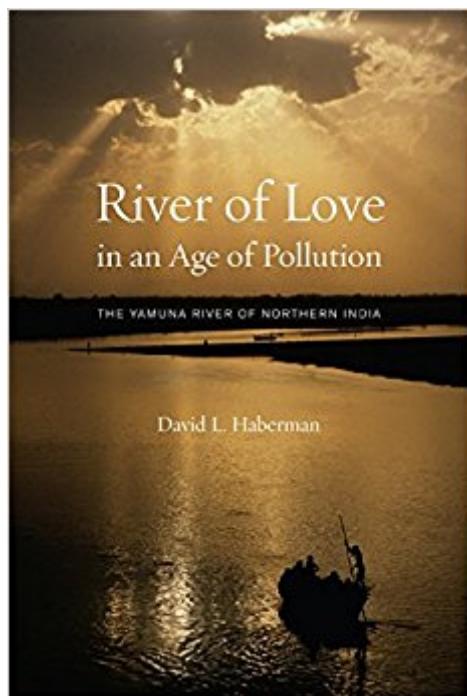


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# River Of Love In An Age Of Pollution: The Yamuna River Of Northern India



## Synopsis

Celebrated as an aquatic form of divinity for thousands of years, the Yamuna is one of India's most sacred rivers. A prominent feature of north Indian culture, the Yamuna is conceptualized as a goddess flowing with liquid love; yet today it is severely polluted, the victim of fast-paced industrial development. This fascinating and beautifully written book investigates the stories, theology, and religious practices connected with this river goddess collected from texts written over several millennia, as well as from talks with pilgrims, priests, and worshippers who frequent the pilgrimage sites and temples located on her banks. David L. Haberman offers a detailed analysis of the environmental condition of the river and examines how religious practices are affected by its current pollution. He introduces Indian river environmentalism, a form of activism that is different in many ways from its western counterpart. *River of Love in an Age of Pollution* concludes with a consideration of the broader implications of the Yamuna's plight and its effect on worldwide efforts to preserve our environment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Beautiful. . . . An interesting and detailed account of the religious significance of the river. . . . Eminently readable.” (Susannah Fisher, University College London South Asia Research 2008-11-01)

“Very few scholars in religious studies have achieved Haberman's combination of textual and ethnographic authority. The book is groundbreaking, building on his achievements in the study of

the religious traditions of Braj; he is widely regarded as a major authority on this area of Hinduism's complex regional matrix. The superior scholarship, combined with the author's personal voice, gives the book additional resonance, bringing to light an urgent environmental and moral challenge."&#151;Paul B. Courtright, co-editor, *From the Margins of Hindu Marriage: Essays in Gender, Religion, and Culture*

I echo the other reviewers thus far who have given the book five stars. Haberman's concise summary of the environmental movement, its underlying philosophies, and their relation to Hinduism is enlightening. His treatment of the Yamuna River, its beauty, sacredness, unfortunate pollution, and Haberman's own love for her is thoroughly enchanting, except for the part about pollution. However, that part has become an essential or urgent aspect of our world. Without understanding pollution, how would we selfish beings tear ourselves away from our trivial pursuits to serve something higher. Our sacrifice to something higher might be a river, the earth, or a deity. However, as Haberman's book implies, we had better sacrifice ourselves unselfishly, rather than selfishly sacrificing the rivers and the earth to our selfish greed.

Very interesting book to read.

This is a lovely, lyrical book. The author's encounters with the local people were fascinating as was his description of the religious motivation for the surge in environmental awareness and concern in India. Such a different perspective than we have in the West. This is a wonderful, very readable book for anyone interested in rivers, preserving our planet, travel, India, or the religious traditions and stories of Northern India.

This wonderful new book on Hinduism and ecology comes as a fresh new perspective. Highly recommended!!!

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