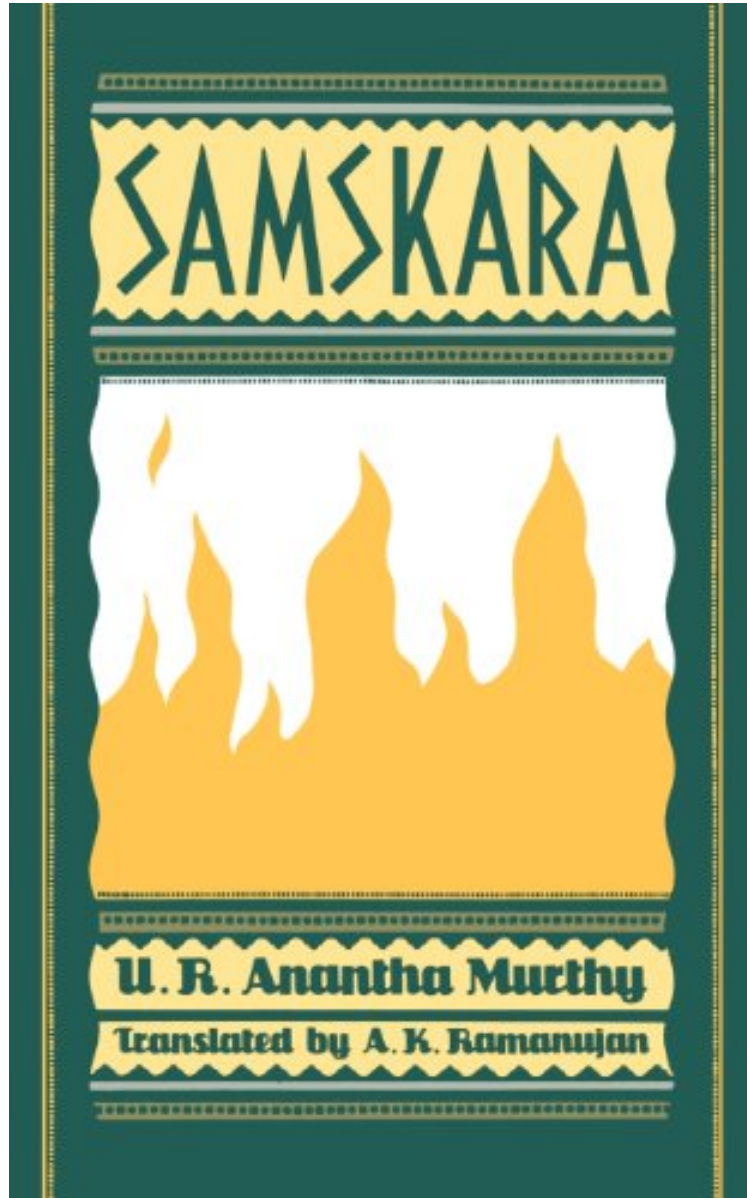


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Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man (Oxford India Collection (Paperback))

U.R. Anantha Murthy

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#796069 in Books U R Murthy A K Ramanujan 1979-06-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 4.63 x .43 x 7.00l, .45 #File Name: 0195610792176 pagesSamskara A Rite for a Dead Man | File size: 32.Mb

U.R. Anantha Murthy : Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man (Oxford India Collection (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man (Oxford India Collection (Paperback)):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The author uses a Brahminic village as the setting of ...By AvinashThe author uses a Brahminic village as the setting of the story but in essence this is a classic Faust or Te Monk with decline and corruption of values, ethics, morality and eventually behavior. This book in no way attempts to define the caste system or its roles, they are just a backdrop to the story and the accuracy of society's structure is does not matter. What matters is the developments the characters go through as they journey through life. Can we walk through a swamp and not have some mud on us? Looking from a sterile purely academic point of view we lose sight of reality, pragmatism and at the end fail to act. This is what I think Anantha Murthy was trying to say.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. great novel unraveling caste systemBy Bob SwainThis was a wonderful book. I had a hard time with the names and never figured out the geography but I loved how weird this was and how pungent. Buzzards gather for the death of a village. It reminded me of Oedipus and F. Scott Fitzgerald in India! I liked the whore Chandri since she was the only person with any common sense in the book.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating superstitionBy Mark VA worthwhile book but not the greatest. The story kind of plunks along, then just stops. But the book shows fascinating details of a totally foreign culture. It is hard to imagine that so much backwardness can exist in an almost modern society, even one as sheltered as this. The levels of superstition are pervasive and medieval, as though step on a crack break your mother's back weren't just a children's rhyme, but a code to live by. Four stars for the exotic interest value.

Made into a powerful, award-winning film in 1970, this important Kannada novel of the sixties has received widespread acclaim from both critics and general readers since its first publication in 1965. As a religious novel about a decaying brahmin colony in the south Indian village of Karnataka, Samskara serves as an allegory rich in realistic detail, a contemporary reworking of ancient Hindu themes and myths, and a serious, poetic study of a religious man living in a community of priests gone to seed. A death which stands as the central event in the plot brings in its wake a plague, many more deaths, live questions with only dead answers, moral chaos, and the rebirth of one man. The volume provides a useful glossary of Hindu myths, customs, Indian names, flora, and other terms. Notes and an afterword enhance the self-contained, faithful, and yet readable translation.

[Samskara] contains a plot of Sophoclean intensity that with the passing of the years seems to have gathered ever more revelatory powerIts a startling story, one as provocative for its time and place as those of Cervantes, Sterne and Diderot must have been in theirs. Chandras Choudhury,The Wall Street JournalSamskara is an effective tale of a community choked by unsustainable tradition. Ananthamurthy offers fine portraits of a variety of characters as they struggle between natural urges and societal expectations, and has crafted an impressive story here. M. A. Orthofer, The Complete "NYRB Classics" reissue of this book comes at an opportune moment, as societies around the world face the dangers of religious extremism and its focus on ritual and regulation rather than humanity. U.R. Ananthamurthy, in A.K. Ramanujan's translation from the Kannada, tries to teach Indian society a lesson in this story about the trouble with prioritizing tradition over compassion." Melissa Beck, Asymptote Journal Ananthamurthys ability to turn the world on the most unexpected pivot gives [Samskara] an enduring human dimension. Mara Helga Gumundsttir, The Quarterly Conversation "[A] richly allegorical tale...a springboard for even broader questions concerning...religious experience and the inherent tension between works and grace." William Waldron, Education About Asia "[Samskara] takes us closer to the Indian idea of the self." V. S. NaipulAnanthamurthys most controversial and celebrated work,Samskara, is a novel about a decaying Brahmin colony. . . . Throughout the novel, Ananthamurthy builds extraordinary tension and atmosphere. It is an India that is instantly recognizable to its Indian readers.Pankaj MishraAbout the AuthorU. R. Anantha Murthy is a well-known Indian novelist. A. K. Ramanujan is William E. Colvin Professor in the Departments of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and of Linguistics at the University of Chicago. He is the author of many books, including The Striders and several other volumes of verse in English and Kannada.