

The Raika Jati and Its Dharmic Order

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KEYWORDS Caste. Raika. *Dharma*. Religion

ABSTRACT Caste and religion are interconnected. A caste often defines itself in religious terms. This paper offers an examples of a caste in Rajasthan, the Raika, which believes to have originated from one of the Hindu Trinitarian deities. Lord Shiva. The latter also assigned a set of duties (*dharma*) for the Raikas. Today, the Raikas define themselves in terms of these *dharmas*.