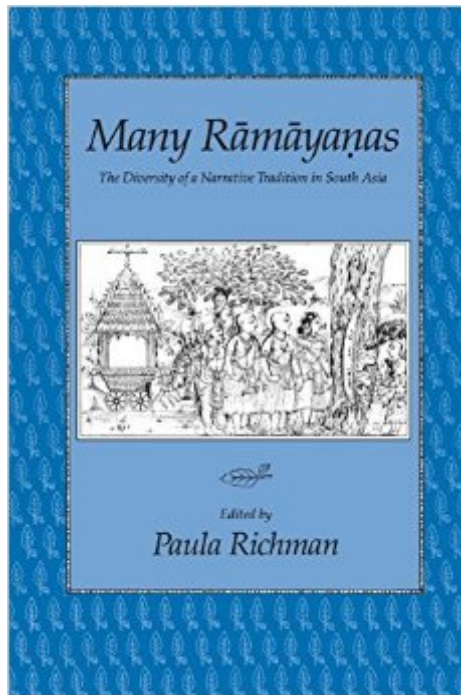


The book was found

# Many Ramayanas: The Diversity Of A Narrative Tradition In South Asia



## Synopsis

Throughout Indian history, many authors and performers have produced, and many patrons have supported, diverse tellings of the story of the exiled prince Rama, who rescues his abducted wife by battling the demon king who has imprisoned her. The contributors to this volume focus on these "many" Ramayanas. While most scholars continue to rely on Valmiki's Sanskrit Ramayana as the authoritative version of the tale, the contributors to this volume do not. Their essays demonstrate the multivocal nature of the Ramayana by highlighting its variations according to historical period, political context, regional literary tradition, religious affiliation, intended audience, and genre. Socially marginal groups in Indian society—Telugu women, for example, or Untouchables from Madhya Pradesh—have recast the Rama story to reflect their own views of the world, while in other hands the epic has become the basis for teachings about spiritual liberation or the demand for political separatism. Historians of religion, scholars of South Asia, folklorists, cultural anthropologists—all will find here refreshing perspectives on this tale.

## Book Information

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (August 29, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520075897

ISBN-13: 978-0520075894

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #868,279 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Indian #213 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature > Asian #1849 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism

## Customer Reviews

I strongly recommend this book to any reader who wishes to get a sense of the diversity of Ramayana traditions out there. It truly shows how the Ramayana is more than a single story. The epic is a living body of ideas and pieces which can be put together in lots of ways to illuminate life in many contexts. This book is best for those who already have a lot of familiarity with the basic story and have read at least one version in depth. Otherwise, it will be hard for you to appreciate this

book.

Shipped on time with no hassle. Perfect for class use.

Author Richman makes the most important point that there can be many thousands of Ramayanas. Epics are such that the stories and characters in them are branches that can be expanded to many epics. It is indeed the case with Ramayana and Mahabharata. The folk songs describe the many thousand Ramas and Krishnas. The author also narrates the story of Ramayana for those who may not be familiar with it. All of the Orient knows the story well, and its many versions. A somewhat different version is the Sri Lanka tale in which Ravana is the virtuous but unfortunate hero, and tells the story from his point of view. The author also narrates the brilliant Indian story to answer the question of how many Ramas and Ramayanas are there. In this story, God Rama's ring falls down and disappears into the underworld. Hanuman goes to look for it there, and cannot find it. The king of the underworld shows him a platter of thousands of rings and asks Hanuman to pick the ring Rama lost, and Hanuman cannot, since the all rings look identical. Then the king tells Hanuman that Rama drops his ring at the end of each of his incarnations, and the number of Ramas that incarnated is equal to the number of rings that the king has collected on the platter. It is widely believed in folk songs that God Rama leaves his ring in the underworld at the end of everyone of his incarnations on earth!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia  
Many Many Many Gods of Hinduism: Turning believers into non-believers and non-believers into believers  
Identity and Diversity: Celebrating Dance in Taiwan (Celebrating Dance in Asia and the Pacific)  
Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Moon Handbooks Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa & Latin America)  
A.M. Best Special Report: Southeast Asia Life & Nonlife: Southeast Asia May Reward  
Shrewd Insurers, Punish the Careless  
Many Lives, Many Masters: The True Story of a Prominent Psychiatrist, His Young Patient, and the Past-Life Therapy That Changed Both Their Lives  
Many Lives, Many Masters: The True Story of a Psychiatrist, His Young Patient, and Past-Life Therapy  
So Many Circles, So Many Squares  
Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific  
Innovations and Turning Points: Toward a History of Kavya Literature (South Asia Research)  
A Book of Conquest: The Chachnama and Muslim Origins in South Asia  
Between Empires: Print and Politics in Goa (Soas Studies on South Asia (Hardcover))  
The Early Upanishads: Annotated Text and Translation (South Asia Research)  
Islam in South Asia in Practice (Princeton Readings in

Religions) A Photographic Guide to Mammals of South-East Asia: Including Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Java, Sumatra, Bali and Borneo Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (South Asia Rural Development Series) Three Worlds Gone Mad: Dangerous Journeys through the War Zones of Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Indo-Persian State Secretary (South Asia Across the Disciplines) The Human Tradition in Modern Japan (The Human Tradition around the World series) The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking: A Student's Guide (Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition)

[Dmca](#)