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KEY=VOICE - SKYLAR CARR

HER VOICE, HER FAITH

WOMEN SPEAK ON WORLD RELIGIONS

Hachette UK They say religion is a personal and private affair. But when a woman believes in a tradition, she has a relationship to that faith beyond her sacred space. Religious traditions' historically poor treatment of women has led many to question why they believe. How has their tradition either embraced and enlightened, or excluded and confined women throughout history? Her Voice, Her Faith presents the personal and historical perspectives of women who not only live their faith day to day, but who also know their religion's history with women in general.

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HER VOICE, HER FAITH: WOMEN SPEAK ON WORLD RELIGIONS

WOMEN V. RELIGION

THE CASE AGAINST FAITH—AND FOR FREEDOM

Pitchstone Publishing (US&CA) Throughout history, religion has been used as a tool of female subjugation. Women have been deemed less worthy than men, have been prevented from owning property, and worse—all in the name of a higher power. In recent decades, women have made progress in terms of equal rights with men, at least in Western democracies, but still, why has the United States never had a female president? Why aren't more women heads of Fortune 500 companies? Why do politicians in the West continue to attack women's reproductive rights? As this volume explores, it would be hard to find a bigger culprit than religion when identifying the last cultural barriers to full gender equality. With topics ranging from the subjugation of women in the Bible to the shame and guilt felt by women due to religious teaching, this volume makes clear that only by rejecting the very system that limits their autonomy will women be fully liberated from its malignant influences, not just in codified law but also in cultural practice.

FROM JESUS TO CHRIST

THE ORIGINS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IMAGES OF JESUS (SECOND EDITION)

Yale University Press "Magisterial. . . . A learned, brilliant and enjoyable study."—Géza Vermès, *Times Literary Supplement* In this exciting book, Paula Fredriksen explains the variety of New Testament images of Jesus by exploring the ways that the new Christian communities interpreted his mission and message in light of the delay of the Kingdom he had preached. This edition includes an introduction reviews the most recent scholarship on Jesus and its implications for both history and theology. "Brilliant and lucidly written, full of original and fascinating insights."—Reginald H. Fuller, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* "This is a first-rate work of a first-rate historian."—James D. Tabor, *Journal of Religion* "Fredriksen confronts her documents—principally the writings of the New Testament—as an archaeologist would an especially rich complex site. With great care she distinguishes the literary images from historical fact. As she does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."—Thomas D'Evelyn, *Christian Science Monitor*

GENDER, RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN A CHAOTIC POSTMODERN WORLD

Springer Science & Business Media The immense changes that the world is undergoing in terms of globalization and migration of peoples have had a profound effect on cultures and identities. The question is whether this means shifts in religious identities for women and men in different contexts, whether such shifts are seen as beneficial, negative or insufficient, or whether social change actually means new conservatism or even fundamentalisms. Surrounding these questions is the role of education in any change or new contradiction. This unique book enhances an interdisciplinary discourse about the complex intersections between gender, religion and education in the contemporary world. Literature in the social sciences and humanities have expanded our understanding of women's involvement in almost every aspect of life, yet the combined religious/educational aspect is still an under-studied and often under-theorized field of research. How people experience their religious identity in a new context or country is also a theme now needing more complex attention. Questions of the body, visibility and invisibility are receiving new treatments. This book fills these gaps. The book provides a strong comparative perspective, with 15 countries or contexts represented. The context of education and learning covers schools, higher education, non-formal education, religious institutions, adult literacy, curriculum and textbooks. Overall, the book reveals a great complexity and often contradiction in modern negotiations of religion and secularism by girls and boys, women and men, and a range of possibilities for change. It provides a theoretical and practical resource for researchers, religious and educational institutions, policy makers and teachers.

RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION, VOLUME 32

LESSER HEARD VOICES IN STUDIES OF RELIGION

BRILL The present volume explores lesser-heard and unheard issues in the study of religion. Among other things, lived experiences of religion in higher education are interrogated; culture is studied as lived experience; and "evangelicalism" is outlined as an emic and etic concept.

RELIGION, GENDER, AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Routledge The re-emergence of religion as a significant cultural, social and political, force is not gender neutral. Tensions between claims for women's equality and the rights of sexual minorities on one side and the claims of religions on the other side are well-documented across all major religions and regions. It is also well recognized in feminist scholarship that gender identities and ethno-religious identities work together in complex ways that are often exploited by dominant groups. Hence, a more comprehensive understanding of the changing role and influence of religion in the public sphere more widely requires complex, multidisciplinary and comparative gender analyses. Most recent discussion on these matters, however, especially in Europe, has focused primarily on the perceived subordinate status of Muslim women. These debates are a reminder of the deep interrelation of questions of gender, identity, human rights and religious freedom more generally. The relatively narrow (albeit important) purview of such discussions so far, however, underscores the need to extend the horizon of enquiry vis-à-vis religion, gender and the public sphere beyond the binary of 'Islam versus the West'. Religion, Gender and the Public Sphere moves gender from the periphery to the centre of contemporary debates about the role of religion in public and political life. It offers a timely, multidisciplinary collection of gender-focused essays that address an array of challenges arising from the changing role and influence of religious organisations, identities, actors and values in the public sphere in contemporary multicultural and democratic societies.

THE WORLD'S CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS

THE ADDRESSES AND PAPERS DELIVERED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT, AND AN ABSTRACT OF THE CONGRESSES HELD IN THE ART INSTITUTE, CHICAGO ... AUGUST 25 TO OCTOBER 15, 1893 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION ... WITH MARGINAL NOTES

"...Collects 128 pages of hand-picked, favorite party and celebration-themed stories about Archie, Jughead, Betty, Veronica and friends."--

SIKH WOMEN IN ENGLAND

THEIR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL BELIEFS AND SOCIAL PRACTICES

Trentham Books This study by a Sikh woman who came to England after growing up and going to university in the Punjab illustrates the changes in the values of Sikh women in England over the years and between the migrants and British born Sikhs. Her research subjects, all based in Leeds, come from varied backgrounds and together make up a picture of Sikh women that is transferable to England and the UK. The book is arranged as follows Chapter 1 The backgrounds of the Sikh women Chapter 2 Religious values Chapter 3 Women in Sikhism and Sikh society Chapter 4 The social life of Sikh women Chapter 5 Cultural values Chapter 6, entitled Listen to Me provides excerpts from the women's stories about their own lives, and the conclusion confirms that Sikh women have adapted well to life on a different continent and have a strong sense of identity. Foreword by Professor Kim Knott

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND RELIGION IN NORTH AMERICA: NATIVE AMERICAN CREATION STORIES

Indiana University Press A fundamental and well-illustrated reference collection for anyone interested in the role of women in North American religious life.

WOMEN AND RELIGION IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ITALY

University of Chicago Press Between the twelfth and the sixteenth centuries, women assumed public roles of unprecedented prominence in Italian religious culture. Legally subordinated, politically excluded, socially limited, and ideologically disdained, women's active participation in religious life offered them access to power in all its forms. These essays explore the involvement of women in religious life throughout northern and central Italy and trace the evolution of communities of pious women as they tried to achieve their devotional goals despite the strictures of the ecclesiastical hierarchy. The contributors examine relations between holy women, their devout followers, and society at large. Including contributions from leading figures in a new generation of Italian historians of religion, this book shows how women were able to carve out broad areas of influence by carefully exploiting the institutional church and by astutely manipulating religious percepts.

RELIGION AND WOMEN

SUNY Press This book discusses the position of women in the Native American, African, Shinto, Jaina, Zoroastrian, Sikh, and Baha'i faiths for the first time in a single volume, and evolves a conceptual framework within which their positions could be comprehensively considered. The contributing scholars provide an enlarged database for a more thorough discussion of the questions pertaining to women and religion in general, and simultaneously advance the theoretical frontiers in women's studies. Religion and Women belongs to a trilogy about women and world religions edited by Arvind Sharma the first and third volumes being respectively, Women in World Religions and Today's Woman in World Religions.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN WOMEN WRITE RELIGION

LIVED THEOLOGIES AND LITERATURE

Routledge Nineteenth-century American women's culture was immersed in religious experience and female authors of the era employed representations of faith to various cultural ends. Focusing primarily on non-canonical texts, this collection explores the diversity of religious discourse in nineteenth-century women's literature. The contributors examine fiction, political writings, poetry, and memoirs by professional authors, social activists, and women of faith, including Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Angelina and Sarah Grimké, Louisa May Alcott, Rebecca Harding Davis, Harriet E. Wilson, Sarah Piatt, Julia Ward Howe, Julia A. J. Foote, Lucy Mack Smith, Rebecca Cox Jackson, and Fanny Newell. Embracing the

complexities of lived religion in women's culture-both its repressive and its revolutionary potential-Nineteenth-Century American Women Write Religion articulates how American women writers adopted the language of religious sentiment for their own cultural, political, or spiritual ends.

FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

CRITICAL READINGS

Psychology Press Feminist Philosophy of Religion: Critical Readings brings together key new writings in this growing field.

RELIGION IN THE KITCHEN

COOKING, TALKING, AND THE MAKING OF BLACK ATLANTIC TRADITIONS

NYU Press Before honey can be offered to the Afro-Cuban deity Ochún, it must be tasted, to prove to her that it is good. In African-inspired religions throughout the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States, such gestures instill the attitudes that turn participants into practitioners. Acquiring deep knowledge of the diets of the gods and ancestors constructs adherents' identities; to learn to fix the gods' favorite dishes is to be "seasoned" into their service. In this innovative work, Elizabeth Pérez reveals how seemingly trivial "micropractices" such as the preparation of sacred foods, are complex rituals in their own right. Drawing on years of ethnographic research in Chicago among practitioners of Lucumí, the transnational tradition popularly known as Santería, Pérez focuses on the behind-the-scenes work of the primarily women and gay men responsible for feeding the gods. She reveals how cooking and talking around the kitchen table have played vital socializing roles in Black Atlantic religions. Entering the world of divine desires and the varied flavors that speak to them, this volume takes a fresh approach to the anthropology of religion. Its richly textured portrait of a predominantly African-American Lucumí community reconceptualizes race, gender, sexuality, and affect in the formation of religious identity, proposing that every religion coalesces and sustains itself through its own secret recipe of micropractices.

TRUE RELIGION OF HUMANITY

BFC Publications A masterpiece which decodes complex mysteries of mundane as well as of spritual life, revealing basic fundamentals of humanity. A practical guide for the entire humanity, irrespective of any Religion, Caste or Creed, who are either common householders or practitioners of Spirituality. If implemented in our daily lives can solve most of our Social, Personal, National and Spritual problems. It shares practical and personal experiences of His Holiness Param Dayal Baba Faqir Chandji Mahraj of Hoshiarpur, who was a supreme saint of the highest order. It tears apart the iron curtain of ignorance and misconceptions of the Religious and Spritual world and its followers. Written with the sole intention to convey the supreme master's message for humanity, who had sincere concern for the ignorant, weak and innocent beings, who are being fooled and cheated in the name of Religion and Spirituality.

FEMINISM AND RELIGION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

TECHNOLOGY, DIALOGUE, AND EXPANDING BORDERS

Routledge This anthology will explore the new directions of conversations occurring in relation to feminism and religion, as well as the technological modes being utilized to continue dialogue, expand borders, and create new frontiers in feminism. It is a cross generational project bringing together the voices of foremothers with those of the twenty-first century generation of feminist scholars to discuss the changing direction of feminism and religion, new methods of dialogue, and the benefits for society overall.

RELIGION: THE BASICS

Routledge From the local to the global level, religion is - more than ever - an important and hotly debated part of modern life in the twenty-first century. From silver rings to ringtones and from clubs to headscarves, we often find the cultural role and discussion of religion in unexpected ways. Now in its second edition, Religion: The Basics remains the best introduction to religion and contemporary culture available. The new edition has been fully revised and updated, and includes new discussions of: the study of religion and culture in the twenty-first century texts, films and rituals cognitive approaches to religion globalization and multiculturalism spirituality in the West popular religion. With new case

studies, linking cultural theory to real world religious experience and practice, and guides to further reading, Religion: The Basics is an essential buy for students wanting to get to grips with this hotly debated topic.

WHEN RELIGION MATTERS

PRACTICING HEALING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LIBERIAN CIVIL WAR

Wipf and Stock Publishers How does starting with women's statements that "God was there" in the moment of wartime violence shift the ways we think about religion, conflict, and healing? Religion and health scholar Annie Hardison-Moody examines this interdisciplinary question through several lenses--postconflict feminist theory, practical theology, and feminist and womanist theory and theology. Drawing on participatory fieldwork with a Liberian community in North Carolina, Hardison-Moody argues that religion matters for many survivors of violence, and that this fact must be taken into account in international conversations about women, violence, and healing. Consequently, she looks beyond the institutional forms of religion, instead studying the ways women live and profess healing and transformation as a part of their everyday lives. This, she argues, is the crucial task for postconflict transformation work. Understanding these "everyday" ways women experience and heal from violence is central to advancing our conceptions of healing and peace as they exist in a world rife with conflict. Scholars, activists, and caregivers will be able to draw on this resource as they attempt to understand and practice healing and transformation with those who have experienced violence and trauma.

RELIGION AND MEDIA

Stanford University Press Counter The twenty-five contributors to this volume - who include such influential thinkers as Jacques Derrida, Jean-Luc Nancy, Talal Asad, and James Siegel - confront the conceptual, analytical, and empirical difficulties involved in addressing the complex relationship between religion and media. The book's introductory section offers a prolegomenon to the multiple problems raised by an interdisciplinary approach to these multifaceted phenomena. The essays in the following part provide exemplary approaches to the historical and systematic background to the study of religion and media. The third part presents case studies by anthropologists and scholars of comparative religion. The book concludes with two remarkable documents: a chapter from Theodor W. Adorno's study of the relationship between religion and media in the context of political agitation (The Psychological Technique of Martin Luther Thomas's Radio Addresses) and a section from Niklas Luhmann's monumental Die Gesellschaft der Gesellschaft (Society as a Social System).

AN INQUIRY INTO THE PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION OF THE BIBLE

RELIGION AND WOMEN IN BRITAIN, C. 1660-1760

Routledge The essays contained in this volume examine the particular religious experiences of women within a remarkably vibrant and formative era in British religious history. Scholars from the disciplines of history, literary studies and theology assess women's contributions to renewal, change and reform; and consider the ways in which women negotiated institutional and intellectual boundaries. The focus on women's various religious roles and responses helps us to understand better a world of religious commitment which was not separate from, but also not exclusively shaped by, the political, intellectual and ecclesiastical disputes of a clerical elite. As well as deepening our understanding of both popular and elite religious cultures in this period, and the links between them, the volume re-focuses scholarly approaches to the history of gender and especially the history of feminism by setting the British writers often characterised as 'early feminists' firmly in their theological and spiritual traditions.

RELIGION, WOMEN OF COLOR, AND THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

THE JOURNEY TO HOLISTIC FREEDOM

Rowman & Littlefield "This edited collection focuses on the uncelebrated insights and perspectives of women of color in a world where systemic discrimination persists. It articulates new strategies and paradigms for recognizing their contributions to the broader struggles for freedom and equity of women in our world"--

THEMES IN RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE

Univ of North Carolina Press Designed to serve as an introduction to American religion, this volume is distinctive in its approach: instead of following a traditional narrative, the book is arranged thematically. Eleven chapters by top scholars present, in carefully organized and acc

RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, AND AGING

A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

Routledge Learn how to make a more positive impact with your social work with the aged Religion is an important coping mechanism for many aging adults. Religion, Spirituality, and Aging: A Social Work Perspective presents the latest research that shows how religion and spirituality can improve quality of life for elders. Respected social work researchers and scholars provide insight and practical methods for fostering positive aging while also considering how spirituality and religion can affect practitioners themselves. The full range of advantages and ethical implications are discussed in clear detail from a social work viewpoint. Case studies plainly illustrate the positive impact that the inclusion of spirituality and religion in an aging person's life may have on their physical and mental welfare. Organized social work in the early twentieth century actively tried to distance itself from its roots as a form of religious charity in favor of becoming a scientific and professional endeavor. Religion, Spirituality, and Aging once again bridges the gap between social work and spiritual matters by presenting penetrating articles that discusses the issues of the aging soul while examining ways to improve care. Creative strategies are offered to contribute to the spiritual side of aging while considering every implication and ethical question. The compilation is extensively referenced and includes helpful figures and tables to clearly illustrate data and ideas. Religion, Spirituality, and Aging discusses: the latest social work trends and attitudes toward spirituality prayer, meditation, and acts of altruism as interventions an empirical study of how social workers use religion and spirituality as an intervention ethical considerations and best practices religion and spirituality during long-term care the "Postcards to God" project dreams and their relationship to the search for meaning in later life a spiritual approach to positive aging through autobiography dementia and spirituality creating new rituals for sacred aging spiritual master Henri Nouwen's principles of aging—and his approaches to caring for older people an interview study on elders' spirituality and the changes manifested in their views of religion Religion, Spirituality, and Aging is a remarkable reminder that elders are our future selves. This erudite, well-reasoned examination of aging and spirituality from a social work perspective is crucial reading for social workers, human service professionals who work with the aged, and gerontology scholars.

HANDBOOK OF RELIGION AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Springer Science & Business Media Handbook for Religion and Social Institutions is written for sociologists who study a variety of sub-disciplines and are interested in recent studies and theoretical approaches that relate religious variables to their particular area of interest. The handbook focuses on several major themes: - Social Institutions such as Politics, Economics, Education, Health and Social Welfare - Family and the Life Cycle - Inequality - Social Control - Culture - Religion as a Social Institution and in a Global Perspective This handbook will be of interest to social scientists including sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and other researchers whose study brings them in contact with the study of religion and its impact on social institutions.

THE CONGRESS OF WOMEN HELD IN THE WOMAN'S BUILDING, WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, CHICAGO, U.S.A., 1893 ...

WITH PORTRAITS, BIOGRAPHIES AND ADDRESSES

INTEGRATING ECOFEMINISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND WORLD RELIGIONS

Rowman & Littlefield Pub Incorporated This book addresses the practical relevance of the interconnection of feminism, ecology, and religious theological thought, and asks questions about the lack of attention to gender issues in both ecological theology and deglobalization theory. The book looks at issues of globalization, interfaith ecological theology, ecofeminism, and deglobalization movements comparatively across different world religions and across geographical regions.

RATIONAL RELIGION AND MORALS: PRESENTING ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONS OF MIND, UNDER THE OPERATIONS AND DIRECTIONS OF REASON

THE FIRST, ELICITING THE NECESSARY, RATIONAL, AND ONLY RELIGION, MONOTHEISM .. THE SECOND, THE OBVIOUS DUTIES AND PRECAUTIONS OF SOCIETY

WOMEN AND RELIGION IN OLD AND NEW WORLDS

Routledge This innovative collection brings together essays on women's religious experiences in both Europe and the Americas during the colonial era.

THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF RELIGION WITHIN THE REALM OF SCOTLAND ... TO WHICH IS ADDED, I. AN ADMONITION TO ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND TO CALL THEM TO REPENTANCE, WRITTEN BY ANTONI GILBY. II. THE FIRST AND SECOND BOOKS OF DISCIPLINE; TOGETHER WITH SOME ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, ETC. THE EDITOR'S ADDRESS TO THE READER SIGNED: D. B., I.E. DAVID BUCHANAN

WOMEN AND THE RELIGION OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

Yale University Press A synthetic reconstruction of women's religious engagement and experiences in preexilic Israel "This monumental book examines a wealth of data from the Bible, archaeology, and ancient Near Eastern texts and iconography to provide a clear, comprehensive, and compelling analysis of women's religious lives in preexilic times."—Carol Meyers, Duke University Throughout the biblical narrative, ancient Israelite religious life is dominated by male actors. When women appear, they are often seen only on the periphery: as tangential, accidental, or passive participants. However, despite their absence from the written record, they were often deeply involved in religious practice and ritual observance. In this new volume, Susan Ackerman presents a comprehensive account of ancient Israelite women's religious lives and experiences. She examines the various sites of their practice, including household shrines, regional sanctuaries, and national temples; the calendar of religious rituals that women observed on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis; and their special roles in religious settings. Drawing on texts, archaeology, and material culture, and documenting the distinctions between Israelite women's experiences and those of their male counterparts, Ackerman reconstructs an essential picture of women's lived religion in ancient Israelite culture.

RELIGION AND YOUTH

Ashgate Publishing, Ltd. What is the future of religion given the responses of young people? What impact do existing religious forms have on youth? What kind of spirituality and religion are young people creating for themselves? Religion and Youth presents an accessible guide to the key issues in the study of youth and religion, including methodological perspectives. It provides a key teaching text in these areas for undergraduates, and a book of rigorous scholarship for postgraduates, academics and practitioners. Offering the first comprehensive international perspective on the sociology of youth and religion, this book reveals key geographical and organisational variables as well as the complexities of the engagement between youth and religion. The book is divided into six parts organised around central themes: Generation X and their legacy; The Big Picture - surveys of belief and practice in the USA, UK and Australia; Expression - how young people construct and live out their religion and spirituality; Identity - the role of religion in shaping young people's sense of self and social belonging; Transmission - passing on the faith (or not); Researching Youth Religion - debates, issues and techniques in researching young people's religion and spirituality. James A. Beckford writes the Foreword and Linda Woodhead the Epilogue.

THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION OF RELIGION IN SCOTLAND

RELIGION IN AMERICA

Infobase Publishing Presents an overview of the history of religion in America and includes excerpts from primary source documents, short biographies of influential people, and more.

RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE

A READER

Psychology Press Religion and American Culture challenges the religion's traditional emphasis on older European, American, male, middle-class, Protestant, northeastern narratives concerned primarily with churches and theology. Breaking through the field with multicultural tales of Native American, African Americans and other groups that cut across boundaries of gender, class, religion and region, David Hackett's anthology offers an illuminating and comprehensive overview of the most exciting work currently underway in this field.

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF RELIGION AND EMOTION

OUP USA This volume collects essays under four categories: religious traditions, religious life, emotional states, and historical and theoretical perspectives. They describe the ways in which emotions affect various world religions, and analyse the manner in which certain components of religious represent and shape emotional performance.

WOMEN'S POETRY AND RELIGION IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

JEWISH IDENTITY AND CHRISTIAN CULTURE

Cambridge University Press Victorian women poets lived in a time when religion was a vital aspect of their identities. Cynthia Scheinberg examines Anglo-Jewish (Grace Aguilar and Amy Levy) and Christian (Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Christina Rossetti) women poets, and argues that there are important connections between the discourses of nineteenth-century poetry, gender and religious identity. Further, Scheinberg argues that Jewish and Christian women poets had a special interest in Jewish discourse; calling on images from Judaism and the Hebrew Scriptures, their poetry created complex arguments about the relationships between Jewish and female artistic identity. She suggests that Jewish and Christian women used poetry as a site for creative and original theological interpretation, and that they entered into dialogue through their poetry about their own and each other's religious and artistic identities. This book's interdisciplinary methodology calls on poetics, religious studies, feminist literary criticism, and little read Anglo-Jewish primary sources.

RELIGION AND RAJPUT WOMEN

THE ETHIC OF PROTECTION IN CONTEMPORARY NARRATIVES

Univ of California Press What is the relationship between caste and gender in the narratives of Rajput woman? During a year and a half of fieldwork in Rajasthan, a parched land dominated by the great Indian Desert, Lindsey Harlan interviewed more than a hundred women from all levels of Rajput society. She wanted to understand why certain religious practices were so important to Rajput women, and how they justified these to themselves. During the course of her interviews, the women described their religious practices--chief among them the worship of the family kuldevi (the goddess who exemplifies the ideal wife by staving off sickness, poverty, and infertility) and the veneration of satimatas (women who have immolated themselves on their husband's funeral pyre). As the women discussed these rituals, many of them also told Harlan religious myths and stories, drawing parallels between their behavior and that of various Indian heroines. These narratives and the role they play in the women's self-perception are the fascinating and enlightening subject of this book. What is the relationship between caste and gender in the narratives of Rajput woman? During a year and a half of fieldwork in Rajasthan, a parched land dominated by the great Indian Desert, Lindsey Harlan interviewed more than a hundred women from all levels of Rajput society. She wanted to understand why certain religious practices were so important to Rajput women, and how they justified these to themselves. During the course of her interviews, the women described their religious practices--chief among them the worship of the family kuldevi (the goddess who exemplifies the ideal wife by staving off sickness, poverty, and infertility) and the veneration of satimatas (women who have immolated themselves on their husband's funeral pyre). As the women discussed these rituals, many of them also told Harlan religious myths and stories, drawing parallels between their behavior and that of various Indian heroines. These narratives and the role they play in the women's self-perception are the fascinating and enlightening subject of this book.
