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CITY OF LIGHT

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#763312 in Books 1998-09-15 1998-10-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.03 x 6.131, 1.72 #File Name: 0231114478448 pages | File size: 23.Mb

Diana Eck : Banaras before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Banaras:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Book that captures the Essence of India's Most Holy City By Venkataraman Nilakant Diana Eck provides a richly-textured, nuanced, sensitive account of a city that the Hindus consider most holy. The book is based on observations, interviews and analysis of textual documents to argue that the essence of Banaras remains unchanged despite numerous attempts to redefine it by various invaders. For those Indians unfortunate enough not to be able to spend considerable time in Kashi, this book is a welcome alternative. I found the

detailed historical accounts of Hindu temples in Banaras fascinating. Having spent nearly two hours at the Kashi Viswanath Temple attending the Shringar and Shayana arthi, I can say without hesitation that Diana Eck has captured the culture, spirit, ambiance and simmering spirituality of the city and its temples amazingly well. This book is a must-read for all those interested in spirituality and culture of Hindu India. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Best Book on Banaras Bar-None By William M. Drake Jr. Diana Eck is not only a brilliant scholar who writes with clarity and conciseness, but also an inspiring teacher who conveys her passion for Banaras in this wonderful book. I spent a month in the city, visiting sites and absorbing the culture presented in this indispensable volume and plan to spend another month soon following up on the never-ending richness of the Holy City. This is the one book I can recommend without reservation to anyone seeking an in-depth understanding of Hindu Gods and Siva's City of Light. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. rich and fun, after being back from India and five days ... By Daniel A. Terragno. Lovely, rich and fun, after being back from India and five days in Varanasi I am already planning a second stay this time at least a full week in this City of Light. Brilliant book!

This is the acclaimed study and interpretation of Banaras, the holy place of the Hindus.

In Banaras, Diana Eck... has written a notable book about this greatest of Indian pilgrimage sites.... Her brilliant, comprehensive book seems likely to remain for a long time the definitive work on this great Indian city. (Washington Post) The most beautiful book... on India. (Journal of the American Academy of Religion) A major event among studies of India. (John Stratton Hawley Asia) Eck is a master of tone here. She begins as dry scholar, allows her personal voice to emerge and then, through judicious use of lyric quotations, advances to a striking level of exaltation and triumph.... To take us gently off this high, Eck buttresses us-and her arguments-with a truly amazing display of addenda; glossaries, calendars and appendices. One ends filled with admiration and awe, not just for the vision given us, but for the scholarship and dedication that made it possible. (Los Angeles Times) About the Author Diana L. Eck is professor of comparative religion and Indian studies and director of The Pluralism Project at Harvard University. She is the author of many books, including *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India* and the editor of *On Common Ground: World Religions in America*, a multimedia CD-ROM, both published by Columbia.