

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 1 : Hindu Wisdom - Symbolism in Hinduism

Between the purity and devotion represented by the white lotus flower to the passion and prosperity attributed to the red lotus, lies the pink lotus flower, Nelumbo nucifera. It is also known as the Indian lotus, the sacred water lily and the sacred lotus.

Sannyas Final monastic vows in which the spiritual aspirant completely renounces everything for the sake of realization of the ultimate Reality. Both Ramakrishna and Sarada Devi lived completely celibate lives; both were ideal monastics and ideal householders. Sarada Devi was the embodiment of spiritual motherhood; her life was devoted to loving service and self-sacrifice. She is seen by many as an incarnation of the Divine Mother. Satchidananda Existence sat , Knowledge chit , and Bliss ananda absolute; Brahman, the absolute Reality. Sattva The guna which expresses itself as calmness, purity, and wisdom. Shakti God as the Mother of the universe. Shakti is the power of Brahman, the personification of primal energy. Shankara or Shankaracharya The great Vedanta philosopher who lived in the eighth century A. Though he lived only thirty-two years, he organized a monastic system that is still in existence today. His enormous literary contribution includes commentaries on the Brahma Sutras, the principal Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita. He also wrote his own philosophical works such as the Vivekacudamani the Crest-Jewel of Discrimination and the Upadeshasahasri. In addition, Shankara composed hymns, prayers, and various minor works on Vedanta philosophy. Shiva God in his aspect of destroyer of the universe. He is the third person in the Hindu trinity, the other two being Brahma, the creator, and Vishnu, the preserver. In his personal aspect, Shiva is the ideal yogi, the embodiment of renunciation, absorbed in eternal meditation in the Himalayas. He is known for his compassion: To save the world Shiva drank the poison which surfaced during the creation of the world. He is the transcendent aspect of God, while Kali, or Shakti represents the relative, dynamic aspect. Shraddha Firm faith guided by reason. Sravana Hearing or listening to the highest spiritual truth. Sri An honorific prefix used before the name of a deity, holy person, or book. It is also a respectful way of addressing any swami. Tamas The guna which expresses itself as dullness, stupidity, and inertia. Tantra The religious philosophy in which the Divine Mother of the universe, or Shakti, is worshiped as the ultimate Reality. Tantras The scriptures which are identified with the worship of the Divine Mother. Tantric Pertaining to Tantra; a follower of Tantra. It is the state of unitary consciousness, pure bliss. According to Shankara, this is not a state; it is the Atman. Upanishads The sacred scriptures which appear at the end of the Vedas and constitute their philosophical portion. The Upanishads form the philosophical basis of Vedanta. An adherent of Vaishnavismâ€™ a dualistic branch of Hinduism. Vaishnavas follow the path of devotion to Vishnu, for the most part in his avatars such as Rama, Krishna, and Chaitanya. Vallabha A philosopher-saint of sixteenth-century India who wrote commentaries on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavatam. Vedanta Desika, or Desika, was a voluminous writer, both in Sanskrit and Tamil. Desika stressed, in contrast to Pillai Lokacharya, that both grace and self-effort are necessary in spiritual life. The Vedas are the sacred and most ancient scriptures of the Hindus. Orthodox Hindus believe that the Vedas are the result of direct divine revelation; they are considered the final authority in all spiritual matters. There are four Vedas: The ritual portion consists of the Brahmanasâ€™ texts which discuss the significance of different sacrificial ritesâ€™ and the Samhitasâ€™ a collection of mantras or hymns, addressed to specific deities such as Indra or Varuna. Also included in the ritual portion are the aranyakas which give a spiritual interpretation to the rituals. Vidya Knowledge leading to the ultimate Reality. Vishishtadvaita The philosophy of qualified nondualism, founded by Ramanuja. Vishishtadvaita states that the individual soul and insentient matter are distinct from Brahman, but Brahman is the basis of their existence and reality. Vishnu The second aspect of the Hindu trinity, God in his aspect as the preserver of the universe. Vishnu is frequently shown with four arms, and he holds the discus, mace, conchshell, and lotus. According to the doctrine of the avatar, Vishnu incarnates as a human being in every age for the good of the world. Vivekananda, Swami The most prominent disciple of Ramakrishna, also known as Swamiji. Swami

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Vivekananda came to America in as the Hindu representative at the Parliament of Religions. After his triumphal success at the Parliament, he held classes and lectures throughout the United States and Europe, thus initiating the Vedanta movement in the West. Yoga is union of the individual soul with the ultimate Reality. It is also the method by which this union is achieved. There are four yogas:

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 2 : Top 10 Relics of Jesus Christ - Listverse

Sacred tensions: modernity and religious transformation in Malaysia. passion and devotion in the Hindu quest The lance and the lotus: passion and devotion.

Meaning and Symbolism Pink Lotus Flower: Meaning and Symbolism View Larger Image Between the purity and devotion represented by the white lotus flower to the passion and prosperity attributed to the red lotus, lies the pink lotus flower, *Nelumbo nucifera*. It is also known as the Indian lotus, the sacred water lily and the sacred lotus. The pink lotus is arguably the most beautiful variety of the lotus family and its use as an object of decoration or as the subject of artwork is both widespread and popular. There are several varieties of the pink lotus and they differ in the intensity of the pink hue. The pink lotus does not grow everywhere – it was unknown to the ancient Egyptians who did have white and blue lotus flowers. It is found mainly indigenously across India and China. In the traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism, two religions that have their roots in India, it has divine connotations and is often depicted as part of their religious iconography. Buddhism For Buddhists, the pink lotus symbolizes the Buddha himself. That is the highest honor that can be accorded in their beliefs. It was Buddha himself that first associated himself with the lotus when he said: As the lotus flower is born in water, grows in water and rises out of water to stand above it unsoiled, so I, born in the world, raised in the world and having overcome the world, live unsoiled by the world. Hinduism The lotus is referenced heavily in the millennia-old Hindu texts, the Vedas and the Puranas. The flower plays a central role in the Hindu story of Creation. In it, the god Vishnu lay with his eyes closed, resting on the serpent of eternity, adrift in the cosmic ocean for untold eons. This was the time before Creation, and there was neither Heaven, Earth nor anything else. And on that lotus was Brahma, the Creator from the Hindu trinity. Brahma asked Vishnu to create the world and all of existence came into being. Several Hindu gods and goddesses are invariably depicted either standing or sitting on a pink lotus flower. Among them are Vishnu himself; Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity; and Ganesh, the famous elephant-headed god. Yoga The practice of Yoga is closely tied to Hinduism and one of the basic poses in the practice is the Lotus. Each of the seven chakras or sacred centers of energy of the human body are often depicted as lotus flowers. The highest chakra, Sahasrara or Crown Chakra, is described as a lotus flower with a thousand petals. The Pink Lotus and Natural Use It is believed in certain circles that the pink lotus does not have any medicinal properties of its own but has the power of a catalyst; it is able to facilitate and amplify the effects of other natural medicines. While the flower may not necessarily have medicinal value, it is reported to have a mild intoxicating effect when prepared with drinks like tea. That effect is sometimes referred to not as intoxication but as the attainment of a higher level of consciousness, similar to what Native American shamans used to communicate with their ancestors.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 3 : Pink Lotus Flower: Meaning and Symbolism - blog.quintoapp.com

The Pasurangal are the ultimate in love and devotion; and although not as popular as the 30 songs of Andal's Tiruppavai, they are a significant segment in the Hindu bhakti tradition.

By the 13th century, Hindustan emerged as a popular alternative name of India , meaning the "land of Hindus". These texts used it to distinguish Hindus from Muslims who are called Yavanas foreigners or Mlecchas barbarians , with the 16th-century Chaitanya Charitamrita text and the 17th-century Bhakta Mala text using the phrase "Hindu dharma". The term Hinduism, then spelled Hindooism, was introduced into the English language in the 18th century to denote the religious, philosophical, and cultural traditions native to India. In India the term dharma is preferred, which is broader than the Western term religion. The study of India and its cultures and religions, and the definition of "Hinduism", has been shaped by the interests of colonialism and by Western notions of religion. Hindu denominations AUM , a stylised letter of Devanagari script, used as a religious symbol in Hinduism Hinduism as it is commonly known can be subdivided into a number of major currents. Of the historical division into six darsanas philosophies , two schools, Vedanta and Yoga , are currently the most prominent. McDaniel classifies Hinduism into six major kinds and numerous minor kinds, in order to understand expression of emotions among the Hindus. He classifies most Hindus as belonging by choice to one of the "founded religions" such as Vaishnavism and Shaivism that are salvation-focussed and often de-emphasize Brahman priestly authority yet incorporate ritual grammar of Brahmanic-Sanskritic Hinduism. This stereotype followed and fit, states Inden, with the imperial imperatives of the era, providing the moral justification for the colonial project. The early reports set the tradition and scholarly premises for typology of Hinduism, as well as the major assumptions and flawed presuppositions that has been at the foundation of Indology. Hinduism, according to Inden, has been neither what imperial religionists stereotyped it to be, nor is it appropriate to equate Hinduism to be merely monist pantheism and philosophical idealism of Advaita Vedanta. All aspects of a Hindu life, namely acquiring wealth artha , fulfillment of desires kama , and attaining liberation moksha are part of dharma which encapsulates the "right way of living" and eternal harmonious principles in their fulfillment. Sanatana dharma has become a synonym for the "eternal" truth and teachings of Hinduism, that transcend history and are "unchanging, indivisible and ultimately nonsectarian". Hinduism, to them, is a tradition that can be traced at least to the ancient Vedic era. According to Klaus Klostermaier, the term Vaidika dharma is the earliest self-designation of Hinduism. However, the late 1st-millennium CE Indic consensus had "indeed come to conceptualize a complex entity corresponding to Hinduism as opposed to Buddhism and Jainism excluding only certain forms of antinomian Shakta-Shaiva" from its fold. Some Kashmiri scholars rejected the esoteric tantric traditions to be a part of Vaidika dharma. Many Hindus do not have a copy of the Vedas nor have they ever seen or personally read parts of a Veda, like a Christian might relate to the Bible or a Muslim might to the Quran. Hindu reform movements Beginning in the 19th century, Indian modernists re-asserted Hinduism as a major asset of Indian civilisation, [83] meanwhile "purifying" Hinduism from its Tantric elements [84] and elevating the Vedic elements. Western stereotypes were reversed, emphasizing the universal aspects, and introducing modern approaches of social problems. Some forms of religious expression are central to Hinduism and others, while not as central, still remain within the category.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 4 : Raja Yoga: Yoga of Meditation - A Means for Freedom from Suffering

In Hindu Mythology, the utterance of first, 'om' brought forth the first "golden lotus", where it is also the seat of Brahma (the creator). According to Bhagwad Gita, Man should be like the lotus; working without getting emotionally or physically attached.

Okanda Malai, a remote rock-hill on the coast at the intersection of the Eastern and Southern Provinces, has been referred by tradition as one of the places where Emperor Ravana halted for worship on his journeys from Lankapuri to Koneswaram. Here, like at Valli Malai in India, Lord Murukan occupies the foot of the hill, while his sweetheart Valli occupies the peak. Symbolically, at these sakti peethams, Lord Murukan accepts His position at the feet of Valli Amma, as Her servant and devotee. Though the pilgrims will stop for overnight stay, we continue to Kumbukkanoya where the campsite is put up for overnight stay. The campsite is erected by the Kumbukkanoya River and you will have only basic facilities at the campsite. Dinner and overnight stay at the campsite by the Kumbukkanoya River. Day 02 - 23rd Kumbukkanoya River - Potthana 25 - 30 km We will start our days walk after the breakfast at the campsite. You will walk through open areas, rocky outcrops, and along the lagoons. On the way you will encounter some wildlife too. Dinner and overnight stay at the campsite by the Menik River. Day 03 - 24th Potthana - Menik River 25 - 30 km The pilgrims will stay at the campsite at Pottana, but we will continue to Menik River and we will spent the night at the Campsite on the banks of the Menik River. If you are lucky you will encounter some of them, but be quite once you see them! We will end our days walk at Katagamuwa Sanctuary where our campsite is erected on the banks of the Katagamuwa Tank. Dinner and overnight stay at the campsite by the Katagamuwa tank. Now the terrain becomes more usual and you will encounter cultivated area, human settlements and you will walk on well trodden roads to Kataragama. People from different religions come here to worship in their own way, either in the ancient shrines themselves or in their own places of worship, without a trace of rivalry or animosity. It is truly a unique place in the world today. Apart from the festival time, Kataragama is busiest with pilgrims at weekends and on poya days full moon holidays. Although Katirkamam is normally a quiet and serene place, during the festival it is a place where devotees practice extreme acts of mortification of the flesh and infliction of physical pain. Silver headed pins pierce their lips or cheeks to gag their mouths, while others hang themselves from beams by hooks piercing their backs. Such practices, meant for atonement for sins and for the purpose of acquiring merit for spiritual salvation, are common sights during this time. The most important Hindu shrine is the Maha Devala supposedly containing the lance of the six faced 12 armed Hindu war god Skanda who is identical here with the Kataragama Deviyo. Tradition has it that King Dutugemunu in the second century BC built the present shrine to fulfill his vow to the god Kataragama commemorating his successful expedition against King Elara - BC. Buddha is said to have visited Kataragama and meditated there to sanctify the place. As a token of gratitude the Dagoba was built on the exact spot where Buddha sat. Muslim commentators are not agreed on exactly who he was. Some say he is a prophet while others say he is a "wali" meaning one who is close to God, in other words, a saint. His presence is believed to pervade the sanctuary with which he is associated, namely, the Khalir Makam in the Muslim quarter of Kataragama not far from the Menik Ganga the river. Indeed, there are those who believe that it was this Khidr who gave his name to Kataragama. Leave for your next destination after breakfast. As long as you are able to appreciate these, we are sure you would a fantastic cultural experience of Sri Lanka!

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 5 : The Hindu : Pleasing devotionals

Our FIRST annual Buddhist World Prayer Focus calls Christians and churches worldwide to set aside ANY 15 days in to learn about and pray for our world's over half a billion Buddhist neighbors.

February 11, With just huge trees and idols in the backdrop, a performance of Koodiyattam came as a refreshing change at Public Gardens adjacent to the State Archaeological Museum last weekend. There were no harsh lights for this performance and as is the ritual there was a lighted lamp in the centre of the stage. Before the start of the main play, Charu Agarar exhibited the various characters of the play – Ravana, Hanuman, Siva and Parvati and also the depiction of other elements like fish and lotus. There was instrumental music playing prior to the performance which set the tone for the evening. The play began with artistes performing on the Mizhavu drums. The curtain is slowly brought down for the play to begin and Kalamandalam Sangeeth Chayar took centre stage. The play began with Ravana recollecting his past after Hanuman has destroyed Lanka, also the lifting of Mount Kailash. Ravana angered by the words of a messenger from Vaisaravana goes to Alakapuri, defeats him and takes possession of Pushpakavimanam. On his return, the chariot gets stuck at Mount Kailash. Ravana then lifts the mountain in his hands. At that time there was a heated debate going on between Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati over Ganga in his locks and Parvati decides to leave Kailash. Hearing his cries, the Lord understands that it was Ravana, who shook the mountain. Shiva blesses Ravana pleased at his act and devotion with sword Chandrahasam. The headed Ravana mocks at the couple, who in turn curse him. Kalamandalam Sangeeth, who enacted the four characters, displayed each character to perfection. In the first part, which is the purappadu, the actor performed a verse along with nritta. By slightly rearranging his body and adjusting his costume, the actor displayed a fascinating gender switch. At one moment, Lord Shiva and in another moment Paravati was awesome. The actor aptly described the facial and eye expressions and mudras of different characters with ease, grace and perfection. Sounds produced on the mizhavu and edakka highlighted the presentation. The percussion artists need a word of praise for the tremendous energy throughout the performance.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 6 : Tantra - Wikipedia

Our second annual Hindu World Prayer Focus calls Christians and churches worldwide to take 15 days (Oct 28 - Nov 11,) to learn about and pray for our world's over one billion Hindu neighbors.

Lotus Flower Tattoo Meaning The lotus flower tattoo has many different meanings in different cultures and religions. **Buddhism** – In the Buddhist religion, the lotus flower represents purity of the body, mind, and spirit. Typically, the Buddhist Eightfold path is represented with eight petals. **Hindu** – In the Hindu religion the lotus flower is known as the Padma, and symbolizes beauty and purity. The Padma is associated with multiple deities in the religion, but mainly Brahma and Vishnu. Furthermore, the flower is typically represented with a large amount of petals unfolding, representing spiritual awakening. **Chinese** – The Chinese culture associates the lotus flower with pure feminine beauty. Additionally, the flower is seen to reflect harmony in relationships. **Egyptian** – In the Egyptian culture, the lotus flower was associated with Ra the Sun God Atun , which represented existence and creation. Also, the blue lotus was used in celebrations and rituals for passage into the afterlife. **Western** – The Western culture has a similar meaning of this beautiful flower, and sees it as a representation of a new beginning. Also, the lotus flower is associated with the search for the true meaning of life. Combining the religious, cultural, color and your own personal connection to this unique flower will give you your perfect lotus flower tattoo. **Red Lotus Flower** The red lotus is also known as the heart lotus. Red symbolizes love, passion, compassion, devotion, or other emotions of the heart. Many times you will see a red lotus with its petals open to represent the ideal state of the heart. The pink lotus represents devotion to the divine and the universal spirit. Furthermore, the pink lotus symbolizes Buddha himself, the history of Buddhism, and tales of Buddhism. **Blue Lotus Flower** The blue lotus symbolizes learning, intelligence, wisdom, and knowledge. Also, the blue lotus shown partially open represents the constant learning in life. **White Lotus Flower** The white lotus represents purity, peace, and enlightenment. In Greek mythology, the flower also represents modesty and innocence. The uncommon purple lotus can also be known as the mystic lotus. Also, the purple lotus is associated with royalty and spiritual kindness. **Lotus Tattoo Designs** If you are still not sure which lotus flower best represents you, look below at the top lotus flower tattoos. Whether you want a colorful, black and white, small, detailed, or lotus flower mandala tattoo you will find inspiration below.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 7 : Sanskrit Glossary

Here are some major mythological characters of Hindu Sanatan Dharma and the popular temples in India dedicated to them: Lord Brahma. The Rig-Veda explains the concept of Brahma as a word that was used for deciphering a sacred mysterious power that helped create the world.

Trimurti - the three apparently contradictory aspects of existence: A concise history - By Francis Watson p. He believed that it is "the greatest representation of the pantheistic god created by the hands of man. In the words of Rene Grousset, " The three countenances of the one being are here harmonized without a trace of effort. There are few material representations of the divine principle at once as powerful and as well balanced as this in the art of the whole world. Nay, more, here we have undoubtedly the grandest representation of the pantheistic God ever made by the hand of man Indeed, never have the exuberant vigor of life, the tumult of universal joy expressing itself in ordered harmony, the pride of a power superior to any other, and the secret exaltation of the divinity immanent in all things found such serenely expressed. The Hindu Trinity also called Trimurti meaning three forms , is the representation of the three manifestations of the Supreme Reality, as Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Brahma symbolizes creation, Vishnu preservation and renewal, and Shiva dissolution or destruction necessary for recreation. It must be understood that the members of the Hindu Trinity are not three different and independent gods, but three aspects of one Supreme Reality called Bramh by the seers of the Upanishads. Lord Brahma - the first member of the trinity though much less important than the other two, namely Vishnu and Mahesha, is manifested as the active creator of this universe. The name Brahma is not found in the Vedas and the Brahmanas, where the active creator is merely known as Golden-embryo Hirayna-garbha or the Lord of Progeny Praja-pati. After the destruction of one universe Vishnu falls asleep, floating on the causal waters. When another universe is to be created, Brahma appears on a lotus, which springs from the navel of Vishnu. When Brahma creates the world it remains in existence for one of his days, which means 2,, years in terms of Hindu calendar. When Brahma goes to sleep after the end of his day, the world and all that is therein is consumed by fire. When he awakes he again restores the whole creation. When this period ends he himself loses his existence, and he all gods and sages, and the whole universe are dissolved into their constituent elements. Brahma seems to have been thrown into shade probably because in Hindu mind he has ceased to function actively after creation of the world, though he will exert himself again while creating a new universe when this present one will meet its end. Understandably, the legends about this god are not so numerous or rich as those centered round the other two of the trinity. Lord Brahma known as Phra Phrom in Thailand. Thai-Buddhist tradition associates Lord Brahma with creation. Loving Kindness, Compassion, Sympathy and Equanimity. He has four heads and is therefore called Chaturanana or Chaturmukha. His vehicle is the swan or goose, the symbol of knowledge. He is therefore said to be riding on the swan hansa-vahana. He is the source of all knowledge and his consort, Saraswati, is the goddess of knowledge. Lord Vishnu is the central and major deity of the trinity. He is the preserver and for all practical purposes he is deemed to be omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. The name Vishnu comes from the root vish, which means to spread in all directions, "to pervade. Lord Vishnu symbolizes the aspect of the Supreme Reality Bramh of the Upanishads that preserves and sustains the things and beings in the world. He is symbolized by a human body with four arms. He is portrayed as carrying a conch shankha , a mace gada , and discus chakra. He is blue body and wears yellow clothes. The worship of Lord Vishnu is very popular among Hindus, especially among the followers of the Vaishanava tradition Vaishnavism. He is the second member of the Hindu Trimurti trinity. It is said that Vishnu is the god of Time, Space and Life. It is also said that he is the god of Joy and that his footsteps are impregnated with infinite sweetness and felicity. He is bleu-skinned and in all images and relief he is seen in rich ornaments and regal garments. His wife is Lakshmi or Sri, the goddess of wealth and fortune. His place of abode is Vaikuntha heaven and his vehicle is Garuda, a giant-sized eagle. Lord Vishnu lies on the infinite ocean from which the world emerges - Lord is shown lying

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

down on a thousand-headed snake named Shesha or Ananta Nag - Timeless or Ageless snake. Indian Art - By Vidya Dehejia p. The blue body of the Lord signifies that He has infinite as the universe attributes. The Lord is shown standing or lying down on a thousand-headed snake named Shesha or Ananta Nag - timeless or ageless snake. The snake stands with its hoods open over the head of the Lord. The following ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu are described in Hindu mythology and are popular. These incarnations reveal the help rendered by God during various stages of human evolution. The first two incarnations are in the animal form, the third one is half-human and half-animal, and the fourth and the subsequent ones are all in human form. These incarnations relate to human evolution, from aquatic life to human life, and are consistent with modern theory of evolution. Lord Vishnu, considered the preserver of the Cosmos in the Hindu Trinity, characteristically stands upright and balanced. As the preserver, Vishnu embodies compassion, which is considered the self-existent, pervasive power maintaining the universe and cosmic order Dharma. Vishnu holds his attributes, the discus and conch. Refer to chapter on Survarnabhumi and Sacred Angkor image source: Matsya fish - saves Sage Manu from floods and recovers the Vedas from demons. Kurma tortoise - sustains the earth on his back. Narasimha man-lion - kills the demon King Hiranyakashipu, who was planning to kill his own son, a devotee of Lord Vishnu. Vamana dwarf - the first human incarnation of the Lord, kills the demon King Mahabali, who had deprived the gods of their possessions. Parasurama the warrior with an axe - saves Brahmins from the tyranny of the arrogant Kshatriya. Rama - kills Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. Buddha - Hindus consider Buddha as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and accept his teachings, but do not directly worship him. Kalki - a man on a white horse - this incarnation is yet to come and will mark the end of all evil in the world. Lord Vishnu as Vaman, the dwarf 5th century sandstone from Maharashtra and Kalki, the final incarnation, 19th century bronze statue from South India. The Eternal Cycle - Barnes and Noble p. Refer to chapter on Hindu Scriptures. Lord Shiva - The Grace and the Terror of God Lord Shiva represents the complete cyclic process of generation, destruction, and regeneration of the Universe. The all embracing nature of Lord Shiva is reflected in his names. Lord Shiva represents the aspect of the Supreme Reality Brahman of the Upanishads which continuously recreates, in the cyclic process of creation, preservation, dissolution and recreation. He annihilates evil, grants boons, bestows grace, destroys ignorance, and awakens wisdom in His devotees. He is also called Rudra. In Yajur-Veda, Rudra is also called "Mahadeva. One of the three great gods of Hinduism, Shiva is a living god. The most sacred and most ancient book of India, the Rg Veda, evokes his presence in its hymns; Vedic myths, rituals, and even astronomy itself testify to his existence from the dawn of time. From the dawn of creation, the Great Yogi, the sum of all opposites, has been the guardian of the absolute. He is the totality of existence - male and female, light and dark, creation and destruction. Shiva another well-known name is Yogiraja, i. Besides, these symbols another very important physical characteristic of Shiva is his vertical third eye. In Mahabharata, the great Hindu epic, the legend of how Shiva got the third eye is given this way. One day his beautiful consort Parvati daughter of the King of Himalayas, stealthily went behind Shiva and playfully placed her hands over his eyes. Suddenly darkness engulfed the whole world and all beings trembled in great fear as the lord of the universe had closed his eyes. Suddenly a massive tongue of flame leapt from the forehead of Shiva; a third eye appeared there and this gave light to the world. Another popular image of Shiva has no human form but is represented by Linga - The Linga of Light The myth is one of the most popular of the entire Puranic corpus and is told many times in various settings. It recounts the first appearance of Shiva linga which pierced the three worlds as a brilliant shaft of light and was witnessed by Brahma and Vishnu long ago. The Vedas, however, testify one by one that neither Brahma nor Vishnu, but Shiva is supreme. As the two stand in disbelief, a huge column of fire splits the earth between them and blazes up through the sky to pierce the highest heavens. Astounded, Brahma and Vishnu decide to determine the source and extent of this brilliant pillar of light. Vishnu becomes a boar and burrows deep into the netherworlds. Brahma mounts his goose and flies as far up as the heavens reach. But even after thousands of years they cannot find the bottom or the top of the shaft of light. The linga of light is thus the image of the supremacy of Shiva. It is as what Mircea Eliade has called the axis mundi or the pillar at

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

the center of the world, originating deep in the netherworlds, cracking the surface of the earth, and splitting the roof of the sky. In this linga Shiva is not one god among others, but the unfathomable One. This light is the mysterium tremendum which finally cannot be described or comprehended by any or all faces and attributes. Shiva-lingam is a sign by which Shiva is symbolized. Linga means a "mark" in Sanskrit. It is a symbol that points to an inference. Shiva is represented by the Lingam or Mark, which is manifestly the Creative power of Divinity. The Hindu saint Ramakrishna Paramhansa has explained it: It is the worship of fatherhood and motherhood.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 8 : Best of the Koodiyattam - The Hindu

Note that according to Hindu social code, a woman could not lead a religious life and could achieve spiritual salvation only through devotion to her husband. By contrast, the Buddha came to assert that women were as capable as men of achieving enlightenment.

Check new design of our homepage! We Have the Answer Just as the flower Rose is to the West, Lotus is to the East, laden with deep meaningful references to the creation of life and beauty A new and radical way of rediscovering the significance of this very symbolic flower is getting lotus tattoos done, which is person specific as to how you want to interpret it. ThoughtfulTattoos Staff Last Updated: Feb 28, Also referred to as Sacred Lotus, this flower has been the symbol of detachment from worldly desires and illusions according to the Hindu religious scriptures. It symbolizes purity in the true sense of the word. The lotus symbolizes life ever renewed and revitalized when it peeks out of the muddy waters every morning. In Biblical, Indian, Egyptian, Chinese and Japanese cultures, Lotus has been one of those flowers having a great importance spiritually and symbolically. It holds great importance in the East and is considered among the most sacred and beautiful flower. Nowadays it is widely used in the tattoo designs. The meaning and the motive of getting it inked may vary from person to person. Tattoos depicting the lotus flower can frequently be seen on people. The tattoo may be in combination with various other symbols which may signify its meaning and importance. The color of the flower also contributes symbolically, like the white lotus means purity and transcendence; pink lotus signifies the supreme One, the Great Buddha and Goddess Lakshmi; the red lotus expresses compassion and passion; blue signifies the supremacy of the eternal over the temporal. A lotus tattoo can imply one such successful emergence or life in general as to grow from the earthly mud and be born as something more meaningful than just beautiful. For People Who Have Seen Hardships Lotus tattoos are popular with people who have seen hardships in life and have come out successfully. Japanese Interpretation Among the Japanese tattoo artists, a lotus tattoo is equally popular as the Koi fish, at times they can be found together as well. The flower can be considered as an eastern equivalent to the rose. Symbol of Optimism, Spirituality and Knowledge Some can use the lotus flower as an example of a dormant seed that lies under mud and muck, that bursts into life under sunlight. Hindu Interpretation As it is believed that lotus is the throne of Goddess Saraswati according to Hindu mythology, you will commonly get across tattoos with such combination. Religious Belief Though it caters everyone, lotus tattoo is the best option for the people who want to show their devotion and respect towards the religious believes. Ancient Egyptian Mythology According to Egyptian mythology, a lotus is a flower that is created from the fluid chaos of the world. Nun and the Sun God, Atum walked out of it to spread light all over the cosmos. One of the versions of this mythical tale also suggest that the Sun God emerged out of the petals of the flower as Ra. In Ancient Egypt it was rightly taken as a symbol of genesis, revival and restoration. In this religion, Lotus symbolizes fortune and purification. The flower, which takes birth in mud, teaches a common man a valuable lesson by blooming out of that murky environment to achieve enlightenment. It resemble the cleansing or purifying of the spirit that arises from a muddy surrounding. Hence lotus as a flower symbolizes the journey and advancement of the soul through the transcendence of the material world to be one with the supreme soul. Christianity Christianity has the white lily depicting the same symbolic message as the lotus, related to Mary the Virgin mother, which signifies chastity and fecundity. According to Bhagwad Gita, Man should be like the lotus; working without getting emotionally or physically attached. His actions should be solely dedicated to Him without committing any sin. The position of a lotus in yoga, called padmasana, is practiced by those aiming for inner peace by letting the flow of vital energy in the upward direction.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

Chapter 9 : Lotus Flower Tattoo Designs | Love Ambie

religion stuff like vocab Learn with flashcards, games, and more â€” for free.

Many were discovered centuries ago and on display. Some are not on display, but still well known. Enjoy this fascinating list and be sure to mention any others you know of in the comments. It is preserved at the Cathedral of Trier in Germany. In the Gospel of John, the soldiers cast lots on who would receive the tunic because it was woven in one single piece. Hence the name, the Seamless Robe. Now the coat was without seam, woven whole from the top down. Therefore, they said among themselves, let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it will become. Thus the saying in Scripture was fulfilled: According to legend, Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the seamless robe in the Holy Land in the year or along with several other relics, including the True Cross. According to different versions of the story, she either bequeathed it or sent it to the city of Trier, where Constantine had lived for some years before becoming emperor. The monk Altmann of Hautvillers wrote in the 9th century that Helena was born in that city, though this report is strongly disputed by most modern historians. The history of the Trier robe is certain only from the 12th century. On May 1, , Archbishop Johann I of Trier consecrated an altar in which the seamless robe was contained. It is no longer possible to determine the exact historical path that the robe took to arrive there, so many hold it to be a medieval forgery. The various attempts at preservation and restoration through the centuries have made it difficult to determine how much of the relic if genuine actually stems from the time of Jesus. A scientific examination of the specimen has not been conducted. The stigmatist Therese Neumann of Konnersreuth declared that the Trier robe was authentic. Just before they did so, they realized that Jesus was already dead and that there was no reason to break his legs. To make sure that he was dead, a Roman soldier named in extra-Biblical tradition as Longinus stabbed him in the side. The crown housed in the Paris cathedral is a circle of canes bundled together and held by gold threads. The thorns were attached to this braided circle, which measures 21 centimeters in diameter. The thorns were divided up over the centuries by the Byzantine emperors and the Kings of France. There are seventy, all of the same type, which have been confirmed as the original thorns. Of these relics, the Crown of Thorns is without a doubt the most precious and the most revered. Despite numerous studies and historical and scientific research efforts, its authenticity cannot be certified. It has been the object of more than sixteen centuries of fervent Christian prayer. Today, many fragments of wood are claimed as True Cross relics, but in most cases it is hard to establish their authenticity. Very small pieces or particles of the True Cross are reportedly preserved in hundreds of other churches in Europe and inside crucifixes. Their authenticity is not accepted universally by those of the Christian faith and the accuracy of the reports surrounding the discovery of the True Cross is questioned by many Christians. Believers contend that the shroud is the cloth placed on the body of Jesus Christ at the time of his burial, and that the face image is the Holy Face of Jesus. Detractors contend that the artifact postdates the Crucifixion of Jesus by more than a millennium. Both sides of the argument use science and historical documents to make their case. The striking negative image was first observed on the evening of May 28, , on the reverse photographic plate of amateur photographer Secondo Pia, who was allowed to photograph it while it was being exhibited in the Turin Cathedral. The crown became one of the symbols of the Kingdom of Lombards and later of the medieval Kingdom of Italy. It is kept in the Cathedral of Monza, in the suburbs of Milan. The Iron Crown is so called from a narrow band of iron about one centimeter three-eighths of an inch within it, said to be beaten out of one of the nails used at the crucifixion. The outer circlet of the crown is of six segments of beaten gold partly enameled, joined together by hinges and set with twenty-two gemstones that stand out in relief, in the form of crosses and flowers. Its small size and hinged construction have suggested to some that it was originally a large armband or perhaps a votive crown; for others, the small size of the present crown was caused by a readjustment after the loss of two segments, as described in historical documents. Today, several images claim to be the Veil of Veronica. Very few inspections are recorded in modern times

DOWNLOAD PDF THE LANCE AND THE LOTUS : PASSION AND DEVOTION IN THE HINDU QUEST

and there are no detailed photographs. The most detailed recorded inspection of the 20th century occurred in when Jesuit art historian Joseph Wilpert was allowed to remove two plates of glass to inspect the image. Holy Stairs are, according to the Christian tradition, the steps that led up to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem, which Jesus Christ stood on during his Passion on his way to trial. The stairs were, reputedly, brought to Rome by St. Helena in the 4th Century. For centuries, the Scala Santa has attracted Christian pilgrims who wished to honor the Passion of Jesus. It consists of twenty-eight white marble steps, now encased by wooden steps, located in a building which incorporates part of the old Lateran Palace, located opposite the Basilica of Saint John Lateran. They are located next to a church which was built on ground brought from Mount Calvary. The stairs lead to the Sancta Sanctorum English: Holy of Holies , the personal chapel of the early Popes in the Lateran palace, known as the chapel of St. The story of this image is the product of centuries of development during which the image was lost and reappeared several times. Today two images claim to be the Mandylion, one is the Holy Face of Genoa at the Church of St Bartholomew of The Armenians in Genoa, the other the Holy Face of San Silvestro, kept in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite in Rome up to now in the Matilda Chapel of the Vatican Palace, The theory that the object venerated as the Mandylion from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries was in fact the Shroud of Turin has been the subject of debate, but is now mostly rejected as a hypothesis. The legend may combine Christian lore with a Celtic myth of a cauldron endowed with special powers. It is a legend which first came together in the form of written romances, deriving perhaps from some pre-Christian folklore hints, in the later 12th and early 13th centuries. The early Grail romances centered on Percival and were woven into the more general Arthurian fabric. Some of the Grail legend is interwoven with legends of the Holy Chalice. The work of Leonardo da vinci presents the Holy Grail as derivative of sang real literally meaning holy blood, i.