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978-1-108-00792-4 - A View of the History, Literature, and Religion of the Hindoos,
Volume 2: The Hindoo Mythology

William Ward

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A View of the History, Literature, and Religion of the Hindoos

William Ward's account of the Hindu communities among whom he served as a Baptist missionary in Serampore in West Bengal was first published in 1811 and reprinted in this 'carefully abridged and greatly improved' third edition in 1817. It was an extremely influential work that shaped British views of the newly defined entity of 'Hinduism' in the early nineteenth century. Ward and his fellow missionaries promoted social reforms and education, establishing the Serampore Mission Press in 1800 and Serampore College in 1818. Ward devoted twenty years to compiling his study of Hindu literature, history, mythology and religion, which was eventually published in four volumes. It provided richly detailed information, and was regarded as authoritative for the next fifty years. It is therefore still an important source for researchers in areas including Indian history, British colonialism, Orientalism and religious studies. Volume 2 focuses on places of worship, ritual practices, and beliefs about death and reincarnation. Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism are also described, though as 'sects' of Hinduism, reflecting the Western views of Ward's time.

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*Including a Minute Description of their
Manners and Customs, and Translations from
their Principal Works*

VOLUME 2: THE HINDOO MYTHOLOGY

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IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

BY THE REV. W. WARD,
ONE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARIES AT SERAMPORE, BENGAL.

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* These are not penances for sin : the yogee is not a penitent, but a proud ascetic: - ,

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