



# **An Encyclopedic Survey of Hinduism Hindu World Two Volumes**

*Benjamin Walker*



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## From the Jacket

Never before has the fabulous world of Hinduism been dealt within its entirety in a single work. This book presents the vast pageant of India in all its teeming variety. It is the first general encyclopedia of Hinduism covering every major aspect of Hindu life and thought, embodying the result of recent scholarship, yet not ignoring the traditional point of view. Of absorbing interest, it will be found to contain a wealth of information not readily available to the general reader. It is astonishingly wide in range: besides religion, philosophy, yoga, art, music, architecture, history and mythology, it deals in fascinating detail with source of lesser-known subjects such as dress, diet, festivals, handicrafts, psychology, science, alchemy, magic, Tantrism, medicine, erotics, dance, social observances and cult cites.

As a reference book Hindu world is unique, and will appeal both the layman and the scholar. It contains over 700 lucidly-written articles, each of which gives a comprehensive account of the subject, and by a system of cross references interlinks all topics related to it, so that a single theme may be traced in all its ramifications through the whole book. An index of over 8000 items, which in itself forms a veritable treasury of Sanskrit terms and names, will further assist the reader in finding his way among the lesser topics treated in the work.

## Vol-I

## Preface

The substance of this book is derived largely from the standard works of recognized authorities, supplemented by material drawn from traditional Indian sources. It contains much that is not easily obtainable without access to a large specialist library, and its chief justification is that it is the only work of its kind. While there do exist several reference books on various aspects of Hinduism, there is no single wo



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