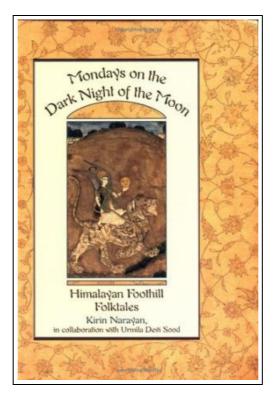
Mondays on the Dark Night of the Moon: Himalayan Foothill Folktales



Filesize: 5.57 MB

Reviews

It is fantastic and great. It usually will not charge an excessive amount of. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

(Modesto Mante)

MONDAYS ON THE DARK NIGHT OF THE MOON: HIMALAYAN FOOTHILL FOLKTALES



Oxford University Press, USA. Paperback. Condition: New. 288 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.2in. x 0.8in.Oral tales establish relationships between storytellers and their listeners. Yet most printed collections of folktales contain only stories, stripped of the human contexts in which they are told. If storytellers are mentioned at all, they are rarely consulted about what meanings they see in their tales. In this innovative book, Indian-American anthropologist Kirin Narayan reproduces twenty-one folktales narrated in a mountain dialect by a middle-aged Indian village woman, Urmila Devi Sood, or Urmilaji. The tales are set within the larger story of Kirin Narayans research in the Himalayan foothill region of Kangra, and of her growing friendship with Urmilaji Sood. In turn, Urmilaji Sood supplements her tales with interpretations of the wisdom that she discerns in their plots. At a moment when the mass-media is flooding through rural India, Urmilaji Sood asserts the value of her tales which have been told and retold across generations. As she says, Television cant teach you these things. These tales serve as both moral instruction and as beguiling entertainment. The first set of tales, focussing on womens domestic rituals, lays out guidelines for female devotion and virtue. Here are tales of a pious washerwoman who brings the dead to life, a female weevil observing fasts for a better rebirth, a barren woman who adopts a frog and lights ritual oil lamps, and a queen who remains with her husband through twelve arduous years of affliction. The women performing these rituals and listening to the accompanying stories are thought to bring good fortune to their marriages, and long life to their relatives. The second set of tales, associated with passing the time around the fire through long winter nights, are magical adventure tales. Urmilaji Sood tells of a matchmaker who marries...



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