Suggested Viewing

*Amar, Akbar, Anthony* (Bollywood classic of the late 1970’s, starring Amitabh Bachchan, that focuses on religious harmony – among many other things.)

*Devi* (Satyajit Ray drama about a girl whose parents believe she may the avatar of a goddess.)

*Earth* (Deepa Mehta's film version of Bapsi Sidhwa’s novel, Cracking India, about the dislocations of partition in 1947)

*Forest of Bliss* (Robert Gardner’s narrationless documentary on life in Varanasi.)

*Gandhi* (Richard Attenborough’s mid-1980’s biopic; a bit hagiographic, but still an interesting overview of Gandhi’s life.)

*Lagaan* (2001 Bollywood film in which feuding communities in a Punjabi town unite to take on their imperial masters in cricket.)

*Mahabharata* (Three-part, 5-1/2-hour condensation of Peter Brook’s 11-hour stage version of the great Indian epic.)

*The Story of India* (Excellent 6-part PBS/BBC series that includes many of the places we will visit on the AA tour.)

Suggested Reading


Basham, A. L. *The Wonder that Was India.* New York: Picador, 2005. (Still the classic account of pre-Muslim India.)


Dimock, Edward and Denise Levertov. *In Praise of Krishna: Songs from the Bengali.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981. (A great scholar and a great poet team up to produce vesion of Hindu devotional poetry in their erotic power.)

Doniger, Wendy. *Siva: The Erotic Ascetic.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1981. (Scholarly but well written analysis of the paradoxes on the great Hindu god – which are the paradoxes of Indian culture, as well.)


*Heehs, Peter. *Indian Religions: A Historical Reader of Spiritual Experience and Expression*. New York: NYU Press, 2002. (Good one-volume anthology of Indian religious writings.)


Larson, Gerald James. *India’s Agony Over Religion*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1995. (Study of Indian religions that focuses with special intensity on recent religious conflicts.)


Mann, Gurunder Singh. *Sikhism*. New York: Prentice Hall, 2003. (Good, readable introduction to the most recent of India’s great religions.)


Mishra, Pankaj, *An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World*. New York: Picador, 2005. (Fascinating meditation on the Buddha, both in his own time and as a significant thinker for the modern world.)


*Highly recommended*