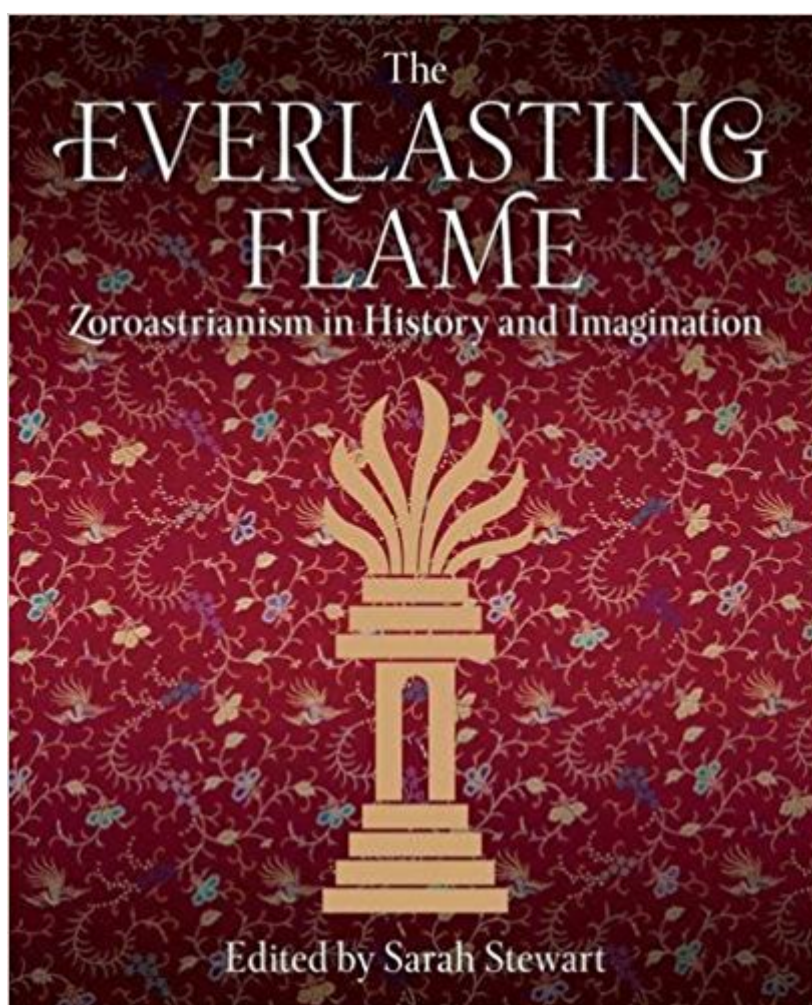


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The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism In History And Imagination (International Library Of Historical Studies)



Synopsis

With such ancient beginnings, Zoroastrianism is as remarkably enduring as it is venerable. It has also been influential beyond its own followers, interacting with other, younger faiths: especially their views on evil, messianic notions and ideas about the last days. The power of its sacred scriptures, the Gathas, and the resonance of the message of its founder, Zarathustra (or Zoroaster) transformed it from small beginnings into the principal religion of Iran until the advent of Islam. This richly illustrated book explores the chief themes of Zoroastrianism: its rise during the second millennium BCE; its doctrines, rituals and teachings; its growth into the foremost faith of the Achaemenid and Parthian empires; its consolidation under the Sasanians; its expansion east to China; and the impact it had on Judaism, Christianity and Islam. From Iran to the west coast of India, the story continues with the maritime exodus of the Zoroastrians and their settlement as an immigrant community (now called 'Parsis') under British colonial rule. With chapters by world-leading authorities, this is a vital record of the arts, literatures and cultures of one of the world's most fascinating religious traditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book: "The Everlasting Flame, Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination", may probably be the first, and if not the first, certainly the most far reaching in depth and breadth, of an exhibition catalogue on the history, art and culture of the Zarathushtrian Religion. It is a print documentation of an exhibition, bearing the same title, that was on display at the Brunei Gallery of the School of

Oriental and African Studies affiliated with the University of London, from 11 October to 14 December in 2013 A.D. The sponsors of the exhibition comprise an almost "Who's Who List" of the Zoroastrian world, while the authors of the various articles are renowned scholars in their areas of expertise. The reproduction of art work, portraits, facsimiles is excellent and well laid out, so are the texts, fonts and diagrams. Some of the portraits and art work, may be in public view for the first time. The catalogue refreshes our memory of a previous 2002 art publication of 762 folio pages, namely, "A Zoroastrian Tapestry: Art, Religion and Culture", edited by Pheroza J. Godrej and Firoza Punthakey-Mistree, who incidentally are also co-curators of this exhibition. But, two of the sections of this catalogue needs some improvements. The "Bibliography" of this catalogue needs more citations at some places, while the "Glossary" can be described in one word as pathetic. For instance in the glossary, the term "Khordeh Avesta" is explained as "Prayer Book". Really!! The glossary occupies only two pages and the explanations are so terse, for some terms, that they offer no substantial meaning.

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