



Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion)

By Wendy Doniger

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger

Hindu and Greek mythologies teem with stories of women and men who are doubled, who double themselves, who are seduced by gods doubling as mortals, whose bodies are split or divided. In *Splitting the Difference*, the renowned scholar of mythology Wendy Doniger recounts and compares a vast range of these tales from ancient Greece and India, with occasional recourse to more recent "double features" from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to *Face/Off*.

Myth, Doniger argues, responds to the complexities of the human condition by multiplying or splitting its characters into unequal parts, and these sloughed and cloven selves animate mythology's prodigious plots of sexuality and mortality. Doniger's comparisons show that ultimately differences in gender are more significant than differences in culture; Greek and Indian stories of doubled women resemble each other more than they do tales of doubled men in the same culture. In casting Hindu and Greek mythologies as shadows of each other, Doniger shows that culture is sometimes but the shadow of gender.

 [Download Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancie ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Anc ...pdf](#)

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion)

By Wendy Doniger

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger

Hindu and Greek mythologies teem with stories of women and men who are doubled, who double themselves, who are seduced by gods doubling as mortals, whose bodies are split or divided. In *Splitting the Difference*, the renowned scholar of mythology Wendy Doniger recounts and compares a vast range of these tales from ancient Greece and India, with occasional recourse to more recent "double features" from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to *Face/Off*.

Myth, Doniger argues, responds to the complexities of the human condition by multiplying or splitting its characters into unequal parts, and these sloughed and cloven selves animate mythology's prodigious plots of sexuality and mortality. Doniger's comparisons show that ultimately differences in gender are more significant than differences in culture; Greek and Indian stories of doubled women resemble each other more than they do tales of doubled men in the same culture. In casting Hindu and Greek mythologies as shadows of each other, Doniger shows that culture is sometimes but the shadow of gender.

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #934595 in Books
- Published on: 1999-04-15
- Released on: 1999-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 383 pages



[Download Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancie ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Anc ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Respected scholar and writer Wendy Doniger brilliantly traces the many instances of doubling, splitting, and impersonation in ancient Greek and Hindu mythology, comparing, for example, the illusory Sita in many versions of the *Ramayana* with the illusory Helen of Troy, from Plato to Iris Murdoch. She also touches on later versions of the myths, such as Victorian descendants of Narcissus: Dr. Jekyll and Dorian Gray. This is academic writing at its most enjoyable: sprightly, rich, and unpredictable, elaborating the sort of satisfying and far-reaching connections that one finds in a Henry James novel or a Shakespearean comedy. Why compare these two distant cultures at all? "I am arguing first that ancient Greeks and Indians are cousins," Doniger explains, "and then that all women are sisters." In her introduction, she asserts that myths derive much of "their power and endurance from their ability to express a deeply troubling paradox that everyone in the community shares and no one can solve." Duplicitous lovers beware. --*Regina Marler*

From Library Journal

Doniger, a distinguished professor of the history of religion at the University of Chicago and author of several previous studies of mythology, has written a perceptive and compelling new book on gendered themes in classical Greek and Hindu mythology. But while her comparative focus is on tales from those two cultures and eras, her insights extend to later cultural stories and contemporary variations on ancient themes. Each chapter examines an aspect of the doubling or splitting of women, and sometimes men, and the cultural and mythic functions of such divisions. While the stories are inflected by both gender and culture, Doniger concludes that gender is more significant in determining the relationships between the myths. Throughout, she interprets the stories, old and new, in terms of fundamental aspects of the human psyche, illuminating the ways in which "myth responds to complexities of the human condition." Well written and engaging, this book should appeal to specialists and generalists alike. A Julia Burch, Cambridge, MA

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Doniger believes that by uncovering resemblances in unrelated stories she can establish common themes in mythology. But she doesn't stop there. Identifying likenesses is also a path to revealing subtle but significant differences, she says. If scholars accept her conclusions, Doniger's latest project seems destined to become a milestone in the study of mythology. -- *Jeff Sharlet, Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 26, 1999

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rebecca Wheeler:

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can know everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A book Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think this open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

Clara Bearden:

Is it you actually who having spare time then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Kelly Blow:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that question was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. So you know that little person like reading or as looking at become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is actually Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion).

Timothy Rhine:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is created or printed or descriptive from each source which filled update of news. Within this modern era like today, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just searching for the Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) when you needed it?

Download and Read Online Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger #SMK1CJ5OUFB

Read Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger for online ebook

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger books to read online.

Online Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger ebook PDF download

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger Doc

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger MobiPocket

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger EPub

SMK1CJ5OUFB: Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion) By Wendy Doniger