



Real Sadhus Sing to God: Gender, Asceticism, and Vernacular Religion in Rajasthan

By Antoinette Elizabeth DeNapoli

Oxford University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW PRINT ON DEMAND., Real Sadhus Sing to God: Gender, Asceticism, and Vernacular Religion in Rajasthan, Antoinette Elizabeth DeNapoli, In this groundbreaking book, based on in-depth ethnographic research spanning ten years, Antoinette Elizabeth DeNapoli brings to light the little known, and often marginalized, lives of female Hindu ascetics (sadhus) in the North Indian state of Rajasthan. Her book offers a new perspective on the practice of asceticism in India today, exploring a phenomenon she terms vernacular asceticism. Examining the everyday religious worlds and practices of primarily "unlettered" female sadhus who come from a variety of castes, Real Sadhus Sing to God illustrates that the female sadhus whom DeNapoli knew experience asceticism in relational and celebratory ways and construct their lives as paths of singing to God. While the sadhus have combined ritual initiation with institutionalized and orthodox orders of asceticism, they also draw on the non-orthodox traditions of the medieval devotional poet-saints of North India to create a form of asceticism that synthesizes multiple and competing world views. DeNapoli suggests that in the vernacular asceticism of the sadhus, singing to God serves as the female way of being an ascetic. As women...



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