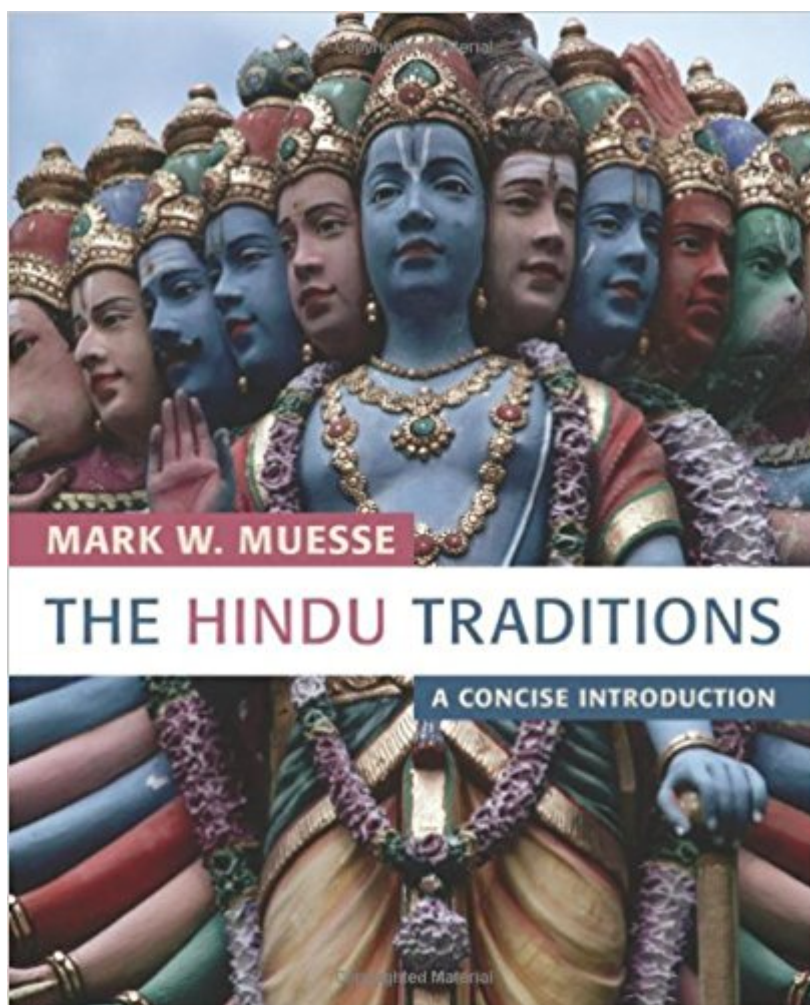


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# The Hindu Traditions: A Concise Introduction



## Synopsis

Renowned lecturer Mark W. Muesse brings readers into an encounter with the world's oldest living religious tradition, known as Hinduism. Muesse's brief survey challenges the perception of Hinduism as one religious tradition, showing how wonderfully rich and diverse this ancient story truly is.

Muesse traces the vast history and practices of classic and diverse traditions, moving from the origins in the Indus Valley up through classic and contemporary periods. He exhibits a keen sense of the myriad spiritualities associated with Hinduism, demonstrating how the religious tradition is both monotheistic and polytheistic. With photographs and maps, chapter overviews, timelines, summaries, key terms, study questions, suggested readings, and a glossary, Muesse's work incorporates valuable pedagogy to enhance his engaging account of the many Hindu traditions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Mark Muesse's introductory text is a concise and precise account of the Hindu tradition that is both straightforward and sophisticated in its presentation and analysis." --Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor of Comparative Religion, McGill University  
"Of all the world's religions, Hinduism's diversity presents special challenges. Mark Muesse presents well this diversity in his treatment of specific texts, traditions, and practices. Properly focused on widely shared beliefs and practices, Muesse is also attentive to matters of contemporary controversy. This book should work well in courses and is a fine addition to introductory texts on Hinduism." --Anantanand Rambachan, Professor and Chair of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies at Saint Olaf College

Mark W. Muesse is the W. J. Millard Professor of Religious Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. He earned his PhD at Harvard in the Study of Religion, working with Gordon D. Kaufman, Richard R. Niebuhr, Wilfrid Cantwell Smith, and Diana Eck. He was honored in 2008 for outstanding teaching at Rhodes College. He currently directs the Asian Studies program at Rhodes, and has produced four Teaching Company lecture series on the world's religions.

I have struggled to digest information from numerous other sources that chronicle the evolution of the Hindu traditions. This is the first one that delivers the information with clarity, precision, and understandable language. Beautiful illustrations complement the text and enhance comprehension so that you remain engaged, no make that ENTHRALLED, throughout the entire book! Fabulous book that is recommended reading for all fans of religious studies and should be required reading for aspiring yogis.

A scholarly, but easily readable, text on the Hindu traditions. Written primarily for the college classroom, but perfectly suitable for any interested reader. Perhaps, more detail than the casual reader expects, but the detail is not overwhelming. Well illustrated.

I took my time reading this book so that I could savor its contents. I enjoyed the quotations and illustrations. I have long been a devotee of Hinduism and studied it in college. This book pulled together my bits of knowledge in a really profound way. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for knowledge of Hinduism.

The Hindu traditions are so vast and ancient, it is hard to be "concise", but this book does a great job without getting bound up in deep and treacherous academic language. Excellent resource for the curious and beginners in learning about religious traditions of India.

The textbook format helps to breakdown certain core elements. The only complaint is the brevity, and it seems like the whole book is a race. Maybe an additional 100 pages would've helped. I would have also like to read about the three gunas which were absent in the book. Overall, this is a fantastic book to introduce you to Hinduism.

A good general overview of Hinduism approachable for undergrads.

For a short introduction to Hinduism this book feels fairly comprehensive. It is well-illustrated, clearly written, and offers a fairly broad and sufficiently deep introduction to Hinduism. If you are looking for a short introduction text this will suffice, but it may not be the only one you want for the semester (because it is after all fairly short). All in all, however, I found it competent, succinct, and pass along a high recommendation.

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