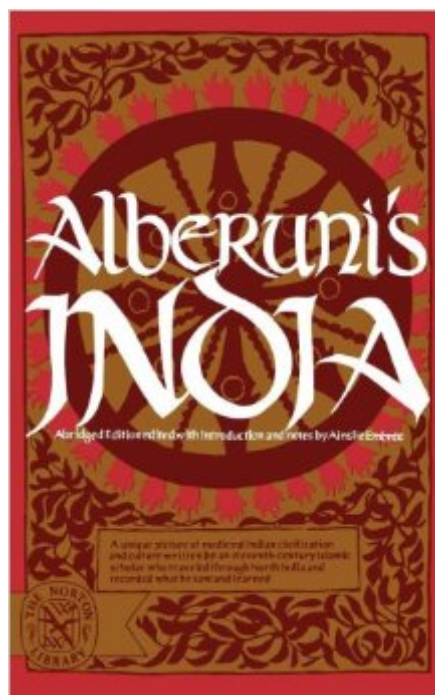


The book was found

Alberuni's India (Norton Library (Paperback))



Synopsis

Alberuni's India is one of the greatest achievements of medieval scholarship. Not for nearly eight hundred years would any other writer match Alberuni's profound understanding of almost all aspects of Indian life. In 1017 A.D., Sultan Mahmud, ruler of a great empire in what is now Afghanistan and Iran, brought to his court at Ghazna many of the most brilliant scholars of the Islamic world. Among them was Alberuni (or Al Biruni), who was renowned as a mathematician, astronomer, and political philosopher. Alberuni's aim was to acquire an exact understanding of the Hindus' knowledge of the natural world, to make it possible for Muslims "to converse with the Hindus, and to discuss with them questions of religion, science, or literature, on the very basis of their own civilization." For thirteen years he traveled in North India, observing, questioning, and studying. The result was an account of Indian culture that is unique in its sympathetic understanding, shrewdness of observation, and probing analysis.

Book Information

Series: Norton Library (Paperback)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Abridged edition (May 17, 1971)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393005682

ISBN-13: 978-0393005684

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #945,992 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #155 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Hinduism](#) #477 in [Books > Travel > Asia > India > General](#) #1004 in [Books > History > Asia > India](#)

Customer Reviews

Over the course of history only a few people stick out as truly exceptional. Some are leaders, some religious figures, and even fewer, intellectual giants. Al Biruni, born in 973 A.D. in what is now Uzbekistan, was one such. He had access to learning, became attached to several different courts, and died at the age of 65 in Ghazni, Afghanistan. At the time, Muslim cultures had inherited Greek learning and were advanced in science, mathematics, medicine, and literature. The Ummayyad Empire, which encompassed Central Asia, was a main center of world culture then. During his life,

Al Biruni had many opportunities to visit India in the entourage of Mahmud Ghaznavi, not a very savory figure in Indian history.. The very different civilization he found there fascinated him, though as a devout Muslim he could not approve Hindu religious doctrine or practice. Still, he learned Sanskrit, collected as many texts as he could, and wrote a huge compendium about India. It covers many fields which may not be very interesting to modern readers---esoteric doctrines, astrological details, inheritance customs, and Hindu astronomical knowledge. But within lie an amazing amount of detail which can be found almost nowhere else. The Indians did not write such books and for centuries there were few foreign visitors, even fewer who wrote anything. Much of our knowledge of medieval India is based on Al-Biruni. In this book you can get it from the horse's mouth, as it were. Not only did Al Biruni leave this giant work (which is only partially translated here). We should also remember him as one of the only Muslim authors in history to take an interest in Hindu religion and culture, trying to understand it on its own terms.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Alberuni's India (Norton Library (Paperback)) Alberuni's India. An account of the religion, philosophy, literature, geography, chronology, astronomy, customs, laws and astrology of India about A.D. 1030 VOL. 1 Indian Philosophy: Volume I: with an Introduction by J.N. Mohanty (Oxford India Collection) (Oxford India Collection (Paperback)) A History of the Sikhs: Volume 2: 1839-2004 (Oxford India Collection) (Oxford India Collection (Paperback)) The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Ninth Edition) (Vol. B) (Norton Anthology of English Literature (Paperback)) Caste, Society and Politics in India from the Eighteenth Century to the Modern Age (The New Cambridge History of India) Ramayana: India's Immortal Tale of Adventure, Love and Wisdom: India's Immortal Tale of Adventure, Love, and Wisdom Captains File: India: From Nayudu to Kohli, India's Test Cricket Captains Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization (Norton Professional Books (Paperback)) A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet (Norton Paperback) The Mandarins (Norton Paperback Fiction) The Body Remembers Casebook: Unifying Methods and Models in the Treatment of Trauma and PTSD (Norton Professional Books (Paperback)) Twelve Months To Your Ideal Private Practice: A Workbook (Norton Professional Books (Paperback)) Genograms: Assessment and Intervention (Third Edition) (Norton Professional Books (Paperback)) The Story of American Freedom (Norton Paperback) The Kerala Kitchen: Recipes and Recollections from the Syrian Christians of South India (Hippocrene Cookbook Library) Sufi Lyrics (Murty Classical Library of India) Neuroanatomy Through Clinical Cases, Second Edition by Hal Blumenfeld [Sinauer Associates, Inc., 2010] (Paperback) 2nd Edition [Paperback] Paperback Confidential: Crime Writers of the Paperback Era Stravinsky - Oedipus Rex and Symphony of

Psalms: The Masterworks Library (Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library) (The Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library)

[Dmca](#)