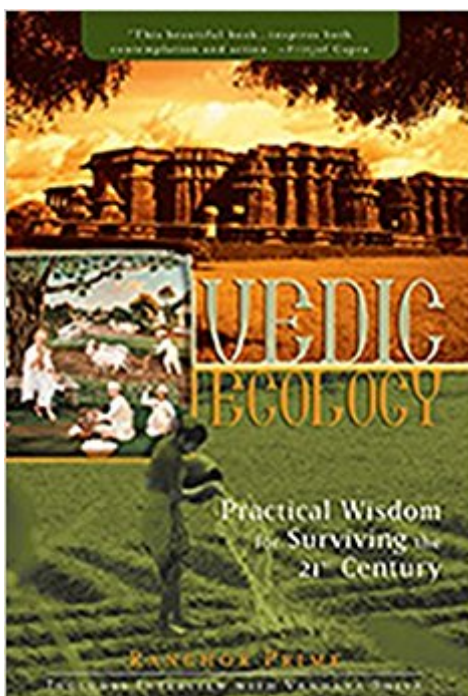


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Vedic Ecology: Practical Wisdom For Surviving The 21st Century



Synopsis

Drawing on India's ancient roots, Prime explores the possibility of applying old-world knowledge to new-world problems. Discover the environmental perspective put forth by the Vedas and how environmental activists and thinkers are applying it today. The author presents his own conclusions about high thinking and simple living, as well as interviewing prominent activists including scientist Vandana Shiva, Satish Kumar, Banwari (editor of Jansata, a Hindi daily newspaper) and prominent environmentalist Sevak Saran. Includes over 45 illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This beautiful book connects modern ecology and environmental activism with the ancient Vedic tradition of India in a way that inspires both contemplation and action."

Ranchor Prime is the author of several books on the culture and spirituality of India. Among his many accomplishments is a series of projects to protect sacred forests in India. He lives in London.

Vedic Ecology is divided into three parts, "Learning From the Tradition," "India in the Balance," and "Campaigning for the Future." Ranchor's discussion of tradition starts with two chapters on forests. He explains, "At the outset of the nineteenth century India was well endowed with thick forest land. To meet the British Empire's needs during the nineteenth century, the forests were gradually nationalized and the Indian Forestry Department set up to exploit them." He says that huge areas of virgin forest were felled for shipbuilding, railways, industrial fuel, etc. However, he quotes Sevak

Sharan, noted Indian environmentalist, who describes how, by redeveloping India's spiritual culture and environment side by side, human society and the environment can be saved. Sharan says, "human beings are part of the forest splendor and should therefore, in their natural state, love and respect it. [...] If we are not kind to the tree, the ant or some other animal or plant, we are not environmentalists. We have to see Krishna in every being. This is one of the requirements for the environmentalist." Ranchor continues his tradition section of Vedic Ecology with a chapters on the Sleeping Creator, Cosmic Person, Ten Avatars, and Krishna, the Forest Cowherd, Who honors the hill, sun, trees, and cows. In his second section, "India In the Balance," Ranchor presents Gandhi's vision in a chapter entitled, Village Economics. His next chapter, Life of Sacrifice, is an interview with Satish Kumar, founder of the first international college devoted to teaching a spiritual approach to the environment. Satish says, "Whenever you take, eat, or consume, you must consider whether you have left something for others--for God, for nature, for the poor and for future generations. This is sacrifice, or yajna." In the last five chapters Ranchor encourages his readers to join him by "Campaigning for the Future." He first discusses Balbir Mathur, a successful businessman who became disillusioned with Western culture and founded Trees for Life. Mathur quotes the Srimad Bhagavatam (10.22.33-35), "The whole life of a tree is service. With its leaves, flowers, fruits, branches, roots, shade, fragrance, sap, bark, wood, and finally even its ashes and coal, it exists for the sake of others." Ranchor interviews Sunderlal Bahugana, follower of Gandhi who fights to save the Himalayan environment, and Vandana Shiva, world-renowned environmental philosopher and activist. Ranchor crafts his interviews into concise summaries that reveal his affection for his environmentalist collaborators. His summaries communicate high philosophy, folklore, practical wisdom, and most of all, appreciation for nature from a spiritual perspective. In 160 pages, he entertains, teaches, fascinates, and nudges us to action. He concludes with a short chapter of Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada's vision for An Alternative Society, and a chapter on Restoring Krishna's Forest.

This book starts with the modern dilemma of the destruction of nature, compares it to the original Vedic practices of honoring nature, and introduces individuals who are working to combine modern life with traditional values. Basically, do we have to give up the positive elements of our traditional cultures in order to have modern life styles and what is the cost on multiple levels? As a teacher in the West, I was looking for biographies of individuals in the East who were/are working with ecological streams. This was the perfect book for me.

Great edition, deep research and proper selection of contents.

Great wisdom within this text: "Therefore take only what you need, that is set aside for you. Do not take anything else, for you know to whom it belongs."

What an important, inspiring synthesis. The Vaishnava vision of sustainability is presented with lucidity and depth. Gandhi's teachings are so timely, and so insightful. The examples of the lives of Satish Kumar and Balbir Mathur empower each of us toward action. I plan to give this book to my grandson, he loves nature & he loves Krishna.

Found Vedic Ecology: Practical Wisdom for Surviving the 21st Century, by Panchor Prime very interesting it connects environment with the economy and human health and wellness. I would count this book is one of the solutions for the 21st century environmental and economic crisis. It advocates human well being regardless of any power source of caste and creed and says earth is home for every living being and each has to live their lives fully. The ancient culture of India and Nepal that derived from Veda is profoundly important for human lives. One can be happy, healthy and creative if we learn essence that Panchor Prime has described in the book. The ancient knowledge base from Veda provides all solutions for contemporary problem, but we need to understand it fully. I would encourage and applaud Panchor to publish such books in future as he has been doing this for more than a decade. At the same time this book gives profound and intriguing guidelines for westerners how to value nature and respect poor people in the village as they are preserving environment for the global benefit. In fact Mathma Gandhi has already predicted this type of unsustainable future and tried to give India a sound green sustainable development path but over ambitious politicians ignored the path what Mathma Gandhi shown. As a result we have been living in a chaos world where there are full of uncertainty. I wish this book to be disseminated to the wider public so each can learn an important lesson on how to live in harmony with nature.

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