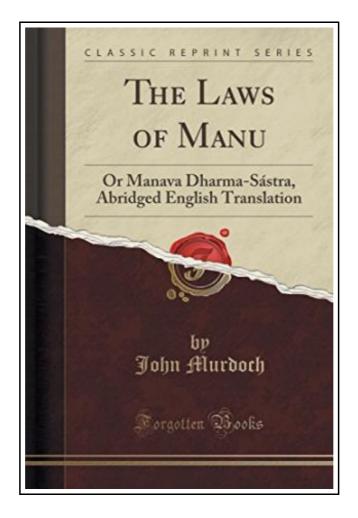
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. abridged edition. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Excerpt from The Laws of Manu: Or Manava Dharma-Sastra, Abridged English Translation Sruti and Smriti. - The sacred books of the Hindus are divided into two great classes, called Sruti and Smriti. Sruti, which means hearing denotes direct revelation; Smriti, recollection includes the sacred books which are admitted to have been composed by human authors. Classed under Sruti, are the Vedas, the Brahmanas, and the Upanishads. Smriti, in its widest sense, includes almost the whole of post-vedic literature The principal divisions are the six Vedangas, the Smarta-Sutras, the Dharma-Sastras or Law Books, the Epic Poems, the eighteen Puranas, and the Upa-Puranas. Yajur Veda. - The Rig-Veda denotes the Veda of hymns of praise. The Sama-Veda contains extracts from the Rig-Veda, arranged for the purpose of being chanted at sacrifices. The Atharva-Veda is of later origin than the others. It is sometimes called the Cursing Veda, because it contains so many mantras supposed to be able to cause the destruction of enemies. The Yajur-Veda will be noticed rather more at length from its close connection with the Dharma-Satras. The name comes from yaj, sacrifice. It contains the formulas and verses to be muttered by the priests and their assistants who had chiefly to prepare the sacrificial ground, to dress the altar, slay the victims, and pour out the libations. The first sentences in one of the two divisions were to be uttered by the priest as he cut from a particular tree a switch with which to drive away the calves from the cows whose milk was to furnish the material of the offering. There are two principal texts of the Yajur-Veda, called respectively the White and the Black, or...

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