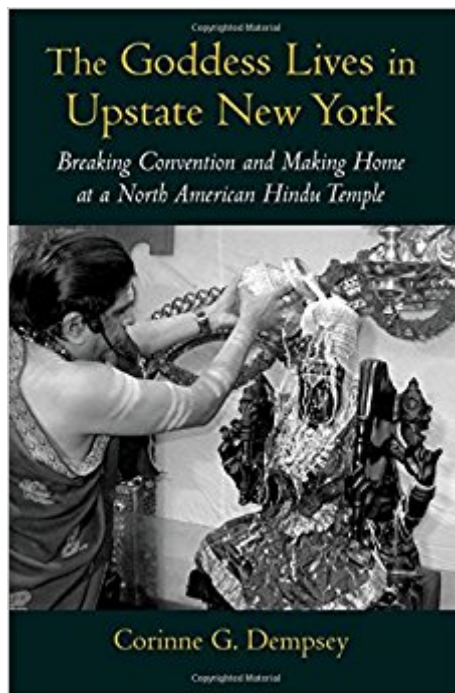


The book was found

# The Goddess Lives In Upstate New York: Breaking Convention And Making Home At A North American Hindu Temple



## Synopsis

The Goddess Lives in Upstate New York is a profile of a flourishing Hindu temple in the town of Rush, New York. The temple, established by a charismatic nonbrahman Sri Lankan Tamil known as Aiya, stands out for its combination of orthodox ritual meticulousness and socioreligious iconoclasm. The vitality with which devotees participate in ritual themselves and their ready access to the deities contrasts sharply with ritual activities at most North American Hindu temples, where (following the usual Indian custom) ritual is performed only by priests and access to the highly sanctified divine images is closely guarded. Drawing on several years of fieldwork, Dempsey weaves traditional South Asian tales, temple miracle accounts, and devotional testimonials into an analysis of the distinctive dynamics of diaspora Hinduism. She explores the ways in which the goddess, the guru, and temple members reside at cultural and religious intersections, noting how distinctions between miraculous and mundane, convention and non-convention, and domestic and foreign are more often intertwined and interdependent than in tidy opposition. This lively and accessible work is a unique and important contribution to diaspora Hindu Studies.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (December 15, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 019518730X

ISBN-13: 978-0195187304

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.6 x 6.1 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #795,902 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 inÂ Books > History > World > Religious > Hinduism #1781 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism #15791 inÂ Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

I am lucky to live in Rochester, close to the temple that Corinne Dempsey so lovingly describes in this book. I'm no Sanskrit scholar, so I can't comment on the way chants are pronounced there. But I know commitment and passion and bhakti when I see it. The pujas and fire offerings at the Sri Rajarajeshwari Pitham are done with devotion and care, and the entire temple is lit up with such a sense of presence that the book's title seems like a simple statement of fact. The book isn't a promo

piece for Aiya and the temple community that's grown around him. Neither Aiya nor the temple promote themselves; they're just happy to welcome anyone who finds them and likes what they're doing. Instead, it's a scholarly study of a vital and unusual moment in the history of Hinduism, taking place right now in the unlikely setting of Rush, New York. What's unique about it? In just about every other Hindu temple the gods are in a sanctuary, partially closed off from the worshipers. The only people allowed to approach them are Brahmin men. At the Sri Rajarajeshwari Pitham the murti are in the open--free to walk around with the people, as it were. The people have the same freedom. Aiya isn't a Brahmin, and as far as he and the temple are concerned there are no caste distinctions and virtually none between men and women. The egalitarianism and "priesthood of all believers" certainly appeal to Dempsey, who came of age in the heyday of liberation theology. There's no doubt that she admires Aiya, too, but the admiration was something he earned. She's a highly-respected scholar of religion who came to the temple to do field work. What she saw changed her from an observer into something between observer and participant.

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

The Goddess Lives in Upstate New York: Breaking Convention and Making Home at a North American Hindu Temple Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, Soap Making Recipes, Soap Making Supplies): Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) All About Kauai's Hindu Monastery: All you need to know about Kauai's Hindu Monastery The Inner Temple of Witchcraft: Magick, Meditation and Psychic Development (Penczak Temple Series) Obsidian Son: A Novel In The Nate Temple Supernatural Thriller Series (The Temple Chronicles Book 1) Grimm: A Novel In The Nate Temple Supernatural Thriller Series (The Temple Chronicles Book 3) Wine Making: Beginner Wine Making! The Ultimate Guide to Making Delicious Wine at Home (Home Brew, Wine Making, Red Wine, White Wine, Wine Tasting, Cocktails, ... Vodka recipes, Jello Shots Beer Brewing) Hindu Goddess Gayatri Goddess Connections: Goddess rituals for the modern priestess Meditations on the Goddess, vol. 4 - the Goddess as the element of spirit Jewelry Making: Jewelry Making Instructions to Easily Create Beautiful Pendants, Bracelets, Earrings, and Necklaces (Jewelry Making Books, jewelry making for dummies, jewelry making tools) Jewelry Making: 33 Tips and Advices For Making Unique Earrings (jewelry making, jewelry making books, jewelry making kits) Wine Making: 14 Amazing Recipes for Beginners - The Ultimate Guide to

Making Delicious and Organic Wine at Home! (Home Brew, Wine Making, Wine Recipes) Feng Shui: Wellness and Peace- Interior Design, Home Decorating and Home Design (peace, home design, feng shui, home, design, home decor, prosperity) Home Security: Top 10 Home Security Strategies to Protect Your House and Family Against Criminals and Break-ins (home security monitor, home security system diy, secure home network) The Tao of Tai Chi: The Making of a New Science: One man's amazing 55 year journey from an angel in Kansas to a Taoist Temple in Hong Kong, which ... the world's largest institutions of science. Corruption and Racketeering in the New York City Construction Industry: The Final Report of the New York State Organized Crime Taskforce Pop-Up NYC Map by VanDam - City Street Map of New York City, New York - Laminated folding pocket size city travel and subway map, 2016 Edition (Pop-Up Map)

[Dmca](#)