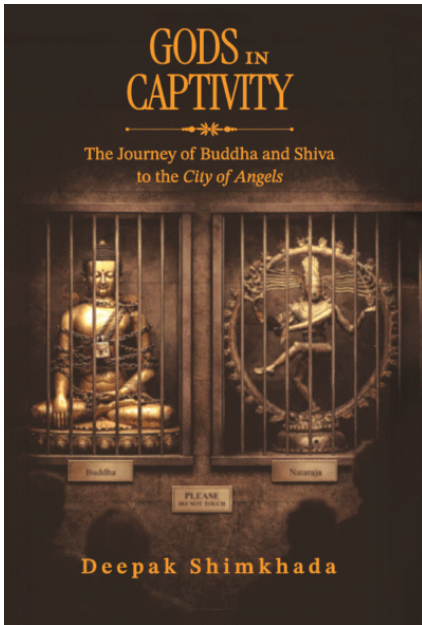


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## Gods in Captivity: The Journey of Buddha and Shiva to the City of Angels



**Author:** Deepak Shimkhada

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### About the Book

Before they were museum treasures, they were gods. Sculpted for worship, carried by devotion, and revered in temples, sacred images once lived where faith placed them. Today, many sit behind glass—dislocated, collected, claimed.

This book asks a haunting question: *What do the gods themselves think of their captivity?*

Through the imagined voices of the Buddha and Shiva—two Nepalese icons stolen, trafficked, and displayed as art—the author explores the moral storm surrounding ownership, repatriation, and the fate of sacred objects torn from their homelands.

Their conversation is tender, unsettling, and surprisingly human. As the two deities confront their displacement, they reveal what is lost when worship becomes spectatorship—and what still endures beneath the silence of bronze.

A story of art and exile, memory and meaning, this book invites you to see sacred images anew—and to hear the voices we have long ignored.

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### About the Author

Deepak Shimkhada holds a Ph.D. degree from Claremont Graduate University. Before retiring, he taught at several colleges and universities across Southern California, offering courses that bridged art, culture, and spiritual traditions. He has published numerous scholarly articles and edited multiple books in the field of art and religion.

This volume—the first in a planned series—explores the intertwined worlds of art history and religion, inviting readers to consider how sacred images move, transform, and continue to shape

our understanding of the divine.

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