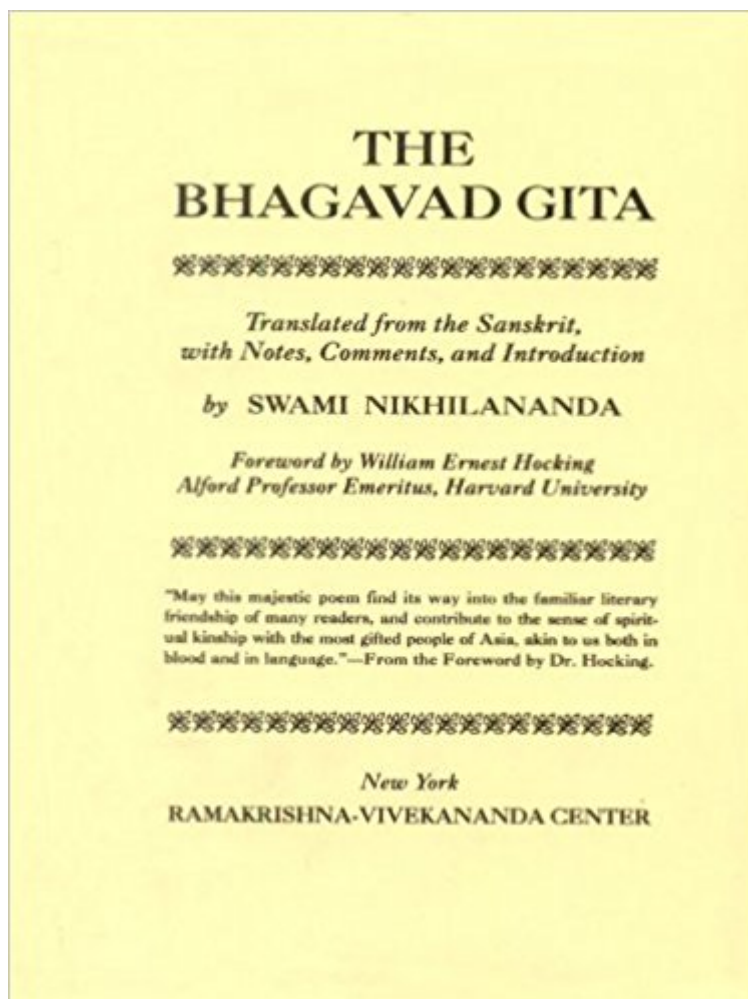


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The Bhagavad Gita: Song Of The Lord



Synopsis

With introduction to the Gita, summary of the Mahabharata and notes based on commentary of Sankaracharya. "The first really readable, authoritative English translation of one of the world's greatest religious classics." --Time Magazine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bhagavad Gita is the most popular of the scriptures of Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism). However, the message is for the whole mankind and not just for the Hindus. It is one of the three canons of Vedanta (the other two are the Upanishads and the Brahma Sutras). The Gita discusses the various paths to Self-Realization, known as yogas, systematically. There are dozens of English translations of the Gita. How to choose? The best commentary to Gita is by Adi Sankara, the 7th century saint and non-dual philosopher of India. His commentary takes a non-dual approach, which is the widely accepted vedantic philosophy. There are a few literal translations of Gita with Adi Sankara's commentary. The more recent ones are by Swami Gambhirananda and by Swami Nikhilananda. Gambhirananda's is a literal translation and at times it is very difficult to comprehend. One feels like some explanation of Sankara's commentary is needed. On the other hand, Swami Nikhilananda's

approach is to present notes to each verse based on Adi Sankara's commentary which makes it very easy to read and comprehend. He elaborates where an elaboration is needed and has omitted occasional portions of the commentary which are extremely technical and don't interest majority of the readers. This makes it an excellent read and hence I prefer Nikhilananda's version. Also his English is excellent. No wonder, Time Magazine gave a great review for this edition of Gita. A brief summary of the Mahabharata is included, which helps one understand the context in which the dialogue between Sri Krishna and Arjuna takes place. Highly recommend this book. Also recommended (to complete your collection of Prasthanas Traya or Triple Canon of Vedanta):-The Upanishads (4 volumes) by the same author, and-Brahma Sutras according to Adi Sankara by Swami Vireswarananda.

I like how in the preface it gives description and suggestion how to read this. The who what and why of content intention. Also a dialectical pronunciation key. I don't know about you but I like to have the correct annunciation of what I'm reading.

The Bhagavad Gita, Song of God, is part of the long oral history poem, The Mahabharata. Likely from before written language, stories from ancient seers, dramas of life for human families, as metaphors for the war of good and evil that must be fought within the human heart. The Gita is quite beyond me to critique or describe. A morality play? The earliest description of the three yogas? They would be karma yoga, bhakti yoga and jnana yoga or the three yogas service, love, knowledge/wisdom). The Gita offers Krishna's instruction to Arjuna as the way to find the one true Self, the one Self of all, within your own heart and mind. Once knowing the One true Self, you are completely free of misunderstanding and petty fears. There's no need to avoid taking action in whatever duties life presents you. I especially like this edition and translation by one of the disciples of Swami Vivekananda, a direct disciple of Shri Ramakrishna, a bhakti devotee of Mother Kali and a great teacher. Ramakrishna's luminous god intoxication emanates throughout the Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna, a story of about four years of his life. That book has the same translator as this one, with a lengthy introduction telling Ramakrishna's life story. This is a good translation of the Gita and a lovely little edition to carry about.

this "book" appear to be a photocopy of another text, set at a larger font. type varies in size and is difficult to read in the manner that my old eye require. The actual material is of huge value to who is able to read it.

Very helpful in my studies

Pinnacle of Vedanta in a readable, unbiased, accurate & scholarly translation. I have read the Gita in Sanskrit and many English translations.

ANYTHING translated by Nikhilananda is good. Read it along with at least one other translation for best effect and understanding.

Swami Nikhilananda did a very good job on Gita. It is my only companion book.

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