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## Bhakti and the Bhakti Movement: A New Perspective: A Study in the History of Ideas

By Krishna Sharma

Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2015. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 2nd Edition. This book makes a total departure from some well-established notions about bhakti and the Bhakti movement. It questions and rejects the current academic definition of bhakti and the portrayals of the Bhakti movement in the light of that definition. Trying to recapture the generic meaning of the term bhakti, the author postulates that bhakti by itself does not suggest any ideational or doctrinaire position. According to her, a restricted and erroneous definition of bhakti has served as the substratum for all theorisations about the Bhakti movement, when taken as a whole. What is reckoned as the Bhakti movement, she states, is an amalgam of a number of devotional movements of a divergent nature. A monolithic view of these can be taken only if their common denominator bhakti is understood in its generic sense. Not otherwise. In short, the author has called into question the whole conceptual framework and the basic terms of reference used hitherto for the study of bhakti and the Bhakti movement. This is significant since they have had the sanction of more than one hundred years of scholarship, and have not been questioned till now. She has...



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