

The Kanwar is India's largest annual religious pilgrimage. Millions of participants gather sacred water and carry it hundreds of miles to dispense as offerings in Śiva shrines. These devotees—called *bhola*, gullible or fools, by many Indians—are mostly young, destitute men. But for these young men, the ordeal of the pilgrimage is no foolish pursuit. It offers a social space where participants can prove their talents, resolve, and moral worth. *Uprising of the Fools* shows how religion today is not a retreat into tradition, but an alternative forum for recognition and resistance within a rampant global neoliberalism.

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