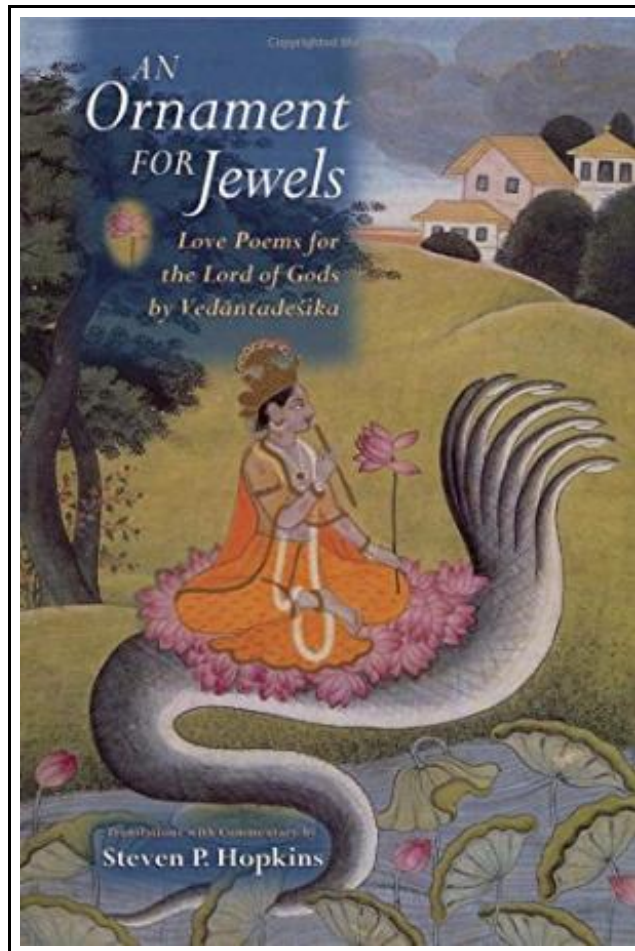


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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.In this companion volume to *Singing the Body of God* (Oxford 2002), Steven P. Hopkins has translated into contemporary American English verse poems written by the South Indian Srivaishnava philosopher and saint-poet Venkatesa (c. 1268-1369). These poems, in three different languages - Sanskrit, Tamil, and Maharastri Prakrit - composed for one particular Hindu god, Vishnu Devanayaka, the Lord of Gods at Tiruvahindrapuram, form a microcosm of the saint-poet's work. They encompass major themes of Venkatesa's devotional poetics, from the play of divine absence and presence in the world of religious emotions; the telescoping of time past and future in the eternal present of the poem; love, human vulnerability and the impassible perfected body of god; to the devotional experience of a beauty that saves and to what Hopkins terms the paradoxical coexistence of asymmetry and intimacy of lover and beloved at the heart of the divine-human encounter. Moreover, these poems form not only a thematic microcosm, but a linguistic one embracing all three of the poet's working languages. Like the remembered world of Proust's Combray in the taste of madeleine dipped in tea, or Blake's World in a Grain of Sand, we taste and see, in this one particular place, and in this one particular form of Vishnu, various protean forms and powers of the divine, and trace a veritable summa of theological, philosophical, and literary designs. Each translated poem forms a chapter in itself, has its own individual short Afterword, along with detailed linguistic and thematic notes and commentary. The volume concludes, for comparative reasons, with a translation of Tirumankaiyavar's luminous cycle of verses for Devanayaka from the...

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