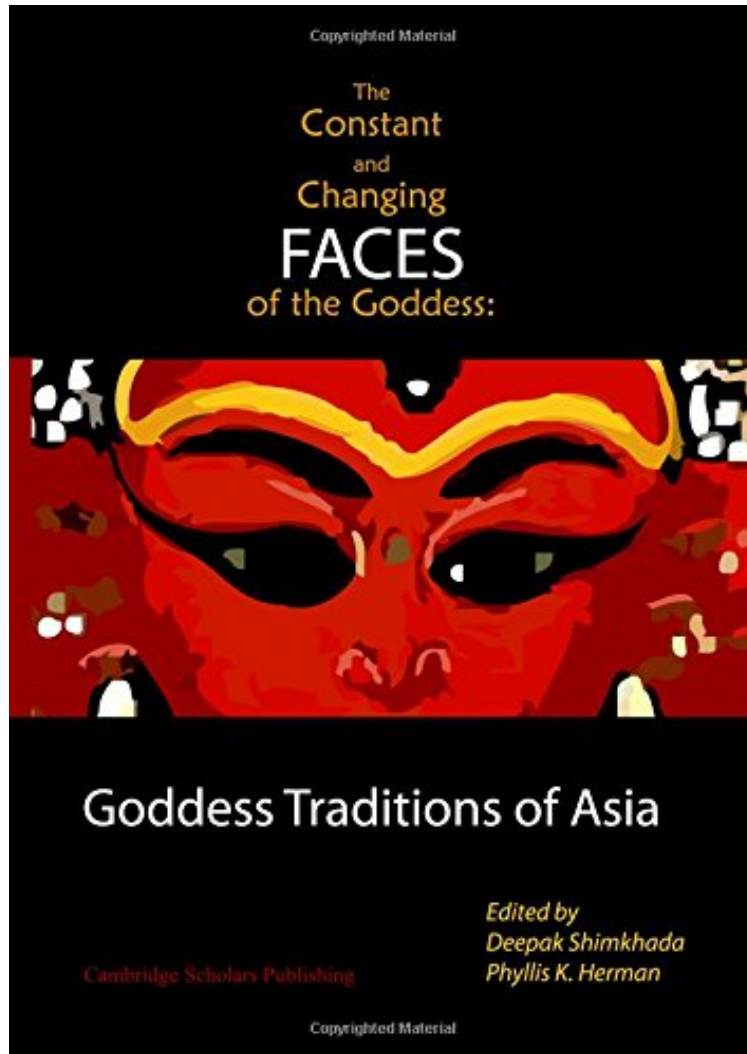


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Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: Goddess Traditions of Asia

Deepak Shimkhada and Phyllis K. Herman
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#7996072 in Books 2007-12-01 Format: Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x 1.10 x 5.80, 1.20 #File Name: 1847183905320 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Deepak Shimkhada and Phyllis K. Herman : Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: Goddess Traditions of Asia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: Goddess Traditions of Asia:

The Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: Goddess Traditions of Asia contains essays written by established scholars in the field that trace the multiplicity of Asian goddesses: their continuities, discontinuities, and importance as

symbols of wisdom, power, transformation, compassion, destruction, and creation. The essays demonstrate that while treatments of the goddess may vary regionally, culturally, and historically, it is possible to note some consistencies in the overall picture of the goddess in Asia. The book provides a comprehensive treatment of the goddess, culminating in the selections that draw from research on Indian, Nepali, Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese traditions, seldom found in other works of similar subject. The volume will be useful for students in religious studies, gender studies, Asian studies, and women's studies. With the intent of making the volume truly broad in scope, an effort has been made to include works written by art historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and religious studies scholars. Culture cannot be separated from religion; they are intertwined as an organic whole, and variations manifest themselves in the rituals and daily lives of the people. In this sense, all the essays are interconnected: the goddess manifests in many forms and appeals to differing aspects of a particular culture as a paradigm of the divine feminine.

About the Author Deepak Shimkhada received his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University and is an assistant professor of religious studies at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California, where he teaches courses on Asian religions. He offers courses in art history as adjunct professor at other universities in the area. His publications include numerous journal papers, book chapters and three edited books. He is the founding president of the Foundation for Indic Philosophy and Culture, president of Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast, and vice president of South Asian Studies Association. Phyllis K. Herman received her Ph.D. from UCLA. She is an Associate Professor in and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge, where she teaches South Asian Religions and Women and Religion. Dr. Herman has published several articles on Sita as well as on South Asian popular culture. She has contributed chapters to textbooks and entries in encyclopedias on various aspects of South Asian history and religions.