

# Contents

Contributors xix

## Part I: Visions of Virtue 3

1. A Controversy over a Verse on the Remarriage of Hindu Women 7  
*Krishna Datta*
2. Satī: The Event and the Ideology 21  
*Mandakranta Bose*
3. Satyavatī: The Matriarch of the *Mahābhārata* 33  
*Jayatri Ghosh*
4. Usable Women: The Tales of Ambā and Mādhavī 48  
*Madhusraba Dasgupta*
5. Anasūyā: a Pativrata with Panache 56  
*Vidyut Aklujkar*
6. "The Wildering Gloom": Women's Place in Buddhist History 69  
*Chapla Verma*
7. The Goddess, Women, and Their Rituals in Hinduism 87  
*Samjukta Gombrich Gupta*

## Part II: Women and Power 107

8. The Goddess-Woman Equation in Śākta Tantras 109  
*Madhu Khanna*

9. Women's Wealth and Worship: Female Patronage of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism in Medieval Tamilnadu 124  
*Leslie Orr*
10. The Goddess-Woman Nexus in Popular Religious Practice: The Cult of Manasā 148  
*Manasi Dasgupta and Mandakranta Bose*
11. Mīrābai in the Academy and the Politics of Identity 162  
*Nancy Martin-Kershaw*
12. Candrāvati Rāmāyaṇa: Feminizing the Rāma-Tale 183  
*Nabaneeta Dev Sen*
13. Women Saints in Medieval Maharashtra 192  
*Eleanor Zelliot*
14. Powers behind the Throne: Women in Early Mughal Politics 201  
*Mriducchanda Palit*

### Part III: Emerging Voices 213

15. For Our Native Sisters: The Wesleyan Ladies' Auxiliary in India 219  
*Sarika P. Bose*
16. Flora Annie Steel: A Voice for Indian Women? 234  
*Karyn Huenemann*
17. Exploring Tradition and Change among Women in Marathi Culture 251  
*Suma Chitnis*
18. The Construction of Gender in History and Religion: The Sikh Case 270  
*Doris R. Jakobsh*
19. Postcolonial Identity as Feminist Fantasy: A Study of Tamil Women's Short Fiction on Dowry 287  
*Matilda Gabrielpillai*
20. Eroticism and the Woman Writer in Bengali Culture 297  
*Nabaneeta Dev Sen*
21. Women in Radical Movements in Bengal in the 1940s: The Story of the Mahilā Ātmarakṣā Samiti (Women's Self-Defense League) 304  
*Tripti Chaudhuri*
22. The Feminist Movement in West Bengal: From the Eighties to the Nineties 322  
*Maitreyi Chatterjee*