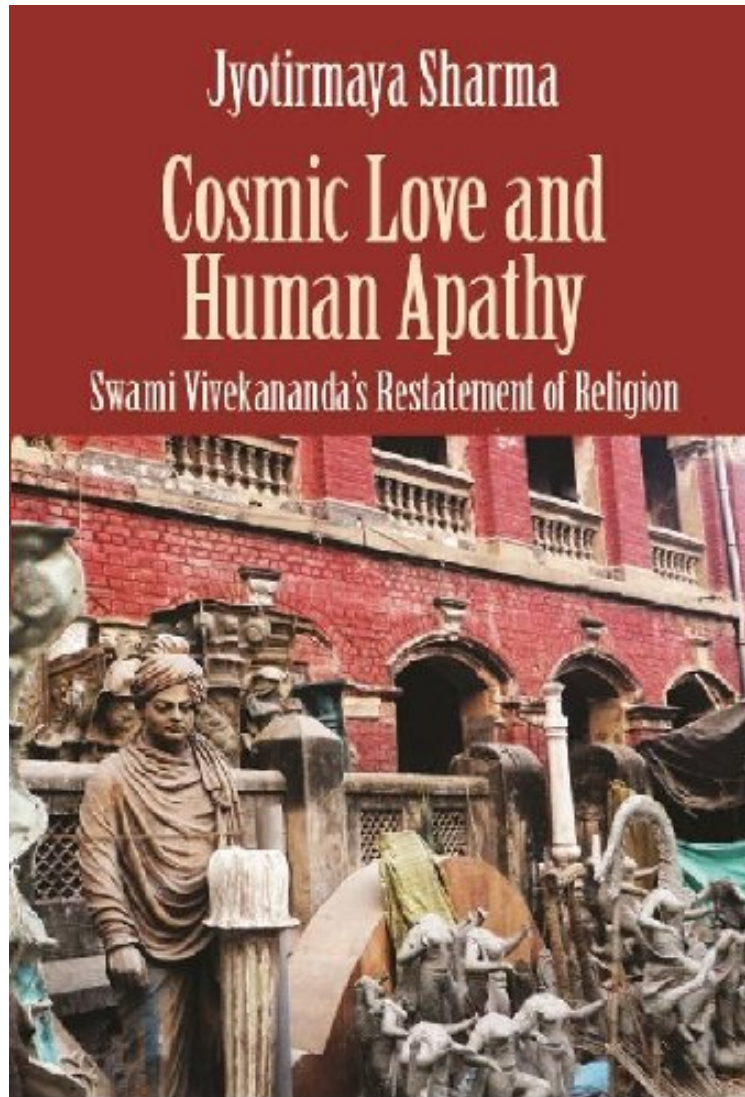


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Cosmic Love and Human Apathy: Swami Vivekanand's Restatement of Religion

Jyotirmaya Sharma

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The truth is rarely simple. The common consensus is that Swami Vivekananda, as Sri Ramakrishna's chosen disciple, spread his master's message across the world. The fact, though, is that after Ramakrishna's death in 1886, Vivekananda not only shifted the devotional emphasis of the new monastic order from Kali to Shiva, he also embraced a world far removed from Ramakrishna's. *Cosmic Love and Human Apathy* is the story of this rupture. Integral to the tale is the issue of Hindu identity. The essays in this volume examine Vivekananda's formulation of Hinduism as religion: the most definitive restatement of Hinduism in modern history. Erudite yet accessible, consistently probing and skeptical of hoary traditions, controversial and thought-provoking, *Cosmic Love and Human Apathy* is an invaluable addition to the existing scholarship on one of India's greatest religious and social icons.

About the Author Jyotirmaya Sharma is professor of political science at the University of Hyderabad, India. Between January and June 2012, he was a Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study. He is currently a Fellow of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg at the Georg-August-Universitt in Gttingen, Germany. His other recent publications include *Hindutva: Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism* (Penguin/Viking) and *Terrifying Vision: M.S. Golwalkar, the RSS and India* (Penguin/Viking).