

# Authority in Three Worlds

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Author Capps argues that God has restored mankind's authority in the earth through the rebirth of the human spirit. He has given back to man that which Satan stole from Adam.

### Other Books

Textual Authority in Classical Indian Thought. Theistic Vedānta originated with Rāmānuja (1077-1157), who was one of the foremost theologians of Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta and also an initiate of the Śrīvaiṣṇava sectarian tradition in South India. As devotees of the God Visnu and his consort Śrī, the Śrīvaiṣṇavas established themselves through various processes of legitimation as a powerful sectarian tradition. One of the processes by which the authority of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas was consolidated was Rāmānuja's synthesis of popular Hindu devotionalism with the philosophy of Vedānta. This book demonstrates that by incorporating a text often thought to be of secondary importance - the Visnu Purāṇa (1st-4th CE) - into his reading of the Upanisads, which were the standard of orthodoxy for Vedānta philosophy, Rāmānuja was able to interpret Vedānta within the theistic context of Śrīvaiṣṇavism. Rāmānuja was the first Brahmin thinker to incorporate devotional purāṇas into Vedānta philosophy. His synthetic theology called Viśiṣṭādvaita (unity-of-the-differenced) wielded tremendous influence over the expansion of Visnu devotionalism in South India and beyond. In this book, the exploration of the exegetical function of this purāṇa in arguments salient to Rāmānuja's Vedānta facilitates our understanding of the processes of textual accommodation and reformulation that allow the incorporation of divergent doctrinal claims. Expanding on and reassessing current views on Rāmānuja's theology, the book contributes new insights to broader issues in religious studies such as canon expansion, commentarial interpretation, tradition-building, and the comparative study of scripture. It will be of interest to students and scholars of Indian philosophy and Religious Studies.

... to denote a Brahman completely devoid of attributes nor indicate the world as a result of ignorance (avidya-), ... of the very next chapter, VP 2.13, as well: You have told me how the three worlds exist supported (a-dha-ra) by Vis."