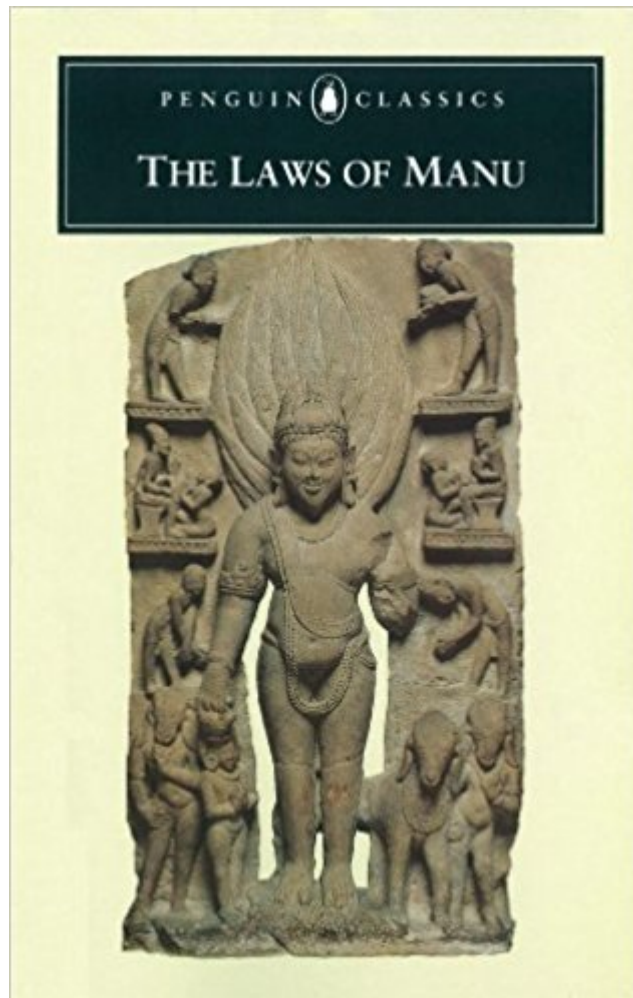


The book was found

The Laws Of Manu (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The Laws of Manu form a towering work of Hindu philosophy. Composed by many Brahmin priests, this is an extraordinary, encyclopaedic representation of human life in the world, and how it should be lived. Manu encompasses topics as wide-ranging as the social obligations and duties of the various castes, the proper way for a righteous king to rule and to punish transgressors, relations between men and women, birth, death, taxes, karma, rebirth and ritual practices. First translated into English in 1794, its influence spread from Nietzsche to the British Raj, and although often misinterpreted, it remains an essential work for understanding India today. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics; Reprint edition (January 7, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140445404

ISBN-13: 978-0140445404

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #471,489 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > History > World > Religious > Hinduism #137 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Indian #435 in Books > History > Asia > India

Customer Reviews

Wendy Doniger's translation of the Hindu Moral Law is fairly lucid and readable. The Manu Smriti maybe only one of the Smritis in the Hindu tradition, but it is the primary Smriti accepted as the authoritative text on Dharma within the Hindu canon. In the ancient Indian social and cultural structure, the Laws of Manu constitute the Vaidika Dharma, applicable to those enfolded within the way of the Vedas. While this may not encompass the entirety of the habitants of ancient India, there is no justifiable reason to belittle the importance of the Laws of Manu, as has been done by the

previous reviewers here. Their reviews betray a lack of knowledge of the structure of Hindu society, and appear to be biased. The Manusmṛiti is traditionally accepted as one of the supplementary arms of the Vedas. Doniger's translation is refreshingly objective. It is remarkably free of Western bias that one often finds in works by Western authors on Indian texts. It is also free of the bias introduced by apologetic Indians, and other modern Indians trying to appear politically correct in an age of humanistic leanings. There are many things in the Laws of Manu that a modern reader would find revolting; but there are many things too that are as timeless as they were during the time it was written, especially the openness in the applicability of Law depending on situational, cultural and historical contingencies. Whatever may be one's opinion on these matters, Doniger has given us a narrative translation of a book that is as important to us today as the Upanishads are if we are to understand ancient Indian culture in its totality. The Manusmṛiti also gives us the four-fold structure of Hindu "classes", the "Varnas", which have been the object of much malignment in recent times.

The 1991 Penguin Classics translation of "The Laws of Manu," by Wendy Doniger (thus on the cover; earlier known as Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, and often so listed) and Brian Smith, is one of two relatively recent translations of the text. The other is "The Law Code of Manu: A New Translation," by Patrick Olivelle, in the Oxford World's Classics (2004), which was also published elsewhere with a new critical edition of the Sanskrit original. Olivelle had earlier translated four other, related, works as "Dharmasutras: The Law Codes of Ancient India" (1999), for the same series. The reader may want to give precedence to Olivelle's newer translation, which has an elaborate commentary offering access to more recent literature. However, the Penguin version is still worth consulting; and I find some sections of it much more readable than Olivelle's version, although the reverse is sometimes true of other passages. Both are annotated (the Penguin with footnotes; there is some overlap with Olivelle's end-notes, but they tend to be complementary), and both have extremely detailed indexes (the Penguin volume's being in rather more legible type). Their introductions take different approaches, but cover much the same territory. Those already somewhat familiar with the legal literature of ancient India may want to skip to the end for the rest of my comparison of these two to each other, and to an older (1886) translation, which has also been in paperback in recent years; and some general observations on its reputation.

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

The Laws of Manu (Penguin Classics) Manu: The Biodiversity of Southeastern Peru Penguin Classics Beyond Good And Evil (Penguin Modern Classics) A Restatement of Rabbinic Civil Law Volume 1 Laws of Judges and Laws of Evidence The 8 Laws of Corporate America: The laws to

moving through complicated situations and coming out on top. The Laws of the Ring: The Laws of the Cage from the California Kid The Laws of Love, Part One: 10 Spiritual Principles That Can Transform Your Life: Laws 1-5 (Pt.1) The Penguin Classics New Penguin Book of English Folk Songs Penguin Coloring Book For Adults: A Stress Relief Adult Coloring Book Of 40 Penguin Designs in a Variety of Intricate Patterns (Animal Coloring Books for Adults) (Volume 10) Penguin Coloring Book For Adults: Penguin Coloring Book containing Penguins filled with intricate and stress relieving patterns (Coloring Books for Adults) (Volume 6) Penguin English Library Howards End (The Penguin English Library) Short Stories in Spanish: New Penguin Parallel Text (New Penguin Parallel Texts) (Spanish and English Edition) Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres (Penguin Classics) Design as Art (Penguin Modern Classics) My Bondage and My Freedom (Penguin Classics) Two Lives of Charlemagne (Penguin Classics) The Letters of the Younger Pliny (Penguin Classics) The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini (Penguin Classics) The Age of Alexander (Penguin Classics) Personal Narrative of a Journey to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent: Abridged Edition (Penguin Classics)

[Dmca](#)