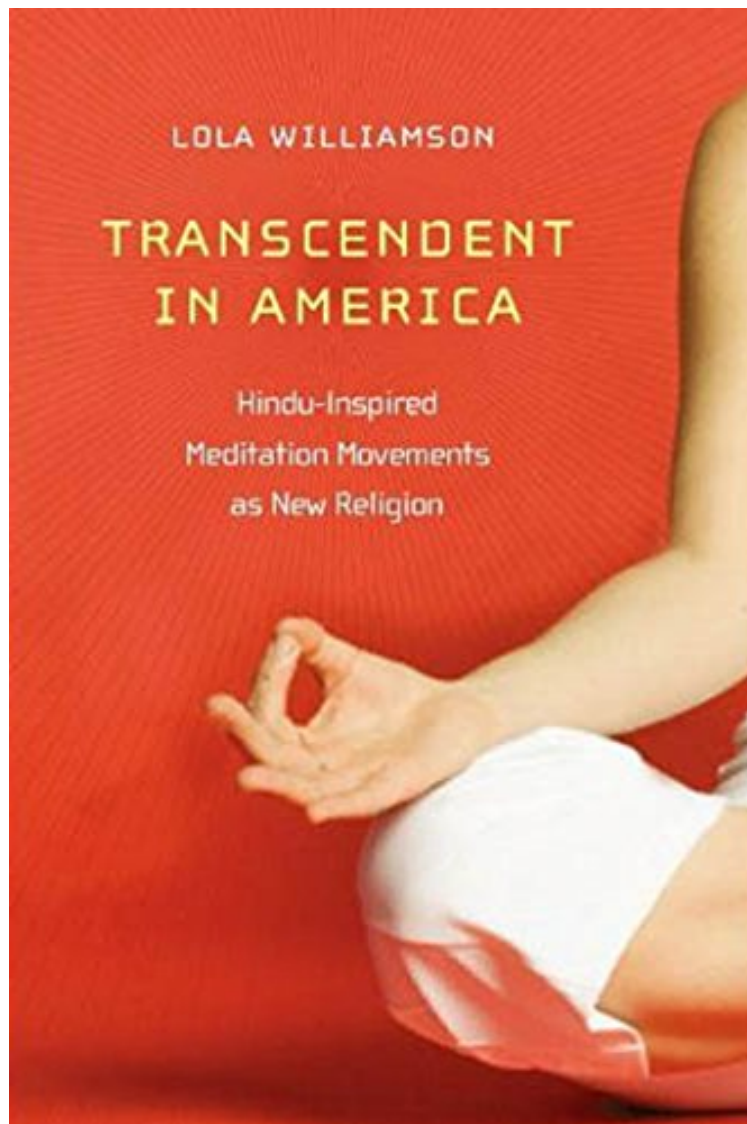


[E-BOOK] Transcendent in America: Hindu-Inspired Meditation Movements as New Religion (New and Alternative Religions)

Transcendent in America: Hindu-Inspired Meditation Movements as New Religion (New and Alternative Religions)

Lola Williamson

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Lola Williamson : Transcendent in America: Hindu-Inspired Meditation Movements as New Religion (New and Alternative Religions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Transcendent in America: Hindu-Inspired Meditation Movements as New Religion (New and Alternative Religions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for free breathersBy Chuck KingA very well researched

and written study of the guru movements in the 70's, 80's and beyond in America. If you were ever involved in any of the meditation movements such as TM or others and wondered how these organizations came to be and where they are now. It is a worthy read. The impact of how the leaders of these movements directed followers and the history behind their beginnings is something that was never revealed until I read the book. Highly recommended for those recovering from cults or considering joining a meditation "movement".

0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking

By Ocean lover This is a thought provoking perspective on a definite movement in America of incorporating Hindu wisdom with the western perspective.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An important book for any meditator following the path of a teacher!

By Joni The author explores and analyzes three important American Guru movements: Self-Realization Fellowship (Yogananda), Transcendental Meditation (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi) and Siddha Yoga (Muktananda and Gurumayi Chidvilasananda.) Professor Williamson critiques these gurus and their movements incisively, honestly, and yet compassionately. Whereas the gurus themselves may not be perfect in the eyes of American culture and the organizations that grew up around them may be flawed, what shines through is the deeply mystical and transformative experiences of sincere seekers and practitioners. The book is spiced with the stories of many devotees whom the author interviewed. It is a rare opportunity to listen to so many people speak first hand of their intimate and luminous experiences as well as their struggles. It becomes clear that regardless of the flaws within the movements, the teachings that these gurus give can produce authentic and profound changes for meditators.

Yoga, karma, meditation, gurus; these terms, once obscure, are now a part of the American lexicon. Combining Hinduism with Western concepts and values, a new hybrid form of religion has developed in the United States over the past century. In *Transcendent in America*, Lola Williamson traces the history of various Hindu-inspired movements in America, and argues that together they constitute a discrete category of religious practice, a distinct and identifiable form of new religion. Williamson provides an overview of the emergence of these movements through examining exchanges between Indian Hindus and American intellectuals such as Thomas Jefferson and Ralph Waldo Emerson, and illuminates how Protestant traditions of inner experience paved the way for Hindu-style movements' acceptance in the West. Williamson focuses on three movements—Self-Realization Fellowship, Transcendental Meditation, and Siddha Yoga—as representative of the larger phenomenon of Hindu-inspired meditation movements. She provides a window into the beliefs and practices of followers of these movements by offering concrete examples from their words and experiences that shed light on their world view, lifestyle, and relationship with their gurus. Drawing on scholarly research, numerous interviews, and decades of personal experience with Hindu-style practices, Williamson makes a convincing case that Hindu-inspired meditation movements are distinct from both immigrant Hinduism and other forms of Asian-influenced or "New Age" groups.