

The Devi Gita: The Song of the Goddess: A Translation, Annotation, and Commentary

By C. Mackenzie Brown



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This translation and commentary on an important Hindu text on the Great Goddess envisions a universe created and protected by a compassionate female deity.

This book provides a translation, with introduction, commentary, and annotation, of the medieval Hindu Sanskrit text the *Devi Gita (Song of the Goddess)*. It is an important but not well-known text from the rich SAakta (Goddess) tradition of India. The *Devi Gita* was composed about the fifteenth century C.E., in partial imitation of the famous *Bhagavad Gita (Song of the Lord)*, composed some fifteen centuries earlier.

Around the sixth century C.E., following the rise of several male deities to prominence, a new theistic movement began in which the supreme being was envisioned as female, known as the Great Goddess (Maha-Devi). Appearing first as a violent and blood-loving deity, this Goddess gradually evolved into a more benign figure, a compassionate World-Mother and bestower of salvific wisdom. It is in this beneficent mode that the Goddess appears in the *Devi Gita*.

This work makes available an up-to-date translation of the *Devi Gita*, along with a historical and theological analysis of the text. The book is divided into sections of verses, and each section is followed by a comment explaining key terms, concepts, ritual procedures, and mythic themes. The comments also offer comparisons with related schools of thought, indicate parallel texts and textual sources of verses in the *Devi Gita*, and briefly elucidate the historical and religious background, supplementing the remarks of the introduction.

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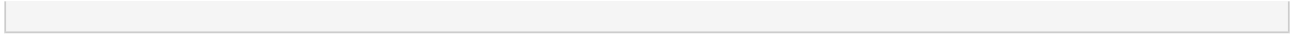
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About the Author

C. Mackenzie Brown is Professor of Religion at Trinity University. His previous books include *The Triumph of the Goddess: The Canonical Models and Theological Visions of the Devi-Bhagavata Purana*, also published by SUNY Press, and *God as Mother: A Feminine Theology in India; An Historical and Theological Study of the Brahmavaivarta Purana*.

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