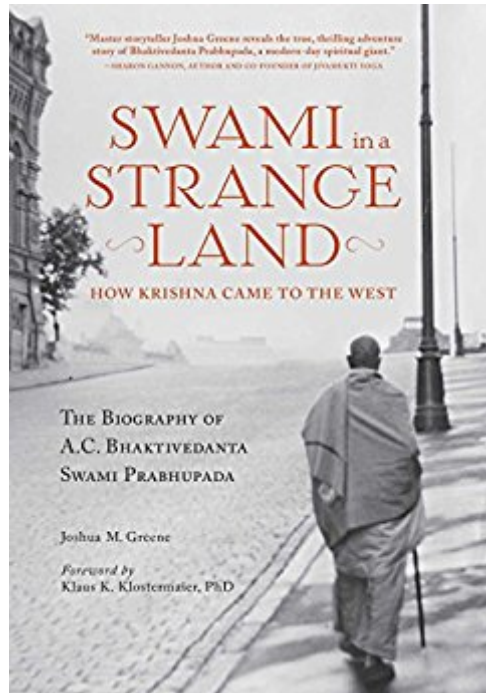




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Swami In A Strange Land: How Krishna Came To The West



Synopsis

Discover the man behind the movement in this intimate biography of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). In 1965, a seventy-year-old man—soon to be known as Prabhupada—set sail from India to America with a few books in his bag, pennies in his pockets, and a message of love in his heart. He landed in New York at the peak of the revolutionary counterculture movement of the 1960s, and went on to spark a global spiritual renaissance that led to the creation of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which has changed millions of lives. Through the depiction of Prabhupada as both an enlightened luminary and a personable, funny, and conscientious individual, Swami in a Strange Land shows why cultural icons such as George Harrison and Allen Ginsberg incorporated Prabhupada's teachings into their lives, and why millions more around the globe embarked upon the path of bhakti yoga in his footsteps. Carefully researched, skillfully crafted, and extraordinarily intimate, this narrative follows Prabhupada as he rises from an anonymous monk to a world-renowned spiritual leader. Set in locations as far ranging as remote Himalayan caves and the gilded corridors of Paris's City Hall, Swami in a Strange Land traces the rise of Eastern spirituality in the West—and in particular, the rise of yoga culture and vegetarianism and the concepts of karma and reincarnation. A remarkable journey into the deepest dimensions of the human experience, Swami in a Strange Land shows how one man with a dream can change the world.

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Customer Reviews

Swami in a Strange Land is a moving account of Prabhupada's bold challenge to the dominant discourses of our time. Joshua Greene is an accomplished storyteller, a diligent historian, and a dedicated bhakta. His biography of Prabhupada pays careful attention to historical context while honoring the transcendent power of bhakti.- Ravi M. Gupta, Utah State University

I was a little skeptical going into this, since I have read most of the biographies of Prabhupada already out there. To try to make a one volume work seemed to me not worth it. I must commend the author for doing a fantastic job. I learned new things about this amazing swami's life. The book weaves a very compelling and informative narrative. There were a few problems I had. Using a term like Hindu misogyny is not accurate at all. There is no fear of women in Vedic culture. Degraded practices may be present in the modern age, but those are not rooted in the original culture, which gives so much stress to protecting women. Also, neither the swami nor the Vedas put forward the flat earth theory. Recorded conversations from Prabhupada make the point quite clear; that the planets are round. It would have been nice if the author included the story of Prabhupada meeting someone who advised him to sell books instead of magazines, as that was a major turning point in the publication effort prior to the travel to the US. All in all, a great book that is suited for all audiences.

Fascinating and well told adventure by a participant. Greene tells the story with style and scholarship while avoiding the hagiography which is often found in this genre. Joshua's encounter with the Beatles resonates with mysticism while his tale of the meeting with the Mayor of Paris provides keen insight into both the Parisian culture and the Swami. The reader will surely hanker for more volumes from Greene as he knows how to weave a story with a feel for the times.

I've read a dozen books by Prabhupada's disciples. This one is among the best. A beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul.

Amazing narration from an expert story teller. The account of Srila Prabhupada's life is absorbing and insightful. I have read Lilamrta twice and yet this book had a lot to offer; it was new, interesting and fresh!

Fantastic biography of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. So much research and details went into this work. Thank you.

Well written bio.

Great book for a newbie and someone familiar with the history of the movement .

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