

# *Indian Philosophy and Yoga in Germany: 1800-1899*

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This book sheds new light on the fascinating — at times dark and at times hopeful — reception of classical Yoga philosophies in Germany during the nineteenth century.

When debates over God, religion, and morality were at a boiling-point in Europe, Sanskrit translations of classical Indian thought became available for the first time. Almost overnight India became the centre of a major controversy concerning the origins of western religious and intellectual culture. Working forward from this controversy, this book examines how early translations of the *Gītā* and the *Yoga Sūtras* were caught in the cross-fire of another debate concerning the rise of pantheism, as a doctrine that identifies the divine “in all things.” It shows how these theological concerns shaped the image of Indian thought in the work of Schlegel, Günderrode, Humboldt, Hegel, Schelling, and others, lasting well into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Furthermore, the book explores how worries about the perceived nihilism of Yoga were addressed by key voices in the early twentieth century Indian Renaissance — notably Dasgupta, Radhakrishnan, and Bhattacharyya — who defended sophisticated counter-readings of their intellectual heritage during the colonial era.

*Indian Philosophy and Yoga in Germany: 1800-1899* will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working on 19th-century European philosophy, Indian philosophy, comparative philosophy, Hindu studies, intellectual history, and religious history.

## *Table of Contents*

Preface

### **Introduction**

PART I. INDIAN PANTHEISM AND THE THREAT OF NIHILISM

#### **Chapter 1. Perils of Pantheism: Schlegel and Karoline von Günderrode**

- 1.1. German Poetry, Eastern Promises
- 1.2. The Romantic Orient
- 1.3. Love, Death, and Despair
- 1.4. Günderrode and the *Urkraft*

1.5. Revelation and the Threat of Nihilism

1.6. Annihilation of the Soul

**Chapter 2. The Song of God: Humboldt's Philosophical Poem**

2.1. The Pious Yogi

2.2. Colebrooke's Recovery of Yoga

2.3. Humboldt's Gītā

2.4. Humboldt's Non-Nihilistic Pantheism

2.4.1. Clarifying the Charge of Nihilism

2.4.2. Two Kinds of Pantheism: Identity and Dependence

2.4.3. The Problem of Freedom

2.5. Yoga, the "True Proteus"

**Chapter 3. "Abstract Meditation": Yoga in Hegel and Schelling**

3.1. Hegel, Between Hinduism and Hellenism

3.2. The Dream of Spirit

3.3. Hegel's Critique of Hinduism

3.4. Hegel and the Task of Reception

3.5. Schelling's Journey to the East

3.6. Yoga as Inwardness: Schelling's Interpretation

PART II. GOD, MORALITY, AND FREEDOM

**Chapter 4. Yoga in the Late Nineteenth Century: Mitra, Vivekananda, Müller**

4.1. Liberation, With or Without God

4.2. Yoga Philosophy at Mid-Nineteenth Century

4.2.1. N.C. Paul's Treatise on Yoga Philosophy

4.2.2. Rājendralāla Mitra's Yoga Aphorisms of Patañjali

4.3. Is Yoga Nihilism? Müller and Mitra

4.4. Return of the King: Vivekananda's Yoga

4.5. Identification with the Divine

4.6. The God of Philosophy and the God of Devotion

**Chapter 5. The Calcutta Philosophers: Dasgupta, Radhakrishnan, Bhat-tacharyya**

5.1. Patañjali as Philosopher

5.2. Dasgupta's Interpretation of Patañjali

5.2.1. The Metaphysics of Experience

5.2.1. Freedom and Bondage

5.2.3. Suffering and Ethics

5.3. The Ethics of Yoga

5.4. Yoga, Beyond Good and Evil

5.5. Yoga as Freedom

5.6. The Sacred and the Mysterious

5.7. A "Recipe for the Human Soul"

**Conclusion. Yoga, the "True Proteus"**

**Appendix. The Place of India in Universal History**

References