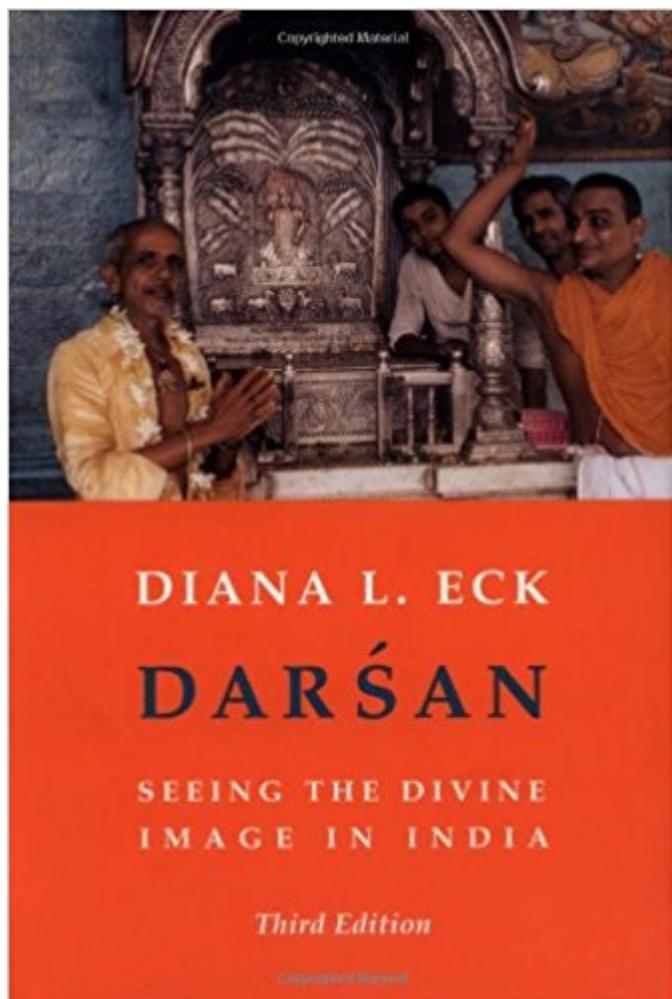


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Darsan: Seeing The Divine Image In India



Synopsis

The role of the visual is essential to Hindu tradition and culture, but many attempts to understand India's divine images have been laden with misperceptions. Darsan, a Sanskrit word that means "seeing," is an aid to our vision, a book of ideas to help us read, think, and look at Hindu images with appreciation and imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An explanation of temple worship and the use of Deity images. Darsan will give the Hindu deeper insight into the practices of his own religion, provide explanations for non-Hindu friends, and convey useful knowledge to his children. (Hinduism Today)

Although the role of the visual is essential to Indian tradition and culture, most attempts to understand its images are laden with misperceptions. Darsan, a Sanskrit word that means "seeing," is an aid to our vision, a book of ideas to help us read, think, and look at Hindu images with tolerance and imagination.

Excellent read and very educational. I wanted to read it again as soon as I had finished it, to really let the information settle in. This is a doorway into the Hindu world, and I truly enjoyed the journey.

I used this book in my Religions of India class at West Virginia University and it was a WONDERFUL learning tool. Diana Eck addresses Hinduism from a perspective that most

westerners have never considered. There is a lot of information in this book that helps to describe both the concepts of Hindu worship and some of its history. I definitely recommend this if you are interested in world religions or the varieties of religious experience.

This is the third edition of a very good book by a scholar of Indian art. It explains the idea of darshan--that the devotee not only sees the sacred image, but that the deity sees them. Well written.

Diana Eck's book provides information about image and idol worship in Hinduism. It specifically discusses the nature of darsan and "seeing" in the culture of Hinduism and the complex rituals involving consecration of images/"murtis". This book effectively introduces Hinduism from an alternate, arguably more effective, perspective of perhaps one of the most central "Hindu" practices. I read this book for my Introduction to Hinduism class and can say it greatly enhanced my knowledge of Image/Idol worship in Hinduism.

Required for a university class I'm taking.

Diana Eck is a wonderful scholar who has written several great books on Hinduism. Darsan (or "darshan," if you're transliterating it simply for an English-speaking audience) is a wonderfully simple introduction to Hindu iconography and the related ritual experience, a subject that is overwhelmingly broad and often unwieldy. If you are an undergraduate studying Eastern religions, a graduate student new to Hinduism, a Western devotee wanting better cross-cultural knowledge of how to respectfully relate to your chosen god or goddess as Hindus do, or a curious layperson wanting to know more about the Hindu religious experience and what all the images and rituals are about, this is a great book for you to begin with. This slim volume doesn't go into elaborate depth, but covers a lot of ground and introduces many key terms in a very readable way, and is a useful introductory work.

This is a terrific book for people interested in religion and who want to know about culture things! Very recommended!

Excellent explanations but pictures were poor quality.

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