



The Wonder That Was India

By A.L. Basham

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The Wonder That Was India By A.L. Basham

Indian civilization is among the oldest in the world, and what is unique in that respect is that the culture of the peoples still remains largely unchanged, with a strong thread of continuity through the ages.

The Wonder That was India takes a look at the country's history from the time of the Harappan or Indus Valley Civilization. It explores the possible causes for the decline of the Harappan civilization and settlements. The book talks about the possibility of the Harappans having moved towards the south and settled in the peninsular region.

The author also discusses the Aryan invasion theory, supporting it with various research papers and findings of that time. The evolution of Hindu religion is also talked about in this book from the Harappan times, to the coming of the Aryans and the mutual influence that Hinduism and its offshoots Jainism and Buddhism had on each other.

This book is comprehensive in its coverage of Indian history. It looks at every aspect of Indian society and culture. The Wonder That was India covers everything from religion, governance, social evolution, literary traditions, philosophy languages, and science.

The author explores the significant role the Hindu religion played on the lives of the people. All the literary compositions of ancient times had religious associations. He also puts forward the theory that the European gypsies are of Indian origin.

The Wonder That Was India also gives an insight into modern Indian society and culture, how it became a confluence of different influences from many a quarter throughout the many stages of its history.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Arthur Llewellyn Basham was an Indologist and a professor at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Basham wrote many books on India, including *A Cultural History of India* and *The Sharqi Sultanate Of Jaunpur*. He also co-authored *The Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism*, *Religious Beliefs and Practices of North India During the Early Medieval Period*, and *History and Doctrines of the Ajivikas: A Vanished Indian Religion*. But his most popular work is the book *The Wonder That Was India*.

The author was born in 1914 in Essex. His father had served in the Indian Army and told him a lot of stories about India that sparked an interest in him about the country. Basham was interested in studying various religions, from Christianity to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. The author obtained a degree in Sanskrit from the School of Oriental and African Studies. He served in the Civil Defence department during the Second World War. After the war, he did a doctorate at the School of Oriental and African studies and later became a Professor at that college. In 1965, Basham left SOAS to join the Australia National University, where he became the Head of the History Department and also Professor of Oriental Civilizations.

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