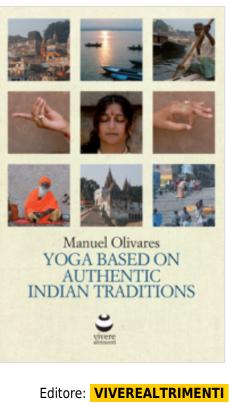
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## YOGA BASED ON AUTHENTIC INDIAN TRADITIONS: POSTURES, BREATHING EXECISES, MEDITATION AND AYURVEDA FROM BENARES TO THE WEST

di Manuel Olivares

The topic of this book is the ancient discipline of yoga, with a particular focus on a specific school of traditional Hatha Yoga settled in the heart of Benares (India), the oldest inhabited and functioning town in the world. Smriti Singh is the founder and gualified teacher of the mentioned school (Om Yoga Health Society). She was born in Benares on December 3, 1976. In autumn 2009, the teachings of Smriti Singh based on authentic Indian traditions made their way to Europe (Belgium and Holland) sponsored by Association Belge des Enseignants et Pratiguants de Yoga. It was a first step on the way of internationalization, followed by two more "European tours" in 2010 and 2011. The spreading of these yogic seeds, from their strong spiritual Indian matrix, is coherent with a bigger phenomenon: the rising role of India in history; a good presupposition for its deeper cultural influence. In the subcontinent Benares represents one fundamental *tirtha* (holy place), one jewel box where an ancestral spiritual knowledge has been preserved by what Mircea Eliade called "the corruption of the history". Something from this treasure could be wisely invested in a necessary intercultural dialogue of postmodern age. A yoga-teacher of the level of Smriti Singh, who started to learn yoga from her mother before learning to walk, has all the resources to be among the protagonists of this difficult but suggestive mutual exchange.

## L'AUTORE

**Manuel Olivares** is a sociologist, writer and publisher, author of 7 books in Italian. Since 2005 he has been living for most of his time in Benares (India), practicing regularly yoga with Smriti Singh and doing research on yoga matters. This is his first book of a trilogy about Indian culture. The second one, about Kumbha Mela and the third one, about beliefs of Jesus' stay in India have been already published in Italian.