



An Ornament for Jewels: Love Poems for the Lord of Gods, by Venkatesa (Hardback)

By Steven Paul Hopkins

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 242 x 162 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In this companion volume to Singing the Body of God (Oxford 2002), Steven P. Hopkins has translated into contemporary American English verse poems written by the South Indian Srivaishnava philosopher and saint-poet Venkatesa (c. 1268-1369). These poems, in three different languages - Sanskrit, Tamil, and Maharastri Prakrit - composed for one particular Hindu god, Vishnu Devanayaka, the Lord of Gods at Tiruvahindrapuram, form a microcosm of the saint-poet's work. They encompass major themes of Venkatesa's devotional poetics, from the play of divine absence and presence in the world of religious emotions; the telescoping of time past and future in the eternal present of the poem; love, human vulnerability and the impassible perfected body of god; to the devotional experience of a beauty that saves and to what Hopkins terms the paradoxical coexistence of asymmetry and intimacy of lover and beloved at the heart of the divine-human encounter. Moreover, these poems form not only a thematic microcosm, but a linguistic one embracing all three of the poet's working languages. Like the remembered world...



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