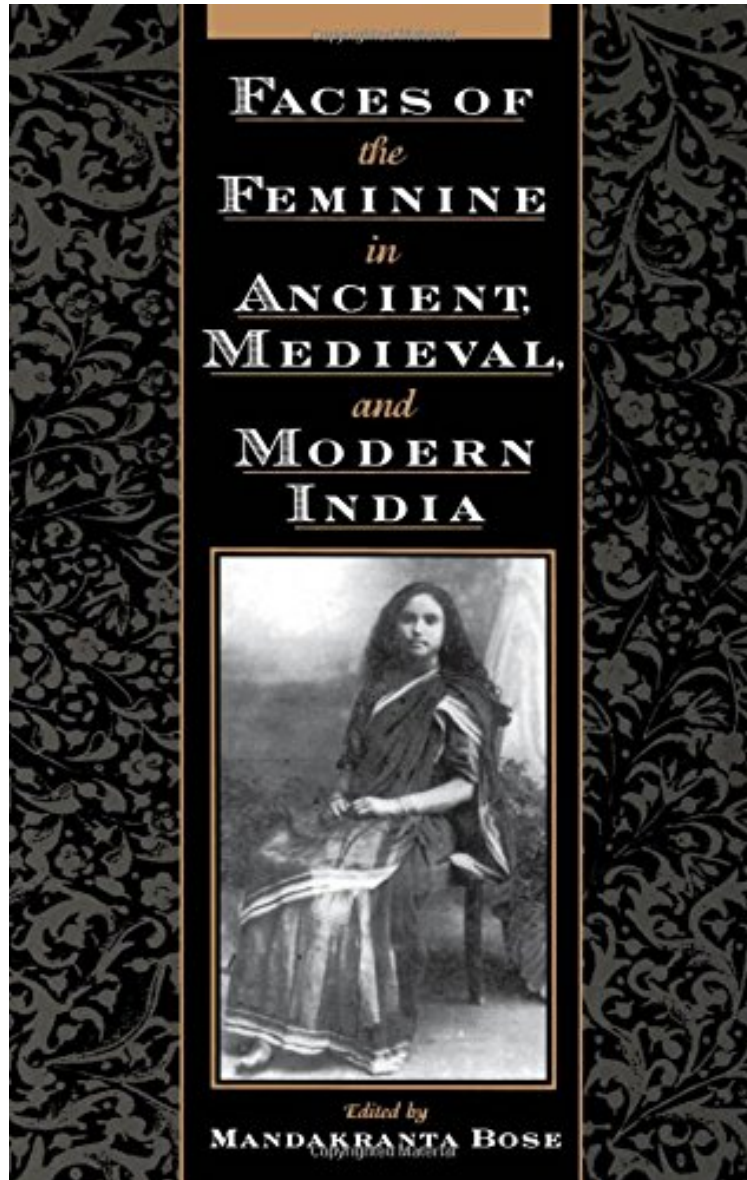


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## Faces of the Feminine in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern India

*From Mandakranta Bose*  
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#3144546 in Books Mandakranta Bose 2000-02-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.10 x 6.20l, 1.61 #File Name: 0195122291368 pagesFaces of the Feminine in Ancient Medieval and Modern India | File size: 30.Mb

**From Mandakranta Bose : Faces of the Feminine in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern India** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faces of the Feminine in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern India:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WonderfulBy CustomerThis is a wonderfully enlightening book,

covering a wide range of subjects. Most of the sections are very clearly written, and one does not necessarily need a background in Indian history to appreciate it. Of particular interest are "Anasuya: a Pativrata with Panache" by Vidyut Aklujkar and "Postcolonial Identity as Feminist Fantasy: A Study of Tamil Women's Short Fiction on Dowry" by Matilda Gabrielpillai. I highly recommend this book, if only for these two articles.

This book offers a variety of scholarly studies in the idea, situation, and definition-including the self-definition-of women in India, from the earliest historical period up to the present day. Both in its range of topics and depth of research, this volume creates a sustained focus that is not presently available in the literature of women in India. *Faces of the Feminine in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern India* comprises 25 essays contributed by a diverse mix of Indian, Canadian, American, and British women scholars, most of whom have lived in South Asia either for all of their lives or for extended periods. Arranged chronologically, these groundbreaking essays set aside the myths and prejudices that often clutter discussions about women in India. Part I, which is dedicated to the ancient period, defines women's positions as depicted in the sacred law, considers subordinated women in major Hindu epics, describes women's roles in ritual and their understanding of religion, and examines the patriarchal organization of women's lives in Buddhism. Part II begins with an essay on Tantra, a major force in medieval India that influenced both Hinduism and Buddhism and placed women at the center of its sacred rites. Other essays in Part II look at the life and legends of a medieval woman saint poet, the portrayal of a Hindu goddess in medieval Bengal, and the role of women from Mughal harems in decision making. Part III describes the colonial perception of Indian women in the late nineteenth century and shows how women's self-perceptions have been expressed through their art and writing as well as through their political action in the twentieth century. Providing informed and balanced analysis of extensive primary source material, this book will be an essential resource for students of women's lives in India.

"Fascinating collection of essays....Bose's collection of essays is of great value to those studying gender and South Asia, because it offers a historical view from differing female perspectives....This is a wonderful book."--Middle East and South Asia Folklore Bulletin  
StateAbout the AuthorMandakranta Bose is Director of the Centre for Indian and South Asia Research and Lecturer in Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia.