

**BENARES, THE SACRED  
CITY; SKETCHES OF HINDU  
LIFE AND RELIGION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649082186

Benares, the sacred city; sketches of Hindu life and religion by E. B. Havell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

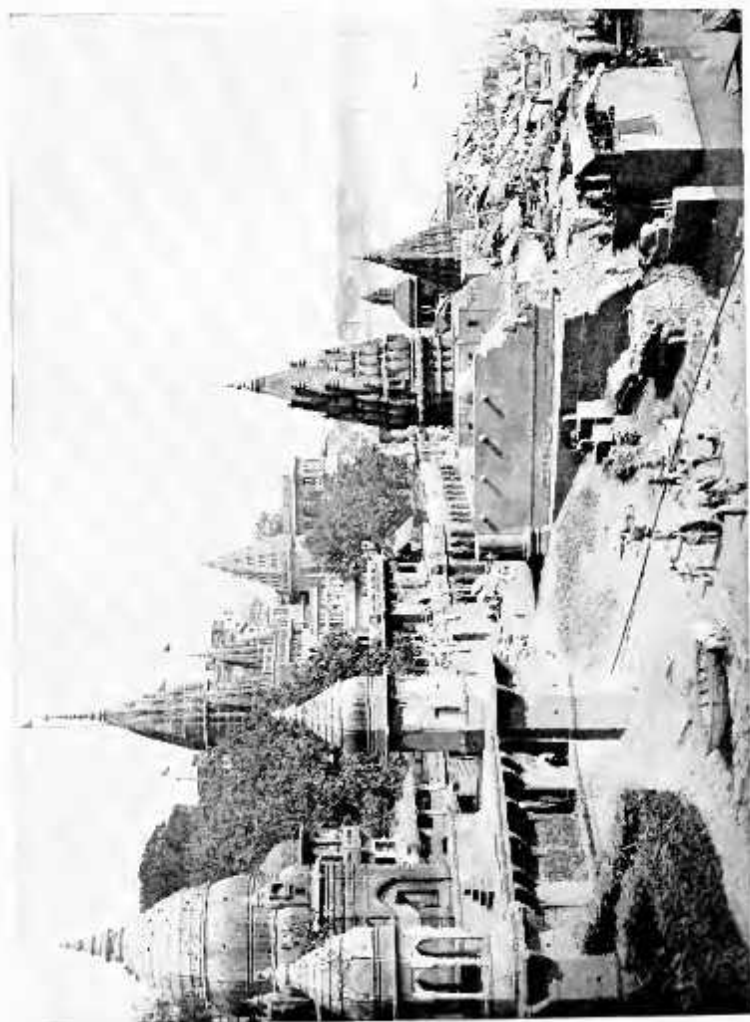
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. B. HAVELL**

**BENARES, THE SACRED  
CITY; SKETCHES OF HINDU  
LIFE AND RELIGION**





MANIKARNIKA GHAT (page 134)  
*(From a photograph by Johnston & Huffman)*





## PREFACE

---

It is, perhaps, because Benares is not forbidden, that such a mine of human interest, and one of the most extraordinary cities of the East, is now probably less known to most Europeans than Lhasa. Even of the Europeans who have seen Benares, few have any adequate conception of the ideas and beliefs which many millions of our fellow-subjects associate with it. Few, indeed, have either the time or the inclination to read through the increasing accumulation of very solid literature which deals with the philosophic side of Hinduism; and the more popular missionary accounts (with our national tendency to underrate the enemy's strength) generally make the mistake of representing all Hinduism as a mass of degraded superstitions and idolatry, only held together by the profound ignorance and backwardness of the Indian people.

These sketches are not offered as a contribution to oriental scholarship, or to religious controversy, but as an attempt to give an intelligible outline of Hindu ideas and religious practices, and especially as a presentation of the imaginative and artistic side of Indian religions, which can be observed at few places so well as in the sacred city and its neighbourhood—the birthplace of Buddhism and of one of the principal sects of Hinduism.

The illustrations have been, for the most part, specially prepared to elucidate the text, and include some of the re-



markable discoveries made this year at Sarnath. They will, it is hoped, give some idea of the wonderful artistic wealth of Benares life, and at the same time be more instructive than those of ordinary books of travel.

The authorities consulted include Sherring's *Sacred City of the Hindus*; *The Life and Times of Sri Sankaracharya*, by C. Krishnasami Aiyar; and the works of Barth, Beal, Sylvain Lévi, Rhys Davids, Monier Williams, Max Müller, Taylor, and many others. My acknowledgments are due to Messrs. E. J. Lazarus & Co., of Benares, for permission to use Mr. Ralph Griffiths' translation of the Rig-Veda; and to Messrs. Som Brothers, Calcutta, for extracts from Pandit Tattvabhushan's translations of the Upanishads.

I am indebted to H.H. the Maharajah of Benares and staff for much courteous assistance; and to Babus Abanindro Nath Tagore, Dinesh Chandra Sen, and other Indian friends for valuable information.

Mr. J. H. Marshall, Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, Dr. Vogel, Messrs. Johnstone & Hoffman, Calcutta, and Messrs. Saeed Bros., Benares, have kindly helped me with some of the illustrations.

E. B. HAVELL.

CALCUTTA, October, 1905.

## CONTENTS

ix

	Page
CHAPTER XI. REMAINS OF OLD BENARES—A HINDU-MUHAM- MADAN RIOT—A WEAVERS' COLONY—	
The study of Indian sculpture and painting—Miniature stone temples—Mosques built of materials from ancient temples—	
The Lât Bhairo—Bakariya Kund - - - - -	199
 CHAPTER XII. BENARES UNDER BRITISH RULE—	
Chêt Singh and Warren Hastings—The murder of Mr. Cherry —Influence of British rule—Benares and Neo-Hinduism - -	210

