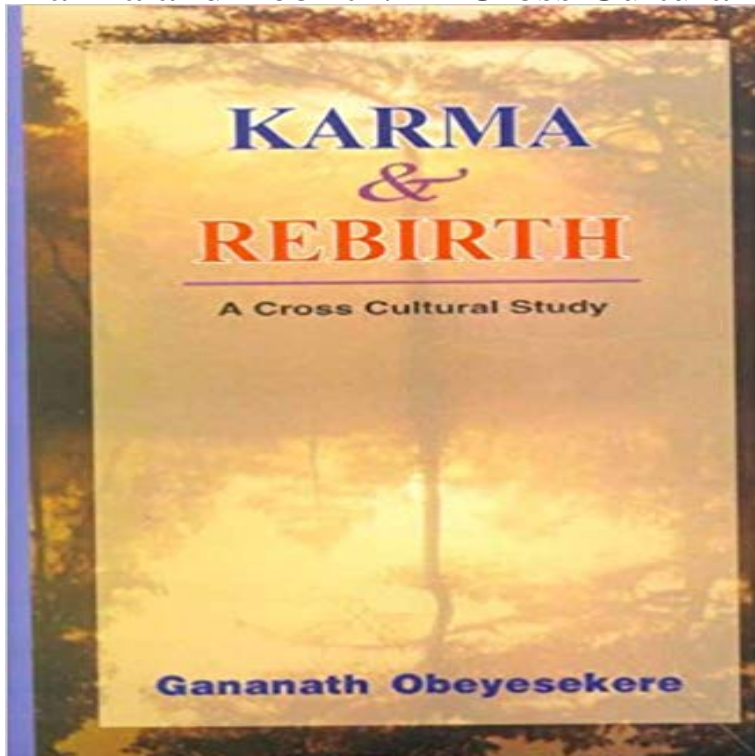


# Karma and Rebirth: A Cross Cultural Study



With *Karma and Rebirth: A Cross Cultural Study* on the very first comparison of rebirth concepts across a wide range of cultures. Exploring in rich detail the beliefs of small scale indigenous societies of West Africa, Melanesia, and North America, Obeyesekere compares their ideas with those of the ancient and modern Indic civilizations and with the Greek rebirth theories of Pythagoras, Empedocles, Pindar and Plato. His groundbreaking and authoritative discussion decenters the popular notion that India was the origin and locus of ideas of rebirth.

Reincarnation is the philosophical or religious concept that an aspect of a living being starts a . In ancient European, Iranian and Indian agricultural cultures, the life cycles of Depending upon the accumulated karma, rebirth occurs into a higher or . However the inter-relation of Manicheanism, Orphism, Gnosticism and

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