning international classic, first published in English in 1993, now with a new foreword by William Boyd.

From National Book Award finalist Laini Taylor comes an epic fantasy about a mythic lost city and its dark past. The dream chooses the dreamer, not the other way around--and Lazlo Strange, war orphan and junior librarian, has always feared that his dream chose poorly. Since he was just five years old, he's been obsessed with the mythic lost city of Weep, but it would take someone bolder than he to cross half the world in search of it. Then a stunning opportunity presents itself, in the form of a hero called the Godslayer and a band of legendary warriors, and he has to seize his chance or lose his dream forever. What happened in Weep two hundred years ago to cut it off from the rest of the world? And who is the blue-skinned goddess who appears in Lazlo's dreams? In this sweeping and breathtaking novel by National Book Award finalist Laini Taylor, author of the New York Times bestselling *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* trilogy, the shadow of the past is as real as the ghosts who haunt the citadel of murdered gods. Fall into a mythical world of dread and wonder, moths and nightmares, love and carnage. The answers await in *Weep*.

A program for using dreams as a tool for healing loss The universal experience of grief dreams can help us heal after the death of a loved

one. T.J. Wray and Ann Back Price show how dreams can be uplifting, affirming, consoling, and inspiring. The authors guide readers in ways to understand and value their dreams, how to keep a grief dream journal, and how to use dreams as tools for healing and consolation. This book is designed to help mourners reclaim some measure of power in navigating the most difficult journey of their lives. And, because it is helpful for any type of loss, *Grief Dreams* is an ideal condolence gift.

Dreams, Illusion, and Other Realities University of Chicago Press

Explains in clear terms the new findings and evidence fathered on the science of religion - neuroscience, evolutionary and cognitive science - featuring some of the most noted authorities in the new field of neurotheology.

Correlli Barnett described his *Audit of War* as an 'operational study' to 'uncover the causes of Britain's protracted decline as an industrial country since the Second World War.' First published in 1986, the book swiftly became one of the most controversial and influential historical works of its time. '[The Audit of War] argued that British industry during the Second World War was scandalously inefficient, a situation Barnett blamed on an establishment more concerned with welfare than with industry, technology or the capacity of the nation to fight a war...

Alan Clark records approvingly that Mrs Thatcher herself read it...' David Edgerton, *London Review of Books* 'A stimulating polemic.' *Times Literary Supplement* 'A formidable book, essential reading.' Asa Briggs, *Financial Times*

Makes a case for innovation as the generative and thematic force in American poetry of the late 20th century. *Syncopations* is an analysis of the sustaining vitality behind contemporary American poetry from 1975 to the present day by one of the most astute observers and critics in the field. The 12 essays reflect Jed Rasula's nearly 30 years of advocacy on behalf of "opening the field" of American poetry. From the Beats and the Black Mountain poets in the 1950s and 1960s to the impact of language poetry, the specter of an avant-garde has haunted the administrative centers of poetic conservatism. But the very concept of avant-garde is misleading, implying organized assault. Incentives for change can be traced to other factors, including the increased participation of women, critical theory's self-reflection, and a growing interest in the book as a unit of composition. *Syncopations* addresses these and other issues evident in the work of such poets and critics as Clayton Eshleman, Marjorie Perloff, Ronald Johnson, Clark Coolidge, Nathaniel Mackey, and Robin Blaser. Its chapters range in modes and include close readings, sociological analysis, philosophical-aesthetic meditations, and career appraisals. By examining both exemplary innovators and the social context in which innovation is either resisted, acclaimed, or taken for granted, Rasula delivers an important conceptual chronicle of the promise of American poetry.

This wide-ranging exploration of the spiritual and scientific dimensions of dreaming offers new connections between the ancient wisdom of the world's religious traditions, which have always taught that dreams reveal divine truths, and the recent findings of modern psychological research. Drawing upon philosophy, anthropology, sociology, neurology, literature, and film criticism, the book offers a better understanding of the mysterious complexity and startling creative powers of human dreaming experience. For those interested in gaining new perspectives on dreaming, the powers of the imagination, and the newest frontiers in the dialogue between religion and science, *Visions of the Night* promises to be a welcome resource.

Big dreams are rare but highly memorable dream experiences that make a strong and lasting impact on the dreamer's waking awareness. Moving far beyond "I forgot to study and the finals are today" and other common scenarios, such dreams can include vivid imagery, intense emotions, fantastic characters, and an uncanny sense of being connected to forces beyond one's ordinary dreaming mind. In *Big Dreams*, Kelly Bulkeley provides the first full-scale cognitive scientific analysis of such dreams, putting forth an original theory about their formation, function, and meaning. Big dreams have played significant roles in religious and cultural history, but because of their infrequent occurrence and fantastical features, they have rarely been studied in light of modern science. We know a great deal about the religious manifestations of big dreams throughout history and around the world, but until now that cross-cultural knowledge has never been integrated with scientific research on their psychological roots in the brain-mind system. In *Big Dreams*, Bulkeley puts a classic psychological thesis to the scientific test by clarifying and improving it with better data, sharper analysis, and a broader evolutionary framework. He brings evidence from multiple sources, shows patterns of similarity and difference, questions prior assumptions, and provides predictive models that can be applied to new sets of data. The notion of a connection between dreaming and religion has always been intuitively compelling; *Big Dreams* transforms it into a solid premise of religious studies and brain-mind science. Combining evidence from religious studies, psychology, anthropology, evolutionary biology, and neuroscience, *Big Dreams* makes a compelling argument that big dreams are a primal wellspring of religious experience. They represent an innate, neurologically hard-wired capacity of our species that regularly provokes greater self-awareness, creativity, and insight into the existential challenges and spiritual potentials of human life.

"There is a battle before us. It is the battle for good and evil. It is a battle for truth and for the greater purpose to be revealed. Something that the world and the enemy will fight against to the end. It is a battle for the destruction of the Matrix." From the book *Matrix Reflections*, Eddie Zacapa "I would recommend this book to anyone who is seeking to understand how to make sense out of life." Dave Medders - Director, The Foundation For Christian Discipleship and Campus Ventures Do we live in a dream world? *The Matrix Reflections* acts as a tool, a mirror, a key that unlocks some answers to the very questions that we encounter throughout our lives. It invites us to take a journey, like Neo, the hero of the films, to discover the truth about our world and its illusions. Come and explore the Matrix films deeper and discover the answers to the Big Questions of life. "It has a definite youth feel and is totally relevant! It will challenge students to think deeper." Charlton Scullard - Pastor of Student Ministries, Twin Oaks Church

Opening with a critical appreciation of Alan Dundes (M. Carroll) and Dundes's own cross-cultural study of the cockfight, Volume 18 includes chapters on psychoanalysis and Hindu sexual fantasies (W. Doniger); the modern folk tale "The Boyfriend's Death" (M. Carroll); a gruesome Eskimo bedtime story (R. Boyer); the homosexual implications of Argentinean soccer (M. Suarez-Orozco); and the symbolism of a Malaysian religious festival (E. Fuller).

Tibetan Buddhist writings frequently state that many of the things we perceive in the world are in fact illusory, as illusory as echoes or mirages. In *Twelve Examples of Illusion*, Jan Westerhoff offers an engaging look at a dozen illusions--including magic tricks, dreams, rainbows, and reflections in a mirror--showing how these phenomena can give us insight into reality. For instance, he offers a fascinating discussion of optical illusions, such as the wheel of fire (the "wheel" seen when a torch is swung rapidly in a circle), discussing Tibetan explanations of this phenomenon as well as the findings of modern psychology, and significantly clarifying the idea that most phenomena--from chairs to trees--are similar illusions. The book uses a variety of crystal-clear examples drawn from a wide variety of fields, including contemporary philosophy and cognitive science, as well as the history of science, optics, artificial intelligence, geometry, economics, and literary theory. Throughout, Westerhoff makes both Buddhist philosophical ideas and the latest theories of mind and brain come alive for the general reader.

This guidebook to the Bright-Shadow World develops three closely related issues. The first is the position that fairytales and folktales are of value today because they encourage the growth of capabilities important in our postmodern world. Each of us, like the fairytale hero, sets out on his/her own quests, seeks his/her own identity, faces his/her own dilemmas with few resources but wit, imagination, and a certain power of improvisation. King develops the implications of this situation for such common fairytale problems as learning to read the world productively; navigating various kinds of "edges;" exploiting power sources; developing highly personal moral commitments; problem solving; and data collecting. The second concern of this book is with the development of a system for analyzing narrative structure. The formula offered here involves an examination of interactions among actors, physical settings, lines of force, and power sources as a narrative moves toward its

denouement. This system facilitates the classifying, and contrasting of narratives, and illuminates the structure of both narrative and lived experience. Finally, this book is concerned with myth-making or world-making processes. It is shown that traditional narrative actually points to and delineates another dimension of existence (here called "the Bright-Shadow World") that operates by rules of its own and may be penetrated by individuals from our ordinary world. Inferences about the Bright-Shadow World drawn from traditional narrative are described and evaluated.

The Concise Yoga Vasistha a clear, provocative summary of one of the leading texts of Hinduism. Swami Venkatesananda continues the long tradition of elaborating on and clarifying the teachings of the sage Vasistha. It captures the verve of the original text while eliminating needless repetition. For the specialist, this book makes available a handy guide to the original Sanskrit without sacrificing philosophical depth. To the comparative religionist, it provides an occasion for understanding how Hinduism has been able to accommodate seemingly opposite schools of thought without giving way to the platitudes which mar many syncretic movements.

Wendy Doniger's foundational study is both modern in its engagement with a diverse range of religions and refreshingly classic in its transhistorical, cross-cultural approach. By responsibly analyzing patterns and themes across context. Doniger reinvigorates the comparative reading of religion while tapping into a wealth of narrative traditions. from the instructive tales of Judaism and Christianity to the moral lessons of the Bhagavad Gita. She extracts political meaning from a variety of texts while respecting the original ideas of each. A new preface confronts the difficulty of contextualizing the comparison of religions as well as controversies over choosing subjects and positioning arguments, and the text itself is expanded and updated throughout. `An entertaining and highly accessible look at how myths reveal what is common to all humanity.---Parabola `A racy, enjoyable book...Wendy Doniger brings to her study a wealth of story and folklore from many different traditions, exploring creatively the enduring role of myth through time and across cultures.---Theological Book Review `A timely meditation on what comparative studies might mean...a cross-cultural comparison of different stories from different areas of the world, different tribes, different languages."---London Review of Books "A book that is particularly worthy of the attention of readers in religious studies beyond the history of religions. Since it is Wendy Doniger's most methodological book. The Implied Spider is important, not fur its analysis of myths, but for the arguments that it makes in support of the comparative study of myths.'---Religious Studies Review "By analyzing the political, theological, and psychological structures of the sacred stories of various cultures through time, from the Hebrew Bible to Star Trek. Doniger shows how myths create a shared interdisciplinary narrative of all human creatures....Ranging widely, she offers a detailed, scholarly account."---Library Journal "Sparkingg with erudite and often entertaining intertextual references. The implied Spider is an impressive web delicately constructed of deft analysis together with a sustained argument about the myth's ability to convey and conjure the theological and the political. With its challenges to literary theorists, historians, and ethnographers, it takes various bulls by their respective horns, It will doubtless delight and surely provoke readers, whatever their ilk."---Church History

Indhold: Introduction: Welcome to the Psychosphere / Jacob Graham and Tom Sparrow ; 1. Why Life Rather Than Death? Answers from Rustin Cohle and Arthur Schopenhauer / Sandra Shapshay ; 2. Grounding Carcosa: Cosmic Horror and Philosophical Pessimism in True Detective / Christopher Mountenay ; 3. Hart and Cohle: The Hopeful Pessimism of True Detective ; Joshua Foa Dienstag ; 4. Loving Rust's Pessimism: Rationalism and Emotion in True Detective Season One / Rick Elmore ; Rust's Anti-Natalism: The Moral Imperative to "Opt Out of a Raw Deal" / Chris Byron ; 6. Where is the Cruelty in True Detective? / G. Randolph Mayes ; 7. Nevermind: Subjective and Objective Violence in Vinci / Luke Howie ; 8. Naturalism, Evil, and the Moral Monster: The Evil Person in True Detective / Peter Brian Barry ; 9. "But I Do Have a Sense of Justice:" Law and Justice in the Bleak World of Vinci / Beau Mullen ; 10. A Dream Inside a Locked Room: The Illusion of Self / Evan Thomp-son ; 11. I Am Not Who I Used to Be, But Am I Me? Personal Identity and the Narrative of Rust / Andrew M. Winters ; 12. The Light is Winning / Sarah K. Donovan ; 13. The Tragic Misstep: Consciousness, Free Will, and the Last Midnight / Daniel P. Malloy ; 14. The Tragedy of True Detective Season Two: Living Our "Least Favor-ite Lives" / Alison Horbury ; 15. The Noir Detective and the City / Chuck Ward ; 16. Cohle and Oedipus: The Return of the Noir Hero / Daniel Tutt ; 17. Time is a Flat Circle: Nietzsche's Concept of Eternal Recurrence / Lawrence J. Hatab ; 18. Eternal Recurrence and the Philosophy of the "Flat Circle" / Paul DiGeorgio

While there are many psychological monographs on Hinduism, no work has surveyed the history of that tradition in a sustained way. Thus, The Snake and the Rope: A Jungian View of Hinduism breaks new ground both for religious studies and for psychology. Trained on both sides of the argument, the author of this work is uniquely qualified to elucidate what, for example, the Vedic hymns meant to the people who composed them and what they might mean for us today. He shows us what karma means for Hindus and what Jung says it canmean for us. We learn how Jungians use the term "Self" that Jung borrowed from the Upanishads and how it is the same and different in its new, modern context. The reader will witness a red thread of "goddess worship" from earliest India to Classical Hinduism. Jung says the modern equivalent is devotion to the collective unconscious deep within ourselves. Having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a Thai village in the late 1960's, George R. Elder returned to the States to earn a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from Columbia University. He subsequently taught Comparative Religions at Hunter College (City University of New York) and would co-chair the Religion Program for several years. In 1989, Dr. Elder and his family relocated to Florida. He trained to become a Jungian analyst and maintains a professional relationship with the C. G. Jung Study Center of Southern California. His works include The Body: An Encyclopedia of Archetypal Symbolism in collaboration with ARAS (Shambhala, 1996). He recently co-edited An American Jungian: In Honor of Edward F. Edinger(Inner City, 2009).

Centuries.... By studying together pagan and Christian dreams, Cox Miller hopes to reach a better understanding of some fundamental patterns of late antique culture. DLGuy G. Stroumsa, The Journal of Religion A fluent and discursive text.... This is an adventurous exploration of a range of material which deserves to be more widely known.DLGillian Clark, The Classical Review. Examines Indian myths and folktales about dreams and the nature of reality, compares these beliefs with the teachings of Freud and Plato, and discusses illusion and tests of reality

Explores shamanic and Tibetan Buddhist attitudes toward dreams.

A wide-ranging analysis of the Mokṣopāya, the Indian literary classic that teaches through storytelling how to enjoy an active, successful, worldly life in a spiritually enlightened way. In the Mokṣopāya (also known as the Yogavāsīḥa), an eleventh-century Sanskrit poetic text, the great Vedic philosopher Vasiṣṭha counsels his young protégé Lord Rāma about the ways of the world through sixty-four stories designed to bring Rāma from ignorance to wisdom. Much beloved, this work reflects the philosophy of Kashmiri āivism. Precisely because all worldly pursuits are dreamlike and fiction-like, the human soul must first come to an experience of non-dualistic, mind-only metaphysics, and after attaining this wisdom, promote moral activism. Engaged Emancipation is a wide-ranging consideration of this work and the philosophical and spiritual questions it addresses by

philosophers, Sanskritists, and scholars of religion, literature, and science. Contributors allow readers to walk with Rama as his melancholy and angst transform into connectivity, peace, and spiritual equipoise.

A groundbreaking history of the human mind told through our experience of dreams—from the earliest accounts to current scientific findings—and their essential role in the formation of who we are and the world we have made. What is a dream? Why do we dream? How do our bodies and minds use them? These questions are the starting point for this unprecedented study of the role and significance of this phenomenon. An investigation on a grand scale, it encompasses literature, anthropology, religion, and science, articulating the essential place dreams occupy in human culture and how they functioned as the catalyst that compelled us to transform our earthly habitat into a human world. From the earliest cave paintings—where Sidarta Ribeiro locates a key to humankind's first dreams and how they contributed to our capacity to perceive past and future and our ability to conceive of the existence of souls and spirits—to today's cutting-edge scientific research, Ribeiro arrives at revolutionary conclusions about the role of dreams in human existence and evolution. He explores the advances that contemporary neuroscience, biochemistry, and psychology have made into the connections between sleep, dreams, and learning. He explains what dreams have taught us about the neural basis of memory and the transformation of memory in recall. And he makes clear that the earliest insight into dreams as oracular has been elucidated by contemporary research. Accessible, authoritative, and fascinating, *The Oracle of Night* gives us a wholly new way to understand this most basic of human experiences.

This multidisciplinary volume examines the cultural and social relevance of dream studies, looking at various ways that the field can contribute to the resolution of the modern West's most troubling social issues. The essays offer novel insights on education, sexual abuse, ecology, crime, race, gender, religion, politics, death, and cross-cultural conflict. The contributors argue that the study of dreams can provide valuable resources to regain a vibrant, trustworthy sense of moral and spiritual orientation in life.

In the manner of the eighteenth-century philosophe, Freud argued that religion and science were mortal enemies. Early in the century, he began to think about religion psychoanalytically and to discuss it in his writings. *The Future of an Illusion*, Freud's best known and most emphatic psychoanalytic exploration of religion, is the culmination of a lifelong pattern of thinking.

Many cultures have myths about self-imitation, stories about people who pretend to be someone else pretending to be them, in effect masquerading as themselves. This great theme, in literature and in life, tells us that people put on masks to discover who they really are under the masks they usually wear, so that the mask reveals rather than conceals the self beneath the self. In this book, noted scholar of Hinduism and mythology Wendy Doniger offers a cross-cultural exploration of the theme of self-impersonation, whose widespread occurrence argues for both its literary power and its human value. The stories she considers range from ancient Indian literature through medieval European courtly literature and Shakespeare to Hollywood and Bollywood. They illuminate a basic human way of negotiating reality, illusion, identity, and authenticity, not to mention memory, amnesia, and the process of aging. Many of them involve marriage and adultery, for tales of sexual betrayal cut to the heart of the crisis of identity. These stories are extreme examples of what we common folk do, unconsciously, every day. Few of us actually put on masks that replicate our faces, but it is not uncommon for us to become travesties of ourselves, particularly as we age and change. We often slip carelessly across the permeable boundary between the un-self-conscious self-indulgence of our most idiosyncratic mannerisms and the conscious attempt to give the people who know us, personally or publicly, the version of ourselves that they expect. Myths of self-imitation open up for us the possibility of multiple selves and the infinite regress of self-discovery. Drawing on a dizzying array of tales—some fact, some fiction—*The Woman Who Pretended to Be Who She Was* is a fascinating and learned trip through centuries of culture, guided by a scholar of incomparable wit and erudition.

This book contains Christopher Caudwell's 1937 treatise, "Illusion and Reality". It is a work of Marxist literary criticism that develops the idea that each individual era of British poetry stems from a novel economical paradigm in bourgeois society. Christopher St John Sprigg (1907–1937), more commonly known by his pseudonym 'Christopher Caudwell', was a British Marxist poet and thinker. In early life, he made his way to Marxism and set about rethinking everything in light of it, from poetry to philosophy to physics, and became a staunch member of the 'Communist Party of Great Britain'. Many vintage texts such as this are becoming increasingly rare and expensive, and it is with this in mind that we are republishing this volume now, in an affordable, modern, high-quality edition. It comes complete with a specially commissioned new biography of the author.

The idea of Maya pervades Indian philosophy. It is enigmatic, multivalent, and foundational, with its oldest referents found in the Rig Veda. This book explores Maya's rich conceptual history, and then focuses on the highly developed theology of Maya found in the Sanskrit Bhagavata Purana, one of the most important Hindu sacred texts. Gopal K. Gupta examines Maya's role in the Bhagavata's narratives, paying special attention to its relationship with other key concepts in the text, such as human suffering (dukha), devotion (bhakti), and divine play (lila). In the Bhagavata, Maya is often identified as the divine feminine, and has a far-reaching influence. For example, Maya is both the world and the means by which God creates the world, as well as the facilitator of God's play, paradoxically revealing him to his devotees by concealing his majesty. While Vedanta philosophy typically sees Maya as a negative force, the Bhagavata affirms that Maya also has a positive role, as Maya is ultimately meant to draw living beings toward Krishna and intensify their devotion to him.

"Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty . . . weaves a brilliant analysis of the complex role of dreams and dreaming in Indian religion, philosophy, literature, and art. . . . In her creative hands, enchanting Indian myths and stories illuminate and are illuminated by authors as different as Aeschylus, Plato, Freud, Jung, Kurt Gödel, Thomas Kuhn, Borges, Picasso, Sir Ernst Gombrich, and many others. This richly suggestive book challenges many of our fundamental assumptions about ourselves and our world."—Mark C. Taylor, *New York Times Book Review*
"Dazzling analysis. . . . The book is firm and convincing once you appreciate its central point, which is that in traditional Hindu thought the dream isn't an accident or byway of experience, but rather the locus of epistemology. In its willful confusion of categories, its teasing readiness to blur the line between the imagined and the real, the dream actually embodies the whole problem of knowledge. . . . [O'Flaherty] wants to make your mental flesh creep, and she succeeds."—Mark Caldwell, *Village Voice*

Embracing Illusion is an interdisciplinary study of a classic Korean novel. It argues that a work of narrative fiction can be taken seriously as Buddhist philosophical discourse. The capacity of fiction to speak on behalf of Buddhist truths is set in the larger context of how the literary imagination approaches the exploration of reality.

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