



Spiritual Authority And Temporal Power In The Indian Theory Of Government

By Ananda K. Coomaraswamy

Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 1978.

Hardcover. Condition: New. First Ind. Ed. 84pp. Ananda K.

Coomaraswamy's *Spiritual Authority and Temporal Power in the Indian Theory of Government* traces the source of Indian Political theory to the words of the marriage formula: I am that, thou art This, I am sky, thou art Earth. Long ago mankind discovered that institution of state, or something similar to it, alone would ensure their survival. They entrusted their material and spiritual welfare to the king and the priest, the two principal organs of the state. But neither the king nor the priest rose to the expected heights. Of the two, the king proved worse. He, instead of devoting his time and energy for the promotion of their welfare, vigorously pursued lechery, lechery: still wars and lechery. He forgot that he was bound by duty to protect them from internal revolt and external attack. His actions seldom conformed to the prevailing modes of conduct; his edicts were more for his good and less for his subjects; he failed to realize that Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war. Thus he became at once their hope and despair. Every age witnessed eminent...



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