



Banaras City of Light

Diana L Eck

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The author reveals the spiritual and historical resonance of this holy place where great sages such as the Buddha and Shankara taught, where ashrams, palaces, and universities were built, where God has been imagined and imaged in a thousand ways Eck describes the rites of its temples, the busy life of its riverfront, and the exuberance of its festivals she narrates how people travel from all over India to Banaras for the privilege of dying a good death here, for they believe that on the banks of the river Ganges where the atmosphere of devotion is improbable in its strength, it is possible to be released from this earthly round forever in her account of the sacred history, geography, and art of the city, its elaborate and thriving rituals, its myths and literature, and its importance to pilgrims and seekers, Diana Eck uses her wealth of scholarship to make the Hindu tradition come powerfully alive so that we come to understand the meaning that this sacred city holds for the millions of believers who have been coming here for over 2,500 years a luminous work, as befits this city of light i know of few books that capture the soul of a sacred city to the degree that this one does .

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