



Sacred River: A Himalayan Journey

Dr. Debu Majumdar

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An Indian-American journeys to mystical Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas, searching for peace and renewal. As he travels, a pilgrimage temple near the glacier becomes the target of a gold heist. Pilgrims, thieves, tourists, and events flow toward the temple independently with their individual stories. The life struggles of an illiterate farmer, lofty goals of a charitable organization, desire for fame, romance, and cultural nuance, along with Indian myths and legends, supply colorful threads to the story. Their paths cross and re-cross until the ultimate denouement. As little tributaries flow together to make the magnificent Ganges River, each thread is woven to make a beautiful tapestry with an uplifting conclusion. A Himalayan journey that will touch your soul.

Praise for Sacred River

Sacred River is a deceptively readable novel that begins with murder and ends with a temple treasure hunt. The real treasure, however, is the intervening story which unwraps India itself—its deep history, dramatic geography, captivating people and above all its spirituality, both Hindu and Buddhist. The writing is clear, swift and engaging, as if written for young readers, but readers of every age will enjoy and profit from it. Since at least Tagore, modern Indian writers have offered great gifts to the rest of the world. *Sacred River* is another one.

- Jerry Brady, former newspaper publisher, Peace Corps staff member, and co-founder of one of the world's largest micro-lending organizations, Accion International.

Sacred River graciously introduces us to the old songs and stories about gods and heroes who make sites sacred and pilgrimages fruitful. And as an Indian story of pilgrimage ought to do, *Sacred River* also teaches its readers that the best fruits of pilgrimage are reserved for those who do not seek them.

- David Curley, Professor Emeritus, Western Washington University.

A brilliant novel, which gives a wonderfully vivid flavour of India with all its idiosyncrasies and contradictions. It transports you there, from Delhi to the foothills of the Himalayas, and there is an intriguing glimpse into Hindu beliefs and gods with insightful snippets of scriptures and stories. The novel also involves an ancient manuscript, a mysterious number sequence, and a plot to steal temple treasures. Fascinating and thought provoking that will bowl you along, wanting to know more.

- Barbara Hall, Nibley Green, Gloucestershire, U.K.

Mystery, love and beautiful scenery wrapped into a terrific journey. This book has elements of both a murder/mystery and historical fiction. What is unexpected is the spiritual journey that the author took with his characters, which might also be a pilgrimage of sorts for the reader. There are some great life lessons shared in the book, intertwined with a love story, deception and intrigue and a wonderful travelogue on the trip to the head of the Ganges River. All of these different angles are woven together in a very enjoyable way. It is worth every minute!

- Jim Porell, IBM Distinguished Engineer, retired, Pine Plains, NY.

The spiritual life of India is contrasted with Western interpretations and Native American beliefs, as well as the story of the immigrant to North America searching for something beyond needing to prove oneself. Set within a mystery tale of a hunt for temple treasures in India, *Sacred River* reveals a convoluted route of self-discovery where solutions are not always what they seem, and lives connect and intersect within a grander

scale beyond the self.

- Jade Gibson, PhD, author of *GLOWFLY DANCE (2015)*, Cape town, South Africa

Sacred River gives a fascinating insight into Hindu faith and practices, and also into Indian daily life. Marvelous local color. A very enjoyable read.

- Jean Datta, Retired English translator, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna, Austria

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