

Contents

Preface	ix
1. Introduction: varieties of life and Word VEENA DAS	1
2. Art and theology in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa D.F. POCOCK	9
3. Banaras: cosmos and paradise in the Hindu imagination DIANA L. ECK	41
4. Actors, pilgrims, kings, and gods: the Ramlila at Ramnagar ANURADHA KAPUR	57
5. Erotic fantasy: the secret passion of Radha and Krishna SUDHIR KAKAR	75
6. The voyage of the hero: the self and the other in one narrative tradition of Purulia ROMA CHATTERJI	95
7. Child and childhood: a conceptual construction URVASHI MISRI	115
8. The human condition in Puran Bhagat: an essay in existential anthropology of a Punjabi legend HARJEET SINGH GILL	133
9. Rule-by-records and rule-by-reports: complementary aspects of the British Imperial rule of law RICHARD SAUMAREZ SMITH	153
10. Violence, victimhood, and the language of silence VEENA DAS and ASHIS NANDY	177

viii / *Contents*

11. Epilogue	197
VEENA DAS	
About the Contributors	209
Index	211