



## MY HANUMAN CHALISA

*Devdutt Pattanaik*

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Reflecting on one of Hinduism's most popular prayer for positive energy

Acclaimed mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik demystifies the Hanuman Chalisa for the contemporary reader.

His unique approach makes the ancient hymn accessible, combined as it is with his trademark illustrations.

Every time we experience negativity in the world and within ourselves, every time we encounter jealousy, rage and frustration, manifesting as violation and violence, we hear, or read, the Hanuman Chalisa.

Composed over four hundred years ago by Tulsidas, its simple words in Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi and its simple metre, musically and very potently evoke the mythology, history and mystery of Hanuman, the much-loved Hindu deity, through whom Vedic wisdom reached the masses. As verse follows verse, our frightened, crumpled mind begins to expand with knowledge and insight and our faith in humanity, both within and without, is restored.

## MY HANUMAN CHALISA Details

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## **From Reader Review MY HANUMAN CHALISA for online ebook**

### **Surabhi Sharma says**

Hanuman Chalisa was composed by Tulsidas four centuries ago in Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi. Chalisa means a poem of forty verses. However, Hanuman Chalisa is composed of forty-three verses and out of these forty-three verses, forty verses are chaupai or quatrains (verses with four short, rhythmic segments). Framing these are three dohas or couplets (verses with two long, rhythmic segments), two at the beginning and one at the end of Hanuman Chalisa.

My Hanuman Chalisa is written to bring a simpler version for the devotees of Hanuman or anyone who is interested in Hinduism or mythological readers.

Easy to read and understand and illustrations by the author himself make the book lively and interactive. He is a master storyteller and the book is a must buy. Take my words and go for it.

<https://thereviewauthor.com/>

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### **Keshav says**

I picked it up at the airport bookstore looking for a breezy read. The book promised me 90% accuracy in the preface - it was a tall claim for someone as learned and rigorous researcher as Mr. Pattnaik /s, and I was not disappointed in my low expectations. Conveniently adding the first two letters to the book title seem to have absolved Pattnaik of all responsibility, and the book is full of shoddy elaborations and tropes which are neither new nor elucidating. He should've best kept it to himself, this "his" Hanuman Chalisa.

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### **Abhishek Shekhar says**

Though I know all verses of Hanuman Chalisa by heart but still I liked reading this book/commentary on it. Author has linked so many things together that one gets a wider perspective of everything. It creates a sense of appreciation for author and a sense of respect to original author/ poet Tulsidas. Inspires one to read Ramcharitmanas and Valmiki Ramayan. If these 40 verses rhymes so well what would the whole Ramcharitmanas would be like. And if that's beautiful how good would be Valmiki Ramayan... can't wait to read those. Thanks to the author for making this available to common men.

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### **Dikshant Jain says**

The author has very beautifully presented each verse in its traditional and modern sense while comparing it simultaneously to other religions and beliefs.

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## Swapnil Tembe says

I don't know if this kicks me out of my agnostic indulgence but I have become a follower of Lord Hanuman or perhaps the idea of Hanuman, someone who represents knowledge, strength and devotion. Simply reciting the Hauman Chalisa and fasting on Tuesdays wasn't apparently enough and I wanted to understand to a greater depth what this text was about.

And who else to the rescue but Devdutt Pattanaik. I wouldn't say its the best of his work but an essential read for the followers of Pavanputra. Each chaupai has a reference and triggers to it. It is relatively a small text but surely provides some folklore that you might not have come across about the mighty Hanuman. A definite read for the Tuesday fasting group, others have a choice.

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## Vibhooti says

I won't call myself an atheist or a complete religious either. But I have some kind of belief in Hanuman Chalisa; it has had given me strength during my toughest times. Whenever I read it or listen to it, my frightened and restless mind finds a way to positive and optimistic vibes.

This book is a detailed reflection on this most popular religious hymn and one of the best suited for any contemporary reader. After finishing this, it sure to make you feel more connected whenever you read or hear Hanuman Chalisa next.

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## Veena says

While Tulsidas created a Chalisa to bring the Hanuman closer to those who wanted to think of him in prayers, Devdutt Patnaik has brought Chalisa for those who want to understand the Chalisa that they recite during the prayers. While tulsidas's Chalisa is full of praises of Lord hanumna, Patnaik's Chalisa explains Tulsidas's Chalisa with the back-stories and epics about Hanuman.

The Chalisa begins with two dohas to clean the mind as a temple. And ends with asking a blessing from the God himself. In between are forty chaupais that are sung in the praise of Lord Hanuman. Each chaupai here is typed in the Devanagari script after which comes the transliteration and then comes the translation. The first is the original chaupai. Second is to help people with the pronunciation and third to give them a literal translation.

After each chaupai the author gives us the back story or the understanding of the verse. These stories are taken from the epics of Ramayan, Mahabharata and other tales of Hanuman. These stories are what we have all grown up listening to but it is the first time I have built up the connection to each chaupai. While clearly explaining the meaning of each chaupai, Patnaik also clears out the evidence of there being different forms of Hanuman being worshipped everywhere. One should not go into the literal translation as this is meant only to nourish the soul. The author also talks about Hinduism as a religion and common practices in it and how is it different from other religions. Many concepts of Hinduism have been touched upon in this book that are beautiful when read. This book also sets travel goals for the readers. Watch out for a temple where Hanuman is worshipped with his consort and one where he wears a nose ring to appear as a woman.

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## Ajay Sant says

If there is one book that brings positivity and smile to millions of people its undoubtedly Hanuman Chalisa.

Composed by Shree Tulsidas four centuries ago in the Gangetic plains in avadhi language, it is composed of 43 chaupai and 3 dohas, it has an appeal across the economic strata and the length and breadth of the country.

The author takes the reader through the chaupais of hanuman chalisa sequentially and explains the literal meanings of the chaupais and he also elaborates on the subtle and hidden meanings of the chaupais. The way Devdutt elaborates the chaupai it resembles the ancient Indian tradition of guru elaborating the hidden meaning of chaupais, sholkas, etc.

In the book Devdutt cites an example where through the rebirth cycles of life and death, Hanuman as a kid narrated the story of Ramayan to his mother Anjana about how they created the bridge and defeated Ravana she was not impressed and asked why he didn't just swing his tail and destroyed Lanka instead of going through all the hula hoop of bridge building. He replied because "Ram didn't ask him to".

Hanuman understood that Ramayan was Ram's story, not his.

While explaining one of the verses the author brings out a beautiful point wherein he says It is not by accident that the word for ghosts, "bhoot", also means the past in hindi.

There are so many other incidents and analogies which the author brings out that one can say the scope of the book is not limited to explaining the meaning of Hanuman Chalisa but goes beyond to examine the relationship a God (Ram) and his biggest Devotee (Hanuman).

This book is a good read for anyone wanting to know the meaning of chaupai's in Hanuman Chalisa or if someone wants to examine the relationship between Ram and Hanuman.

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## Ashish says

### Loved it.

I am a fan of the chalisa since my childhood. I enjoyed the meaning and the context that is explained by the author in this book.

He elucidates a lot of hidden meanings and also correlates different thoughts of the time of composition of the chalisa in this work.

I enjoyed the piece throughout, although it took me longer than usual to finish it since it is quite thought provoking.

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## Privy Trifles says

My rating: 5\*

I have always enjoyed Devdutt Pattanaik's books because of their simplicity in decoding mythology and explaining their intricacies so well. Hanuman Chalisa which is sung in praise of Lord Hanuman has been one of the most recited hymn. Since childhood I have been taught to recite it the moment I feel scared of anything and somehow it always reassures me that I am taken care of.

Read the whole review on my blog: <http://www.privetryfles.co.in/2017/07...>

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## Parth Agrawal says

I was amazed at the title--> "My" Hanuman Chalisa. How can one own a hymn?

What he meant was his interpretation of the the Chalisa and if I'm being honest, it isn't too far from the generalized interpretation of the same

It is a very short book and even I'm surprised that I liked it so much as I had very low hopes in the beginning. Well this underestimation can be partly blamed to the inherent negative bias that most of the people from my generation share and when I say it is a negative bias, it is against religion or religious beliefs. We belong to the era where credit for everything miraculous, be it talking to a person from one part of the planet to the other or covering thousands of miles in a matter of hours, can be very easily attributed to science. Don't worry I'm not trying to start the age old argument of Science Vs Theology here but just wanted to turn the direction of my readers towards emotions of fear of emptiness or the discomfiture when everything seems too peaceful or our heads going bonkers when the familiar noises of the big city in which have lived or aspire to live just isn't there. Science has enabled us to measure everything and has provided us the way to customize anything which is measurable as per our own convenience but what about the stuff which cannot be measured? Happiness? Sorrow? Peace? I'll be honest, I don't think atleast I have reached that level of enlightenment

My mum has always told me that I should read Hanuman Chalisa and whenever I used to ask her why, following were the reasons that were offered to me:

- 1) Because it helps you to fight negative thoughts (Boring!!!)
- 2) Because it'll help you achieve what you want to achieve (Umm, The word is hardwork ma!!)
- 3) Because everyone does it ( Ohh come on!!!)

Hilarious isn't it? What's even more hilarious is that for the first time in my life I have had a reason to read this document. The author has not only explained each and every chaupai(as they call it), but in the process he also dispelled all my doubts and answered almost all of my questions regarding why should I be reading this. Not only has he explained the verses, he has also touched upon the topics of monotheism, polytheism, and a latest addition to my lexicon, Kathenotheism

Its not only the word which is fancy but also its meaning. Kathenotheism is the word with which hinduism has always been associated and i thought being a hindu i should know this. Kathenotheism means that in this particular school of thought, you worship a deity at a time without disrespecting the other deities. Obvious

corollary of this is that any hindu deity whom worship be it Krishna, Vishnu, Shiva, Ganesh etc, all are a partial representative of THE GOD or popularly known as "Isht Dev" in Hindi. It propounds the idea that God is limitless and all the manifestations we are aware of, they are just the parts representing the whole

I won't urge anyone to read this as this is one of those milestones you just come across accidentally. Nobody suggested this book to me either

Jai Bajrangbali!!

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### **Nethra Ram says**

I liked having Pattnaik's version of the explanation but as I do with all mythology I had a huge problem with the metaphors. They leave so much to interpretation and perception that I quite often think its because of such contorted storytelling we've arrived at an intolerant and conservative modern society, especially in its treatment of women. Perhaps one day I shall find better explanations for every damn thing!

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### **Asha Gopalakrishnan says**

This book happened just when I was beginning to get interested in the Hanuman Chalisa, and was wondering how i would surmount the language problem and understand what it means. Not just the timing, but the content is perfect too.

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### **Sankalpita (bookGeeks India) says**

Read my detailed review here - <https://www.bookgeeks.in/my-hanuman-c...>

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### **Pranjal Srivastava says**

I read Hanuman Chalisa twice a week but no body told me meaning and depiction of the same in such detail.

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