



Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism

By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena



Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena

This book about the missing Divine Feminine in Christianity and Judaism chronicles a personal as well as an academic quest of an Indian woman who grew up with Kali and myriad other goddesses. It is born out of a women's studies course created and taught by the author called The Goddess in World Religions. The book examines how the Divine Feminine was erased from the western consciousness and how it led to an exclusive spiritually patriarchal monotheism with serious consequences for both women's and men's psychological and spiritual identity. While colonial, proselytizing and patriarchal ways have denied the divinity inherent in the female of the species, a recent upsurge of body-centric practices like Yoga and innumerable books about old and new goddesses reveal a deep seated mother hunger in the western consciousness. Written from a practicing Hindu/Buddhist perspective, this book looks at the curious phenomenon called the Black Madonna that appears in Europe and also examines mystical figures like Shekhinah in Jewish mysticism. People interested in symbols of the goddess, feminist theologians, and scholars interested in the absence of goddesses in monotheisms may find this book's perspective and insights provocative.

 [Download Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's ...pdf](#)

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism

By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena

This book about the missing Divine Feminine in Christianity and Judaism chronicles a personal as well as an academic quest of an Indian woman who grew up with Kali and myriad other goddesses. It is born out of a women's studies course created and taught by the author called The Goddess in World Religions. The book examines how the Divine Feminine was erased from the western consciousness and how it led to an exclusive spiritually patriarchal monotheism with serious consequences for both women's and men's psychological and spiritual identity. While colonial, proselytizing and patriarchal ways have denied the divinity inherent in the female of the species, a recent upsurge of body-centric practices like Yoga and innumerable books about old and new goddesses reveal a deep seated mother hunger in the western consciousness. Written from a practicing Hindu/Buddhist perspective, this book looks at the curious phenomenon called the Black Madonna that appears in Europe and also examines mystical figures like Shekhinah in Jewish mysticism. People interested in symbols of the goddess, feminist theologians, and scholars interested in the absence of goddesses in monotheisms may find this book's perspective and insights provocative.

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #3797860 in Books
- Published on: 2015-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.27" h x .76" w x 6.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 208 pages

 [Download Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena

Editorial Review

Review

While this book joins an established tradition of feminist theological critique, and efforts at reclaiming suppressed aspects of the feminine in Judeo-Christian androcentric dualist thought, Saxena's unique perspective as a Hindu/Buddhist Kali-loving Indian woman, to use her own words, and her grounding in an overtly gynocentric tradition, make for a valuable contribution to this field. (*Reading Religion*)

[*Absent Mother God of the West*] became a window into her scholarship and spiritual practice that fueled my desire to read the works she references and visit the places she does.... [T]he book takes one on a complex journey between faiths and philosophies, physical places and the Divine Feminine in her multitudinous forms. (*Patheos*)

This book is the work of a deeply self-aware Bengali Vajrayani woman devotee of Kali, Neela Saxena. In a voice that is warm and compassionate but with adamant clarity, it offers us a stunningly enlightening and moving reversal of the gaze on western modernity and its religious roots, discovering there an underground and suppressed presence of the Mother God. It is saturated with sophisticated and complex readings of a wide gamut of feminist and other writings. *Absent Mother God of the West* is both profound and a delightful read, exemplifying in its style the non-duality of samsara and nirvana, of transcendence and immanence. It effortlessly blends personal experience, philosophy, science, and popular culture, delivering to the reader a hope-filled alternative to the androcentrism and colonizing ethos of western modernity, offering the possibility to transform its 'dueling dualisms' into what Saxena calls 'dancing dualities.' (Frédérique Apffel-Marglin, Smith College, author of *Subversive Spiritualities: How Rituals Enact the World*)

This work is a bold and stimulating study on the contested history of the divine feminine in the west. In her journey across continents, Saxena has endeavored to restore one of the most fascinating figures of the feminine archetype in her several incarnations and cultural contexts, whether as the marginalized figure of the Virgin Mary in Christianity, or the mysterious and sublime persona of Shekhinah in Judaism, or the all-pervasive 'global Mother Kali' in Hinduism. The book makes a very significant contribution to gender studies and religious history across civilizations, and it will be an eye opener to the modern scholars and seekers of goddess spirituality. (Madhu Khanna, Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia)

In this impressively wide-ranging volume, Neela Saxena takes her readers on a journey across cultures to encounter the figure of the Divine Mother. This journey is intensely personal, while at the same time grounded in historical knowledge that is characterized by both depth and breadth. Building on her earlier work on the Hindu Goddess Kali, Saxena deftly handles materials from as far afield as Japan and ancient Greece to create a portrait of a Mother Goddess honored in a wide array of forms and manifestations around the world. Many have argued that our alienation from this Divine Mother in the West has been at the root of an array of cultural maladies on many levels, from the individual to the global. Saxena, however, concludes on a note of hope, and shows us that the absent Mother God of the West is perhaps not so absent after all. (Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College, author of *A Vision for Hinduism: Beyond Hindu Nationalism, Jainism: An Introduction, and The Historical Dictionary of Hinduism*)

About the Author

Dr. Neela Bhattacharya Saxena is professor of English and women's studies at Nassau Community College.

You can visit her website at <http://neelabhattacharyasaxena.com/>.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melinda Kendall:

This Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This particular Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even phone. This Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Bradley Simpson:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information currently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider whenever those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you have it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism as your daily resource information.

Dana Register:

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Jesse Ward:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and

soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for you is Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism this publication consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This book was represented how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

Download and Read Online Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena #0WXDA4BN12J

Read Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena for online ebook

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena books to read online.

Online Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena ebook PDF download

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena Doc

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena Mobipocket

Absent Mother God of the West: A Kali Lover's Journey into Christianity and Judaism By Neela Bhattacharya Saxena EPub