

## Contents

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <i>List of illustrations</i>                                | <i>page</i> xi |
| <i>List of tables</i>                                       | xii            |
| <i>Foreword</i> by ANTHONY T. CARTER                        | xiii           |
| <i>Preface</i>  | xix            |
| <i>Glossary</i>   | xxi            |
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>1</b>       |
| <b>PART I DEATH AND THE CITY</b>                            |                |
| <b>1 Through 'divine eyes'</b>                              | <b>11</b>      |
| 1.1 The scene of cosmogony                                  | 11             |
| 1.2 In and out of time and space                            | 15             |
| 1.3 A full life and a liberating death                      | 20             |
| 1.4 The dialectics of 'liberation'                          | 26             |
| 1.5 Death and cosmogony                                     | 30             |
| <b>2 A profane perspective</b>                              | <b>33</b>      |
| 2.1 By way of background                                    | 33             |
| 2.2 'From time without beginning'                           | 38             |
| 2.3 On the footsteps of Vishnu                              | 44             |
| 2.4 The scale of the business                               | 50             |
| <b>PART II DEATH AS A LIVING</b>                            |                |
| <b>3 Shares and chicanery</b>                               | <b>75</b>      |
| 3.1 Turns to be 'ghosts'                                    | 75             |
| 3.2 Other variants of <i>pari</i>                           | 90             |
| 3.3 <i>Pandagiri</i> – the profession of pilgrimage-priest  | 97             |
| 3.4 The values of purity                                    | 109            |
| 3.5 'The law of the fishes'                                 | 112            |
| 3.6 <i>Pari</i> – practical reason or symbol determination? | 115            |

| x                         | Contents   |     |
|---------------------------|--|-----|
| 4                         | Giving, receiving and bargaining over gifts  | 119 |
| 4.1                       | Sweating it out on the <i>ghats</i>  | 119 |
| 4.2                       | The accumulation of sin  | 122 |
| 4.3                       | The source of the peril  | 130 |
| 4.4                       | Some comparative considerations  | 135 |
| 4.5                       | Bargaining for salvation   | 139 |
| <br>                      |  |     |
| PART III DEATH INTO BIRTH |  |     |
| 5                         | The last sacrifice   | 151 |
| 5.1                       | Introduction   | 151 |
| 5.2                       | The expression of grief  | 152 |
| 5.3                       | 'Good' and 'bad' death   | 158 |
| 5.4                       | The body and its refinement  | 167 |
| 5.5                       | The end of the ('gross') body  | 172 |
| 5.6                       | Birth, sex and sacrificial violence  | 178 |
| 5.7                       | The immersion of bodies and ashes  | 184 |
| 5.8                       | The language of sacrifice and renunciation   | 188 |
| 6                         | Ghosts into ancestors  | 191 |
| 6.1                       | The structure of the rites   | 191 |
| 6.2                       | 'The impure sixteen'   | 194 |
| 6.3                       | 'The middle sixteen'   | 199 |
| 6.4                       | 'The highest sixteen'  | 203 |
| 6.5                       | Remembering and effacing the dead  | 207 |
| 6.6                       | Digestion and transformation   | 211 |
| 6.7                       | On the impurity of death   | 215 |
| 7                         | Spirit possession as 'superstition'  | 226 |
| 7.1                       | Propositions   | 226 |
| 7.2                       | Ghosts, victims and exorcists  | 229 |
| 7.3                       | Panna <i>ojha</i>  | 237 |
| 7.4                       | The tomb of Bahadur the martyr   | 240 |
| 7.5                       | Seating a ghost at Pishach Mochan  | 242 |
| 7.6                       | On 'levels' and hierarchy  | 245 |
| <br>                      |  |     |
| PART IV THE END OF DEATH  |  |     |
| 8                         | Asceticism and the conquest of death   | 251 |
| 8.1                       | Getting back to the beginning  | 251 |
| 8.2                       | Hierarchy, complementarity and ascetic autonomy:<br>some concluding remarks on salvation and society | 264 |
| <br>                      |  |     |
|                           | <i>Notes</i>   | 272 |
|                           | <i>References</i>  | 293 |
|                           | <i>Index</i>   | 305 |