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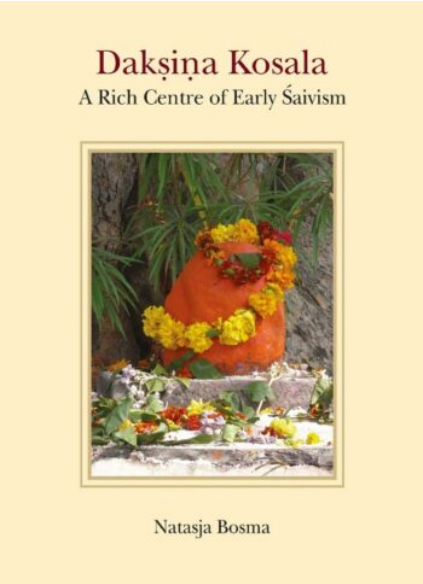
Dak?i?a Kosala: A Rich Centre of Early ?aivism



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About the Book

This book explores the early development of ?aivism in ancient Dak?i?a Kosala, a region corresponding broadly to present-day Chhattisgarh and parts of western Odisha (formerly Orissa). In the late sixth and early seventh centuries, this region came under the rule of the P???ava king ?ivagupta, also known as B?l?rjuna, who governed from ?r?pura (modern Sirpur) and is remembered as a distinguished patron of religion. Epigraphical evidence, supported by archaeological remains, indicates that by the time of his long reign, Dak?i?a Kosala had already emerged as a major centre of early ?aivism.

Against this background, the book examines the conditions that fostered the rise and consolidation of ?aivism in this region. It also considers whether the Skandapur??a, an important and roughly contemporaneous religious text, played a role in this process. In addressing these questions, the study sheds light not only on the religious landscape of Dak?i?a Kosala, but also on the complex interplay of political power, social formations, economic factors, and geography in shaping early medieval religious traditions.

About the Author

Natasja Bosma (b. 1981) studied Psychology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen, where she completed the research master's program in Religious Symbols and Traditions. She

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