

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955540003321
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Titolo	Offering flowers, feeding skulls : popular goddess worship in West Bengal / / June McDaniel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 2004
ISBN	9780195347135 0195347137 0-19-516791-0 9786610560356 1-4237-5659-2 0-19-029056-0 1-280-56035-5 0-19-534713-7 0-19-984997-8
Descrizione fisica	x, 356 p
Disciplina	294.5/514/095414
Soggetti	Kali (Hindu deity) - Cult - India - West Bengal Shaktism - India - West Bengal West Bengal (India) Religious life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [341]-352) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Notes on Transliteration -- Introduction -- 1. Folk Shaktism: Life with the Goddess -- 2. Tantric and Yogic Shaktism: Knowledge of the Goddess's Ways -- 3. Shakta Bhakti: Devotion to the Goddess -- 4. The Great Bhakti Goddesses of West Bengal: Durga and Kali -- 5. Shaktism and the Modern West: Kundalini Vacations and Tantric Honeymoons -- 6. Conclusions -- Notes -- Diacritical List -- Bibliography -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Y.
Sommario/riassunto	In Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls, June McDaniel provides an exhaustive, accessibly written overview of Bengali goddess worship or Shakti. McDaniel identifies three major forms of goddess worship, and examines each through its myths, folklore, songs, rituals, sacred texts,

and practitioners. She traces these strands through Bengali culture and explores how they are interwoven with each other as well as with other forms of Hinduism and other forms of religion. McDaniel also discusses how Shakti practices have been reinterpreted in the West, where goddess worship has gained the values of sexual freedom and psychological healing, but lost its emphases on devotion and asceticism. She takes the reader inside the lives of practicing Shaktas, including religious professionals, hymn singers, philosophers, visionaries, gurus, and even a businessman, and offers vivid descriptions of their rituals, practices, and daily lives. Drawing on years of fieldwork and extensive research, McDaniel paints a rich, expansive portrait of this fascinating religious tradition.

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