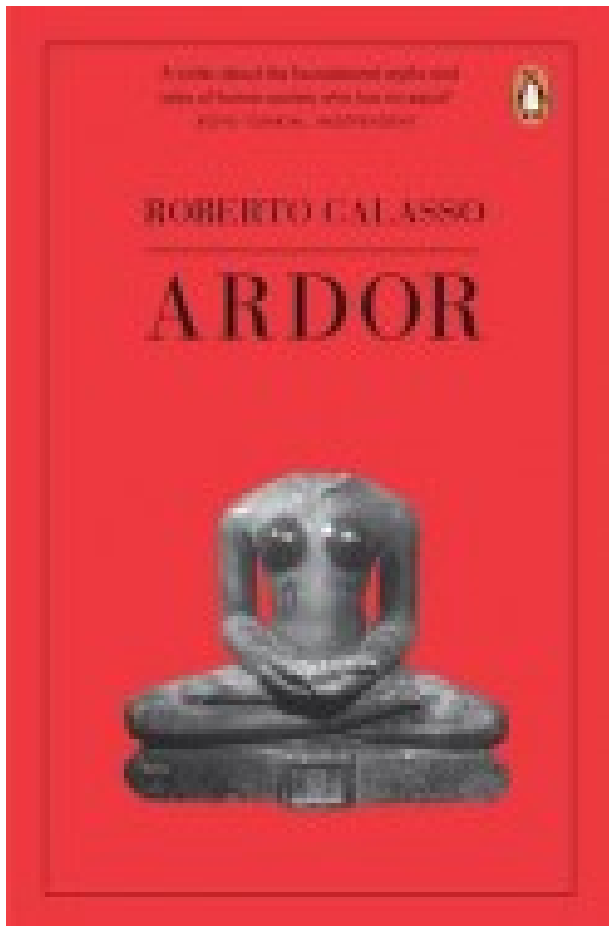


Ardor



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In this revelatory volume, Roberto Calasso, whom the Paris Review has called 'a literary institution', explores the ancient texts known as the Vedas. Little is known about the Vedic people who lived more than three thousand years ago in northern India: they left behind almost no objects, images, ruins. Only a 'Parthenon of words' remains: verses and formulations suggesting a daring understanding of life. 'If the Vedic people had been asked why they did not build cities,' writes Calasso, 'they could have replied: we did not seek power, but rapture.' This is the ardor of the Vedic world, a burning intensity that is always present, both in the mind and in the cosmos. With his signature erudition and profound sense of the past, Calasso explores the enigmatic web of ritual and myth that define the Vedas. Often at odds with modern thought, he shows how these texts illuminate the nature of consciousness more than neuroscientists have been able to offer us up to now.

ar·dor (är'där) n. Intensity of emotion, especially strong desire, enthusiasm, or devotion. See Synonyms at passion. [Middle English ardour, from Old French. Directed by Pablo Fendrik. With Alice Braga, Gael García Bernal, Chico Díaz, Claudio Tolcachir. A mysterious man emerges from the Argentinean rainforest to help a.