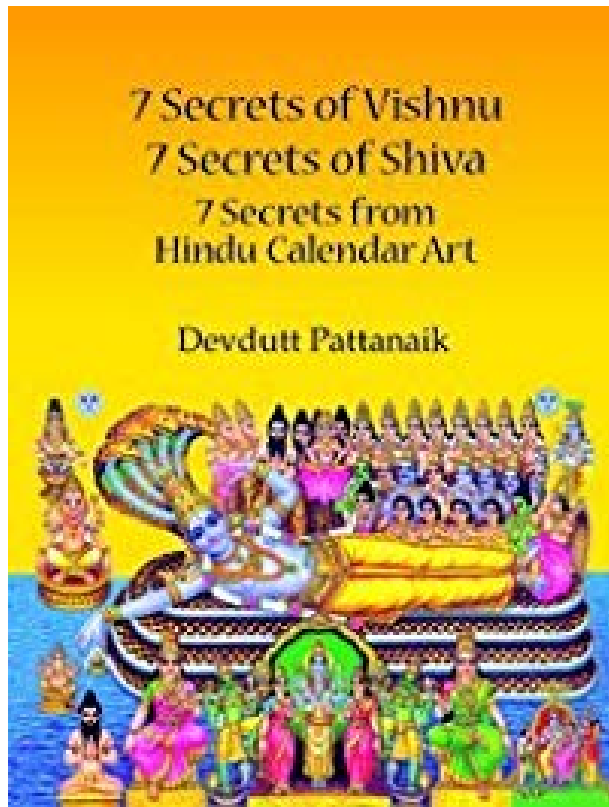


7 Secrets of Vishnu/7 Secrets of Shiva/7 Secrets from Hindu Calendar Art



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About the Book: Devdutt Pattanaik Boxset (Set of 3Books) 1.) 7 Secrets of Shiva Shiva, the destroyer among the Hindu trinity (of gods), is depicted in many contradictory manners. He is an ascetic who wears animal skin, his body smeared with ashes. Contradictory to his wild nature, he is also depicted as having a family, with a beautiful wife and two children. There are many more such varied representations of Shiva, the most prominent of these being the Linga and the Nataraja. The author, Devdutt Pattanaik, introduces the readers to these varied aspects and representations, and then sets about interpreting them. He explains the different anomalies and conflicts in beliefs, things that might puzzle people who are not familiar with Hindu culture and religious symbolism. The author has taken up seven aspects of Shiva worship from Hinduism, which are nothing but seven different forms of Shiva worship. Shiva is worshipped in many forms, as the Lingeshwara, Kala Bhairava, Sundareshwara, Shankara, and Nataraja, and the author goes into each form and analyzes what it represents. He also discusses Shiva's two sons, Ganesha and Karthikeya. He goes into the symbolism behind these forms and provides his interpretation.

This book serves as a nice introduction to Shaivite concepts and explains many stories, both known and unknown, the symbolism, and rituals and the reasons behind Hindu worship. 2.) 7 Secrets of Vishnu It is significant that the stories of Vishnu rose to prominence after the rise of Buddhism. Prior to that, Hinduism was the religion of the elite-based complex rituals known as yagna and esoteric speculations captured in texts known as the Aranyakas and the Upanishads. These seemed very distant to the common man who focused on

fertility rituals, worship of plants and animals and nature. To help readers unravel the secrets of Vishnu, the chapters have been arranged as below: The first chapter focuses on how gender is used to explain fundamental metaphysical concepts integral to Hinduism. The second chapter discusses t