
Sinhala Story

The Religious Traditions of Asia

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Formations of Ritual

Conceptual Foundations and Practical Challenges

Selected Sri Lankan Short Stories: 1981-1991

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The Religious Traditions of Asia

Routledge

Most people
know

something
about their
own religions.

That
knowledge is

usually
restricted to
what is going
on at the
present time.
When it
comes to how
their religions
developed in
their
countries,
their
knowledge is
on shakier

grounds. As
for religion in
foreign lands,
well, for many,
that
information is
nonexistent.
Author
Leonard
Pinto's Being
a Christian in
Sri Lanka:
Historical,
Political,

Social, and Religious Considerations is a critique based on the observations and experience of a Sri Lankan Christian. Pinto shares the history and importance of religion in his native land. You'll learn about Portuguese, Dutch, and British rule in the country formerly known as Ceylon, and how each affected religion there. Pinto dispels popular views about how ruling

countries dealt with Christianity and other religions, and with those who practiced them. You'll learn how religion is practiced today from someone who lives it firsthand. Pinto's book goes beyond the boundaries of Sri Lanka in assessing the problems faced by Christianity from the corrosive effects of the Age of Enlightenment. In *Being a Christian in Sri Lanka:*

Historical, Political, Social, and Religious Considerations, Pinto comes to the conclusion Sri Lanka would benefit from a Sri Lankan national identity for all its citizens. Hegemony based on ethnicity and religion is dissuaded. You'll also find Pinto's conclusions relevant to other countries. Religious Conflict in Contemporary Sri Lanka. Oxford University Press

This volume analyzes the development of a culture of Judicial Independence in comparative perspectives, to offer an examination of the conceptual foundations of the principle of judicial independence and to discuss in detail the practical challenges facing judiciaries in different jurisdictions. *Formations of Ritual Sri Lanka's Development Since Independence Socio-*

economic Perspectives and Analyses Formations of Ritual was first published in 1994. Minnesota Archive Editions uses digital technology to make long-unavailable books once again accessible, and are published unaltered from the original University of Minnesota Press editions. Yaktovil is an elaborate healing ceremony employed by Sinhala in Sri Lanka to

dispel the effects of the eyesight of a pantheon of malevolent supernatural figures known as yakku. Anthropology, traditionally, has articulated this ceremony with the concept metaphor of "demonism." Yet, as David Scott demonstrates in this provocative book, this use of "demonism" reveals more about the discourse of anthropology than it does about the ritual itself. His

investigation of yaktovil and yakku within the Sinhala cosmology is also an inquiry into the ways in which anthropology, by ignoring the discursive history of the rituals, religions, and relationships it seeks to describe, tends to reproduce ideological-often, specifically colonial-objects. To do this, Scott describes the discursive apparatus through which yakku are positioned in the moral

universe of Sinhala, traces the appearance of yakku and yaktovil in Western discourse, evaluates the contribution of these figures and this ceremony in anthropology, and attempts to show how the larger anthropology of Buddhism, in which the anthropology of yaktovil is embedded, might be reconfigured. Finally, he offers a rereading of the ritual in terms of the historically selfconscious

approach he proposes. The result points to a major rethinking of the historical nature not only of the objects, but also of the concepts through which they are constructed in anthropological discourse. David Scott teaches in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd
In this study a social and cultural anthropologist and a specialist in

the study of religion pool their talents to examine recent changes in popular religion in Sri Lanka. As the Sinhala themselves perceive it, Buddhism proper has always shared the religious arena with a spirit religion. While Buddhism concerns salvation, the spirit religion focuses on worldly welfare. Buddhism Transformed describes and analyzes the changes that have

profoundly altered the character of Sinhala religion in both areas. *Conceptual Foundations and Practical Challenges* Routledge Religious Radicalization and Securitization in Canada and Beyond examines the challenges created by both religious radicalism and the state's and society's response to it. Selected Sri Lankan Short Stories: 1981-1991 BRILL Sri Lanka's Development

Since Independence Socio-economic Perspectives and Analyses Nova Publishers *A Historical and Theoretical Study of Sinhala Prose from Twelfth Century Narratives to Post-realist Fiction* University of Toronto Press Jataka stories (stories about the previous births of the Buddha) are very popular in Theravada Buddhist countries, where they are found in both canonical

texts and later compositions and collections, and are commonly used in sermons, children's books, plays, poetry, temple illustrations, rituals and festivals. Whilst at first glance many of the stories look like common fables or folktales, Buddhist tradition tells us that the stories illustrate the gradual path to perfection exemplified by the Buddha in his previous births, when

he was a bodhisatta (buddha-to-be). Jataka stories have had a long and colourful history, closely intertwined with the development of doctrines about the Buddha, the path to buddhahood, and how Buddhists should behave now the Buddha is no more. This book explores the shifting role of the stories in Buddhist doctrine, practice, and creative expression,

finally placing this integral Buddhist genre back in the centre of scholarly understandings of the religion. Colonial and Anthropological Discourses on the Sinhala Yaktovil Doshor Publication Pattini-goddess, virgin, wife and mother; folk deity of Sinhala Buddhists and Jains; and assimilated goddess of the Hindu pantheon-has been worshiped in Sri Lanka and South India for

fifteen hundred years or more, as she still is today. This long-awaited book is the culmination of Gananath Obeyesekere's comprehensive study of the Pattini cult and its historical, sociological, and psychoanalytical role in the culture of South Asia. A well-known anthropologist and a native of Sri Lanka, Obeyesekere displays his impeccable scholarship and a stunning range of

theoretical perspectives in this work, the most detailed analysis of a single religious complex in South Asian ethnography (and possibly in all of anthropology). Since 1955 Obeyesekere has observed and participated in modern performances of the rituals of worship, healing, and propitiation in the Pattini cult, particularly the postharvest ritual known as the

gammaduva. He presents detailed texts of the gammaduva, placing them in their historical and mythic traditions. Using the texts, he formulates a cultural analysis of the Buddhist pantheon and a critique of empiricist notions of South Asian historiography. Obeyesekere shows that some seemingly historical figures of South India and Sri Lanka are mythic characters

and that their historical significance can best be understood by an anthropological analysis of myth rather than through a reification of myth in history. The concurrent Hindu worship of Pattini with its myths and rituals is described in detail. Obeyesekere documents the Sanskritization of Pattini, the changing physical structures of the goddess's shrines from the 1930s to the present,

the assumption by Brahman priests of ritual functions formerly carried out by folk priest, and the sociocultural causes of these changes. He traces, too, the origins and diffusion of the cult throughout its entire history, as well as its survival today. Of psychological interest is the problematic status of Pattini as virgin, wife, and mother and her relationship

with her god-husband Palanga and his courtesan Madevi. Obeyesekere discusses the psychodynamics of this relationship in detail and explains its role in Hindu-Buddhist socialization and family structure. Further, he uses this analysis to account for local variations in the performance and structure of the ritual. The ritual of the killing and resurrection of Pattini's husband and

her role as mater dolorosa will interest scholars of comparative religion.

After the End

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Over 1,100
alphabetically
arranged
entries
examine the
history,
geography,
people,
government,
economy, art,
and religions
of Sri Lanka.

**War, Denial
and Nation-
Building in
Sri Lanka**

Motilal
Banarsidass
Publishe
In Parables in
Changing
Contexts, new
venues in the

comparative
study of
parables are
addressed by
scholars of
Judaism, New
Testament,
Buddhism and
Islam. Essays
cover parables
in the synoptic
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parabolic tales
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regions, ethnic
groups,
religious
concepts and
practices,
artistic
genres,
holidays and
traditions, and
many other
concepts. A
preface
introduces the
material, while
a
comprehensiv
e index, cross-
references,
and black and
white
illustrations
round out the
work. The
focus on south
Asia includes

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, with short survey articles on Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim, and various diaspora communities. This unique reference will be invaluable for collections serving students, scholars, and the general public. *Applied Theatre, Performance and War* Palgrave Macmillan Award winning translations of great South Asian writing from the first

Katha South Asian Translation Contest held in association with the British Council Division. No geographical censorship, no barbed wires just human relationships in all their complexity. Twenty stories from various languages and countries including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan bring together the work of prominent Asian authors to an English audience. *The Buddhist*

Viṣṇu Oxford University Press on Demand Colonial times witnessed several new constructions-giving shape to new spaces and interactions. This included both public and private spaces. This work focuses on specific public spaces from the colonial times across the regions of Kolkata (West Bengal, India) and Colombo (Western Province, Sri Lanka). Various similarities lie between these

two cities pertaining to the British colonial times of the respective countries as the socio-cultural fabric slowly witnessed many changes within. Numerous public constructions across both cities stand till date, as sentinels to weave a communication of several stories of yore. The work aims to help in spreading awareness and an understanding about the

need for a balance between history and modernity- a continuity from the past that helps to find answers to many questions in the present. **Media and Conflict Reporting in Asia** ABC-CLIO This book tackles the assumptions behind common understandings of religious nationalism, exploring the complex connections between religion, nationalism, conflict, and

conflict transformation . • Speeches of political and religious leaders • Chronologies of conflicts in such places as Israel- Palestine, Sri Lanka, and the former Yugoslavia *Essays on the Study of Parables in Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism* SUNY Press The Indian Ocean Tsunami, which devastated 70 percent of Sri Lanka's coastline and killed an estimated

35,000 people, was remarkable both for the magnitude of the disaster and for the unprecedented scale of the relief and recovery operations mounted by national and international agencies. The reconstruction process was soon hampered by political patronage, by the competing efforts of hundreds of foreign humanitarian organizations, and by the ongoing civil war. The book is framed

within this larger political and social context, offering descriptions and comparisons between two regions (southwest vs. eastern coast) and four ethnic communities (Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, and Burghers) to illustrate how disaster relief unfolded in a culturally pluralistic political landscape. Approaching the issue from four disciplinary perspectives - anthropology,

demography, political science, and disaster studies - chapters by experts in the field analyse regional and ethnic patterns of post-tsunami reconstruction according to different sectors of Sri Lankan society. Demonstrating the key importance of comprehending the local cultural contexts of disaster recovery processes, the book is a timely and useful contribution to

the existing literature.
Narrative Methods of Sinhala Prose
 SUNY Press
 This collection of 13 case studies examines the challenges faced by media practitioners reporting on conflicts across the diverse media ecologies of Asia. Topics covered include; media bias; resource limitations; professionalism; government intervention; poor working conditions and pay and physical and

financial security.
Urumaya as Ur AMIC
 This interdisciplinary study examines the various ways Avalokitesvara, the most well known bodhisattva of Mahayana Buddhism, was assimilated into the transforming culture of Sri Lanka.
Socio-economic Perspectives and Analyses
 Motilal Banarsidass
 James Thompson explores the problems of theatre

practice in communities affected by war and exclusion.
 Each chapter or "story" is written in a lively and accessible style and draws on a range of contemporary performance theories.
Encyclopedia of Sri Lanka
 Balboa Press
 John Holt's groundbreaking study examines the assimilation, transformation, and subordination of the Hindu deity Visnu within the contexts of Sri Lankan history

and Sinhala Buddhist religious culture. Holt argues that political agendas and social forces, as much as doctrinal concerns, have shaped the shifting patterns of the veneration of Visnu in Sri Lanka. Holt begins with a comparative look at the assimilation of the Buddha in Hinduism. He then explores the role and rationale of medieval Sinhala kings in assimilating Visnu into Sinhala Buddhism.

Offering analyses of texts, many of which have never before been translated into English, Holt considers the development of Visnu in Buddhist literature and the changing practices of deity veneration. Shifting to the present, Holt describes the efforts of contemporary Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka to discourage the veneration of Visnu, suggesting that many are motivated by a reactionary

fear that their culture and society will soon be overrun by the influences and practices of Hindus, Muslims, and Christians.

Utopia and the Village in South Asian Literatures

Routledge
The Indian diaspora is one of the largest and most significant in the world today with between nine and twelve million people of Indian origin living outside South Asia. With successive

waves of migration over the last two hundred years to almost every continent, it has assumed increasing self-consciousness and importance. Culture and Economy in the Indian Diaspora examines the Indian

diaspora in Mauritius, South Africa, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Trinidad, Australia, the US, Canada and the UK and addresses the core issues of demography, economy, culture and future development. It provides a comprehensiv

e analysis of the crucial relationship between culture and economy in the diaspora over time. This book will appeal to all those interested in transnational communities, migration, ethnicity and racial studies, and South Asia.

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