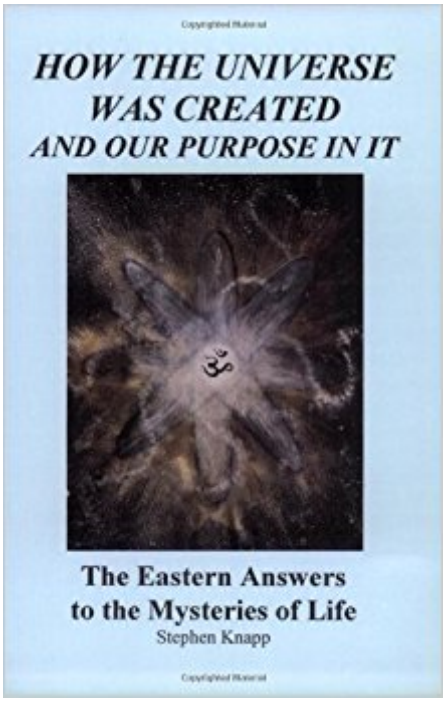
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How The Universe Was Created And Our Purpose In It



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Synopsis

This book provides answers and details about how the universe was created that are not available in any other traditions, religions, or areas of science. It also provides insights into the spiritual purpose of this creation and what we are really meant to do here. It presents the oldest legends of the creation process from the Vedic texts of the East. It will also give any theist more information and understanding about how the universe is indeed a creation of God. Every culture in the world and most religions have their own description of the creation of the universe, from where we came, and what we should do. Unfortunately, these are often short and generalized versions that lack details. Thus, they are often given the same regard as myths. However, there are descriptions that give more elaborate explanations of how the cosmic creation fully manifested, which are found in the ancient Vedic Puranas of India, some of the oldest spiritual writings on the planet. These descriptions provide the details and answers that other versions leave out. Furthermore, these Vedic descriptions often agree, and sometimes disagree, with the modern scientific theories of creation, and offer some factors that science has yet to consider. Now, with this book, we can get a clearer understanding of how this universe appears, and if there is a way out of here. Some of the topics included are: * Conditions in the spiritual world before the material manifestation * How the Supreme Being exists before and after the material creation * The ultimate foundation and cause of the universe is based on compassion of the Supreme. How the agitation of the modes of nature cause the appearance of time * Detailed descriptions of the dawn of creation and how the material energy developed and caused the formation of the cosmos * The Vedic description of the evolutionary development of the various forms of life * The manifestation and purpose of the Vedic literature, the blueprints for the cosmos and life within * Deep insights into the primal questions of, "Who am I? Why am I here? Where have I come from? What is the purpose of this universe and my life? Why the creation exists?" * What is the primary source of the material as well as spiritual elements * The many incarnations and expansions of the Supreme Being in the material creation * How everything is but an expansion of the Absolute, and much more. This book will provide some of the most profound insights into these questions and topics. To add some adventure, there is also a special travel section to the holy places of northern India, and to some of the locations that are directly connected to the Indian legends of the universal creation and ancient history. With this tour is included rare descriptions and over 70 photographs of templs and Deities, ancient holy sites, the Himalayas, along with sages and people of the region. The book is over 300 pages, trim size of 6" x 9", with Index, References, and Glossary. Published by The World Relief Network, P. O. Box 15082, Detroit, MI 48215-0082. Other books by Stephen Knapp that readers have enjoyed include, "The

Secret Teachings of the Vedas," "The Universal Path to Enlightenment," "The Vedic Prophecies: A New Look into the Future," "Toward World Peace: Seeing the Unity Between Us All," "Facing Death: Welcoming the Afterlife," and "Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence."

Book Information

Paperback: 315 pages

Publisher: World Relief Network (May 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0961741082

ISBN-13: 978-0961741082

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,210,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism > Sacred Writings > Vedas #17769 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern #47987 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology

Customer Reviews

"HOW THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED AND OUR PURPOSE IN IT is rewarding reading for students of metaphysics and Eastern philosophies." -- The Midwest Book Review, October 13, 2000

Stephen Knapp grew up in a Christian family, during which time he seriously studied the Bible to understand its teachings. In his late teenage years, however, he sought answers to questions not easily explained in Christian theology. So he began to search through other religions and philosophies from around the world and started to find answers for which he was looking. He also studied a variety of ancient mythologies, mysticism, yoga, and the spiritual teachings of the East. After his first reading of the Bhagavad-gita, he felt he had found the last piece of the puzzle he had been putting together through all of his research. Therefore, he continued to study all of the major Vedic texts of India to gain a better understanding of the Vedic science. It is known amongst all Eastern mystics that anyone, regardless of qualifications, academic or otherwise, who does not engage in the spiritual practices described in the Vedic texts, cannot actually enter into understanding the depths of the Vedic spiritual science, nor acquire the realizations that should accompany it. So, rather than pursuing his research in an academic atmosphere at a university, Stephen directly engaged in the spiritual disciplines that have been recommended for hundreds of

years. He continued his study of Vedic knowledge and spiritual practice under the guidance of a spiritual master. Through this process, and with the sanction of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, he became initiated into the genuine and authorized spiritual line of the Brahma-Madhava-Gaudiya sampradaya, which is a disciplic succession that descends back through Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Vyasadeva, the compiler of Vedic literature, and further back to Sri Krishna. Besides being brahminically initiated, Stephen has also been to India several times and traveled extensively throughout the country, visiting most of the major holy places and gaining a wide variety of spiritual experiences that only such places can give. Stephen has been writing "The Eastern Answers to the Mysteries of Life" series, which so far includes "The Secret Teachings of the Vedas," "The Universal Path to Enlightenment," "The Vedic Prophecies: A New Look into the Future," and now "How the Universe was Created and Our Purpose In It." Other books he has written include "Toward World Peace: Seeing the Unity Between Us All," and "Facing Death: Welcoming the Afterlife," as well as "Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence." Stephen has put the culmination of over 25 years of continuous research and travel experience into his books in an effort to share it with those who are also looking for higher levels of spiritual understanding.

I bought this book based on another reviewer's trashing of it, more specifically, because of the grounds that the reviewer trashed it on and one can't help but wonder just how much "understanding and reverance" that person has for "ancient Hindu philosophy".... or however they said it. My guess is that if you took that person to task, you'd quickly discover that they don't actually know anything about it beyond a very narrow exoteric knowledge of Hindu mythology and a false, popularized view of Karmic Law.It's a good book - well-written and lucid and the author does a good job of not trying to rationalize the exoteric text but to instead interpret and expound upon it's true esoteric meaning but when you read this kind of stuff, you have to do it with the understanding that most religious texts, especially those dealing with eastern mysticism, never were intended to be interpreted literally in the first place and none are free from the taint of the men that wrote these things down. So, naturally there will be contradictions and things that just don't seem to add up.There is a wealth of universal "truth" in Vedic literature but the bulk of it is cloaked in esoteric allegory, much of which you will never really understand, no matter how much someone tries to explain it to you, unless you first understand at least the basic tenets of theosophy and the occult, which most people do not.So, it's a book worth reading, even if you're a gross materialist just looking for something to roll your eyes and wag your finger at between kneelings at your altar of beakers and microscopes and wave-form oscillators, but what you get out of it will always be

restricted, first and foremost, by how much you understand the true nature of the beliefs that underlie it.

Excellent book, very thought provoking.

Concise and descriptive explanation of how the Universe was created and our purpose in it. I wish I would have read this book decades ago. It explains how the vedic teachings are the source for all other religions. Outstanding reading.

In How The Universe Was Created And Our Purpose In It: The Eastern Answers To The Mysteries Of Life, Stephen Knapp reveals conditions in the spiritual world before the material manifestation; how the Supreme Being exists before and after the material creation; the ultimate foundation and cause of the universe being the compassion of the Supreme Being; how the agitation of the modes of nature cause the appearance of time; detailed descriptions of the dawn of creation and how the material energy developed and caused the formation of the cosmos; the Vedic description of the evolutionary development of the various forms of life; manifestation and purpose of the Vedic literature; profound insights into the primal questions of life; the primary source of material and spiritual elements; the many incarnations and expansions of the Supreme Being in the material creation; and how everything reflects an expansion of the Absolute. How The Universe Was Created And Our Purpose In It is profoundly rewarding reading for students of metaphysics and the Eastern philosophies.

My congratulations to the author for a well thought out and meticulously researched book. Stephen does what he says he will do, which is to present the Vedic version and all its details of how the world was created. I have read a little about the Vedic description of the universal creation in the Rig Veda and Upanishads. Though it has always intrigued me, it is not a topic that is easy to understand. The author has done a commendable job in putting it all together in a format that's much easier to grasp and follow. This Eastern tradition always had much more information about the creation process than any other culture or spiritual tradition, and is worth looking at. So I especially appreciate the many dozens of quotes or references from the ancient Vedic books and Puranas that the author uses to illustrate the lofty concepts that they contain. Anyone interested in Eastern thought or alternative spiritual views will appreciate this book and the endeavor that was put into it.

The purpose of this book and many of his other books written by Stephen Knapp is to identify our constitutional position as a pure spiritual soul that is superior to material nature. Recognizing our eternal place and working towards to get back there is the esssence and purpose why this universe is created to discipline the rebellious souls. Stephen brings this point forth with clarity out of innumerable references from many scriptures. With his practical experience in practicing bhakti yoga over years helps giving useful practical hints for the souls that are interested in putting this material into use. Like his other works, the content of this book can be best appreciated only when one has open mind and thinks beyond the perception of material senses.

I HAVE READ A LOTOF BOOKS OVER MANY YEARS BY VARIOUS PHILOSOPHERS (EAST AND WEST), PHYSICISTS, MYSTICS,ETC. ALSO, ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS CONCIOUSNESS, VARIOUS RELIGIONS, DEATH, THE AFERLIFE, THE OCCULT,ETC.RAISED CHRISTIAN, I NOW FAVOR THE EASTERN RELIGIONS, ESPECIALLY HINDUISM. AFTER READING TEXTS ON THE VEDANTA, UPANISHADS, ETC., I WAS LOOKING TO FIND AN AUTHOR WHO WOULD CONCEPTULALIZE THESE BELIEFS IN A SIMPLE WAY. I CAME ACROSS "HOW THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED AND OUR PURPOSE IN IT" AND STEPHEN KNAPP. I FOUND CHAPTERS 17, 18 AND APPENDIX 3, PARTICULARILY ENLIGHTENING AND THEY SUMMARIZED A LOT OF IDEAS I HAD BEEN READING ABOUT IN MORE DETAILED PUBLICATIONS. HIS WEB SITE "STEPHEN-KNAPP.COM" ALSO HAS NUMEROUS ARTICLES THAT CAN BE VIEWED ON-LINE OR FREELY DOWNLOADED. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ANYONE ON THE SPIRITUAL PATH.

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