



# Rules and Regulations of Brahmanical Asceticism: Yatidharmasamuccaya of Yadava Prakasa (Sunny Series (Religion Series))

By Patrick Olivelle

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Rules and Regulations of Brahmanical Asceticism is the critical edition and translation of a twelfth-century Sanskrit text written by Yadava Prakasa, whose life and activities are of historical interest because, according to tradition, he was the teacher of the great Vaisnava theologian Ramanuja. This text is the oldest and most comprehensive example of medieval Sanskrit literature devoted to examining the duties of ascetics. Yadava Prakasa is the only one who explicitly examines the thorny question of whether asceticism is a legitimate way of life for Brahmins. His topics include the people qualified to become ascetics; the rite for becoming an ascetic; the clothes and belongings of an ascetic; techniques of meditation; daily routines such as bathing, divine worship, and begging; proper conduct and etiquette; the manner of wandering; residence during the rains; expiatory penances; and the funeral. In his introduction, Patrick Olivelle examines the place of Yadava's text within the literary and institutional history of Brahmanical asceticism. He discusses the origins of asceticism in India; its incorporation into the Brahmanical mainstream; and its variations within Hindu sects, as well as in Buddhist and Jain traditions.

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*By Patrick Olivelle*

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### **Review**

"Many exotic and strange things pass for Eastern religions today. Books like this help call attention to the traditional and authentic aspects of the religions of the East. This work is very authentic, and it evidences and embodies first-rate scholarship in the historical-critical, literary, and philosophical senses. It will be an excellent addition to modern scholarly literature in the field." -- John G. Arapura, Professor Emeritus, McMaster University

### **Language Notes**

Text: English, Hindi

### **From the Back Cover**

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