

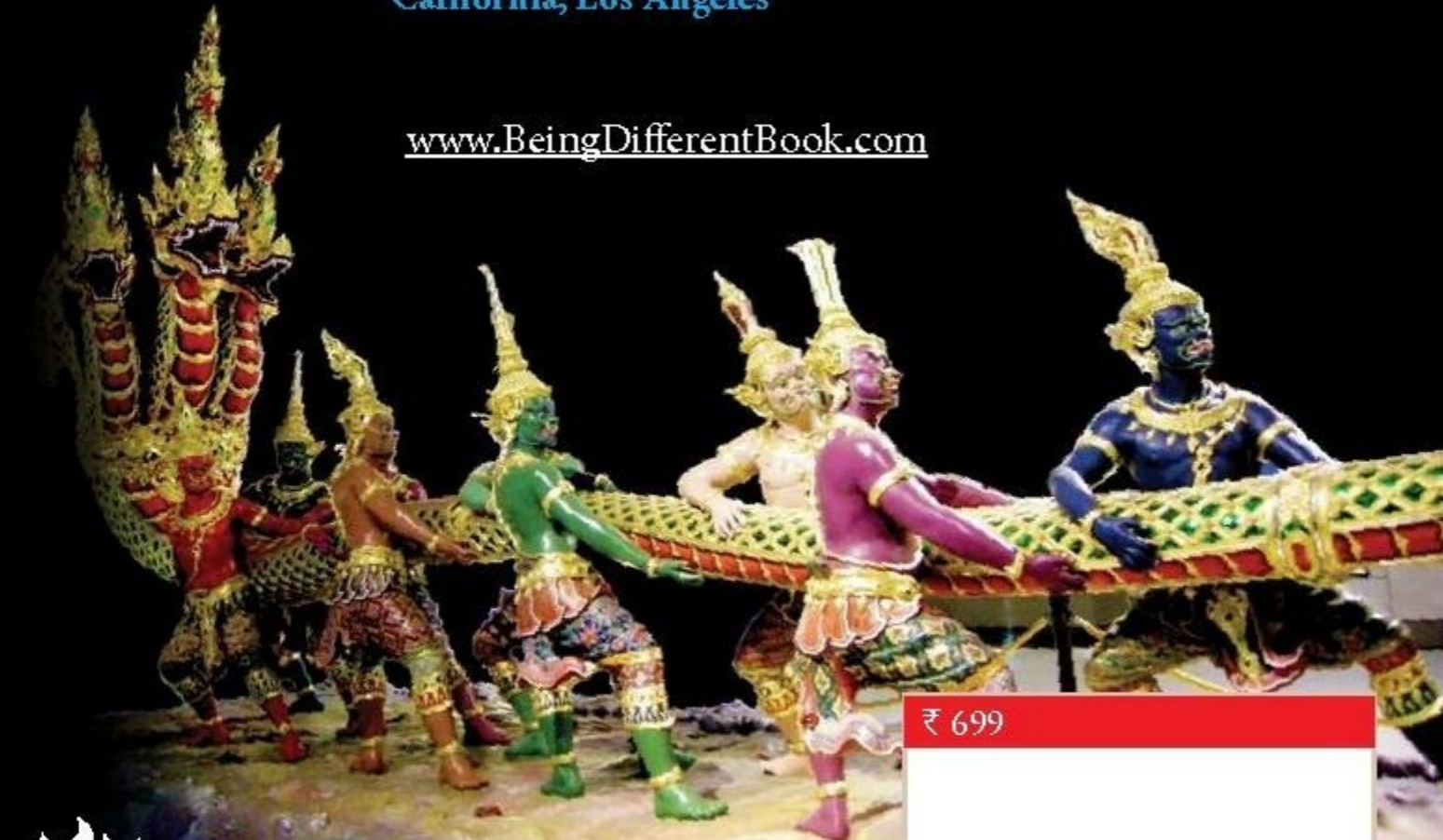
RAJIV MALHOTRA is an Indian-American researcher and public intellectual on current affairs, world religions, cross-cultural encounters and science. A scientist by training, he was previously a senior corporate executive, strategic consultant and entrepreneur in information technology and media. He is the author of *Breaking India* (Amaryllis, 2011), was the chief protagonist in *Invading the Sacred* (Rupa & Co.), and is an active writer and speaker. He is chairman of the Board of Governors of the India Studies program at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

'This highly original book leads its reader on an epic journey of self-discovery especially for those of us in the West. A fitting and major response to Samuel Huntington's position on "who are we" as the West; one that can perhaps best be provided by someone reversing the gaze on the West through a non-Western lens. This deserves to be one of the defining books of the age' – **JOHN M. HOBSON**, author of *The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics* and Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield

'This is a memorable book asking us to put aside modernity's tired categories and lazy comparisons, and at last to take seriously the Indian perspective on history and our world today. *Being different* is here a necessary virtue, essential to understanding our neighbours and ourselves. Much reflection and many a good argument should follow upon Malhotra's unique achievement' – **FRANCIS X. CLOONEY**, Society of Jesus, and Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

'This is the first book of its kind looking at the West from India's dharmic standpoint, and is certain to provoke a major debate for years to come. Rajiv Malhotra's writings have established him as a 'different', extremely original and robust thinker of our times. In the present volume, he forcefully challenges what he terms the West's 'self-serving universalism' which has been superimposed as a 'template' for all nations and peoples. He succeeds in stimulating the mind, stirring the thinking and making readers sit up and join him in his alternative approaches' – **D.R. SARDESAI**, Emeritus Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles

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Cover design Shuka Jain
Cover photograph Rajiv Malhotra
www.harpercollins.co.in

₹ 699

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AN INDIAN
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India is more than a nation state. It is also a unique civilization with philosophies and cosmologies that are markedly distinct from the dominant culture of our times – the West. India's spiritual traditions spring from dharma which has no exact equivalent in Western frameworks. Unfortunately, in the rush to celebrate the growing popularity of India on the world stage, its civilizational matrix is being co-opted into Western universalism, thereby diluting its distinctiveness and potential.

In *Being Different: An Indian Challenge to Western Universalism*, thinker and philosopher Rajiv Malhotra addresses the challenge of a direct and honest engagement on differences, by reversing the gaze, repositioning India from being the observed to the observer and looking at the West from the dharmic point of view. In doing so, he challenges many hitherto unexamined beliefs that both sides hold about themselves and each other. He highlights that while unique historical revelations are the basis for Western religions, dharma emphasizes self-realization in the body here and now. He also points out the integral unity that underpins dharma's metaphysics and contrasts this with Western thought and history as a synthetic unity.

Erudite and engaging, *Being Different* critiques fashionable reductive translations, analyses the West's anxiety over difference and fixation for order which runs in contrast with the creative role of chaos in dharma, and concludes with a rebuttal against Western claims of universalism, while recommending a multi-civilizational worldview.

The cover image depicts samudra-manthana which is explained in Chapter 4.