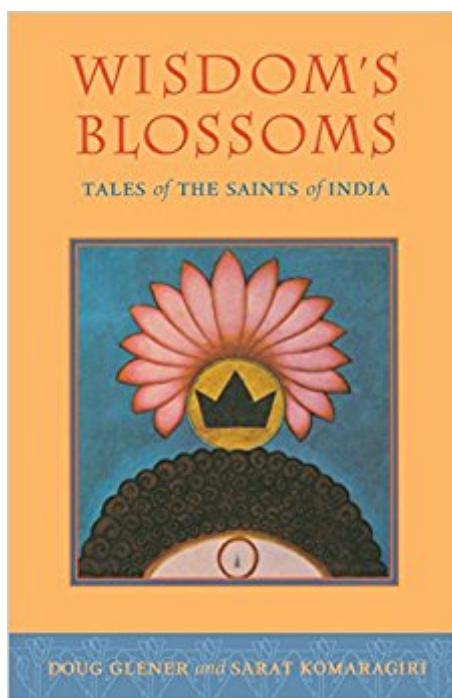


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Wisdom's Blossoms: Tales Of The Saints Of India



Synopsis

Here is a timeless collection of traditional stories that recount the personal spiritual journeys and true acts of selflessness by saints from various religious traditions indigenous to India, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Sufism. The authors present a diverse selection of these inspirational tales "about both men and women saints, from a variety of time periods, and from all over India" and make them relevant for a modern audience. The stories reveal that, despite their perceived differences, the same spiritual principles underlie all the great religious traditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Glener and Komaragiri present 26 tales of Indian saints, martyrs and other figures of religious inspiration. Affiliated with the transnational Hindu movement known as the Self-Realization Fellowship, both authors have selected broadly appealing stories that include varieties of Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain heroes and heroines. The authors admit that they have scripted traditional stories for dramatic and didactic effect, underscoring the universal values within each tradition. Each tale fits neatly within a short-story model that reads like a fable, culminating in a moral or inspirational insight, and followed by a lovely drawing of an Indian devotional figure. "Tegh Bahadur Helps his Hindu Brothers" describes how the ninth Sikh guru chose death over forcible conversion to Islam, and how his brave beheading at the hands of Aurangzeb inspires "all of India with the courage to resist evil." Bahadur's martyrdom is no less saintly than that depicted in the Jain tale, "The Wedding Feast that Never Was," the story of Prince Arishtanemi's abandonment of his

bride and kingdom for the sake of the creatures that were to be slaughtered for the wedding rite. Throughout, themes of nonviolence and individual renunciation underlie the stories. The advantage of this presentation is its accessibility and coherence of style. Yet each story, written in much the same voice, loses something of the great variety of Indian religious traditions, in which tales of saints are sung, chanted, and recounted in many colorful and cacophonous voices. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Boston-based Glener and Komaragiri, both members of the Self-Realization Fellowship, have produced an intriguing array of retellings of famous or instructive stories from Indian tradition, dealing with Hindu, Buddhist, and Sufi traditions. Between the stories there are short entries on Indian monuments and deities. While the manner of storytelling is occasionally stilted, many of these tales are not well known in the West and they should be a welcome addition to many libraries. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is a wonderful spiritual journey, filled with 26 stories reflecting each of the qualities listed in the Bhagavad Gita for the qualities that man should develop. I really liked it because sometimes words defined don't take on the same feeling as when a story is told to illustrate the meaning of the word. Many stories presented in here are old Indian folklore and thus have an added resonance. Much enjoyed and also, as a note, an easy book when one is in the bathroom!

Doug and Sarat have been very successful in bringing out the true meaning behind these stories of the Indian saints. I think there is something in the book for everyone, but those who are spiritually inclined will especially find many gems of wisdom in its page. The stories and narration cater to the whole spectrum of individuals - from the intellectual to the devotional. Personally, I found the story "A Leap of Faith" most inspiring because it gives me an idea of the exalted mental and spiritual state of a devotee deeply in love with God. Excellent reading.

I loved these short stories and looked forward to reading them each day. They transport you to a land of unlimited possibilities right within your Higher Self. It's a road map created by these awesome saints and let's us know how we can get back home to our true nature..Bliss. I hope you can read this great compilation of India's heritage of saints and sages.

This is a wonderful book for anyone on a spiritual path. There are so many lessons and so much

inspiration in the stories.

Great first read for one interested in learning more of eastern philosophy masters...

Wisdom's Blossoms is a fascinating return to life of the saints, characters and community life of ancient India, told in 26 short tales, each with a moral at the end, in the highly readable style of Aesop's Fables. I read it through in a single sitting and delightful is the mildest word I would use to endorse it to other [.com] readers.

Enjoyed book very much. Will recomend this book to others. Interesting stories and legends. Stories short and great to read to kids.

A book of enjoyable stories, that are as fun to read as they are thought stimulating. It is as many have said, easy to read bits and pieces of. I also found it great to reread. Also a great book to share with young people I think, of many ages.

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