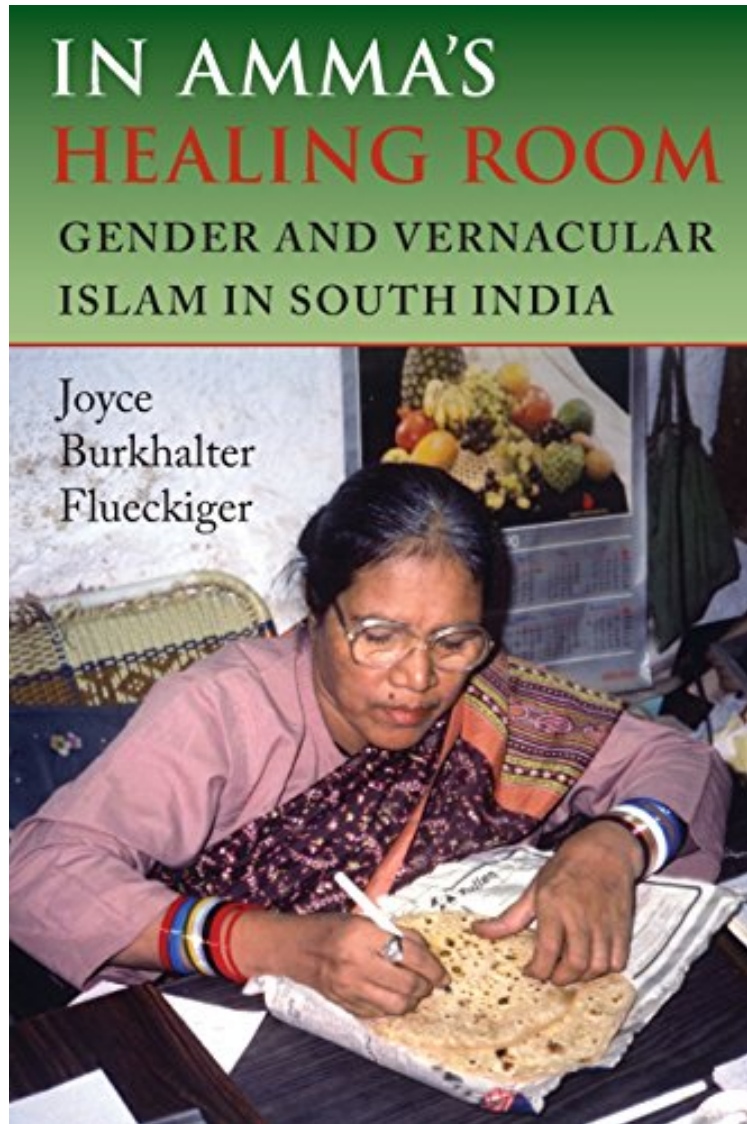


(Ebook free) In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India

# In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India

Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger

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**Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger : In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Cultural ReadBy Kylie HewittCame on time and in the condition the company said it was in."In Amma's Healing Room" was an extremely interesting look at cross-religious

healing. There were some slow spots of the book but I really enjoyed reading it in my Cultures of South Asia anthropology course. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Valuable Ethnography of Gender in Islam, Healing and Performance By The Light Fantastic Since there is only one review at the moment, a slightly negative one, I felt the need to write a more balanced review of this very interesting book. "In Amma's Healing Room" is an ethnography centered around a Muslim spiritual healer in Hyderabad, India, referred to as "Amma" (mother), and her "healing room," or the room of her house where she sets up her healing practice and sees patients. Although the book is an academic, scholarly work that will be of primary interest to scholars interested in anthropology and south asian studies, it is written in a clear and fluid (jargon-free) style that makes it easily accessible to non-scholars as well. Those interested in Sufism may find the book particularly interesting, as Amma and her family are Sufis and her husband (Abba) is a "pir" or Sufi teacher. One of the many strengths of the book is its description of practices that take place around the periphery of what might generally be presented as the core of Sufism. Another strength of the book is Prof Flueckiger's evident respect for Amma, her healing system, her clients, and the cultural and religious milieu. She does not resort to some of the more common models sometimes used in anthropology to "explain" the effects of religious healing rituals through cultural, symbolic and cognitive models. Rather, she attends to the performative aspects of Amma's healing practices and narratives, and to the connection Amma establishes with her patients, in discussing how Amma's healing "works." The book is engaging throughout, and scholars and students interested in gender in Islam, feminist ethnography, and performance studies will find it of particular interest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By sikudhani Lively and evocative; very readable ethnography for students in anthropology of religion courses.

[I]t is extremely salubrious to see the ways Islam works in the lives of ordinary people who are not politicized in their religious lives.... No other book on South Asia has material like this." Ann Grodzins Gold In Amma's Healing Room is a compelling study of the life and thought of a female Muslim spiritual healer in Hyderabad, South India. Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger describes Amma's practice as a form of vernacular Islam arising in a particular locality, one in which the boundaries between Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity are fluid. In the "healing room," Amma meets a diverse clientele that includes men and women, Muslim, Hindu, and Christian, of varied social backgrounds, who bring a wide range of physical, social, and psychological afflictions. Flueckiger collaborated closely with Amma and relates to her at different moments as daughter, disciple, and researcher. The result is a work of insight and compassion that challenges widely held views of religion and gender in India and reveals the creativity of a tradition often portrayed by Muslims and non-Muslims alike as singular and monolithic.

. . . This is a timely ethnography . . . in a time in which the high volume of negative religious rhetoric about Islam and in the name of Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity have subsumed the centrality of love in religious teachings and rituals. (Anthropological Quarterly) In Amma's Healing Room is a terrific book. Well structured and well written, it will be a great addition to courses on religious ethnography, popular and contemporary Islam, South Asian religions, ritual studies, and gender studies. 88.2, April 2008 (the Journal of Religion) Only rarely are books powerful enough to capture the imaginations and emotions of our students: this is one such book. Vol. 48.1 May 2009 (Susan Snow Wadley Syracuse University) This book is a compelling ethnographic study . . . Flueckiger's work goes a long way towards shattering the categories and fixed identities commonly associated with South Asia. . . . The emphasis on gender makes this work even more invaluable for anyone trying to study religion in South Asia, or indeed, Islam, as a lived experience. V.29.2 July 2009 (South Asia Research). . . In Amma's Healing Room is a well-written ethnographic study of a complex and sensitive domain of Muslim religious experience and, as such, is a very welcome addition not only to the expanding body of anthropological work on Islam as a world religion. It broadens the anthropological understanding of the various forms taken by Islamic religious authority and offers new insights into the vitality and diversity of Muslim ritual practices in South Asia. Vol.15. 1 March 2009 (Magnus Marsden School of Oriental and African Studies) This informative study is well illustrated with the author's photographs and immensely suitable for undergraduate and graduate students. . . . Highly recommended. (Choice) [I]t is extremely salubrious to see the ways Islam works in the lives of ordinary people who are not politicized in their religious lives. . . . No other book on South Asia has material like this. (Ann Grodzins Gold) From the Publisher Winner, 2007 Georgia Author of the Year awards, nonfiction/biography category