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The Upanishads: Breath Of The Eternal



Synopsis

A fresh and highly readable translation of the 12 major

Upanishads: Isha, Katha, Aitareya, Brihadaranyaka, Svetasvatara, Taittiriya, Chandogya. From the preface: Our aim in this translation has not been to achieve a literal translation but rather...to convey the teachings in clear and simple English.

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Customer Reviews

Captures the sense, beauty and spirit of the original. --Books for Inner Development

Swami Prabhavananda was the founder of the Vedanta Society of Southern California and is best known for his many translations of the Hindu/Vedanta classics including: How to Know God: The Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali, The Bhagavad Gita: The Song of God, Shankara's Crest Jewel of Discrimination, and Narada's Way of Divine Love: The Bhakti Sutras

Swami Prabhavananda of Sri Ramkrishna order has done a great service to mankind by translating the twelve upnishads in English. The Upnishads are the oldest record in the world library . The knowledge portion of vedas is called Upnishads . These are the spiritual heritage of not only of India but of the world at large . These are the revealed texts of India. Who wrote the Upnishads ? As the principles which are expounded by the Upnishads are impersonal , so are the authors who wrote them have been impersonal too. The message of the Upnishads is the message of the sages. It is

beyond the dogma of religion and / or science . Any seeker , not only of religion , not only of science , but seeker of truth will find this book most useful and a big big " A must " .

I was introduced to the Upanishads, Veda and Vedanta in another book by Arthur Schopenhauer and was curious about how it may have had an effect on a thinker in Europe whose works have enlightened many people. As I tried to learn about Upanishads, I was confused and had to find a proper intro to the subject. First I read The Bhagavad Gita by Eknath Easwaran. Now I understand the Upanishads should have been the first to read. I am not that knowledgeable to assess this specific edition since the translation from Sanskrit varies in many editions. Nevertheless I found it easy to read and understand and was really surprised to see the same ideas in other scriptures. As a last note be advised some ideas repeat on and on. For myself it was a good introduction...

This was my first introduction to the Upanishads, but it is still my favorite years later. I have bought several copies of this version, because I keep giving them away to people. I feel everyone seeking spiritual Truths MUST read this. In my daily life I often recommend the Upanishads to any spiritual seeker or philosophy lover, and always in this translation. I have read a few other translations, some of them being those that are most popular and readily available in bookstores, and while those translations were generally beautiful and helpful, they didn't seem to be on par with Swami Prabhavananda's rendering and interpretation. I once had a World Religions professor who made us answer on every test that EVERY translation is an interpretation. This couldn't be more true, even reading the original work of something is an interpretation within your own mind. The Upanishads are hundreds, even thousands of years old. They rank among the oldest of spiritual literature in existence, and are still practiced today. The amazing part about the Upanishads is how they are still advanced philosophy all these years later. They paint a beautiful and complete cosmology in a poetic and philosophical manner even today. It still blows my mind that these are so old, yet so intricate and profound. It just goes to show that Truth is eternal, unchanging with time. And that our ancestors were not the primitive fools that the currently accepted paradigm makes them out to be. The Upanishads rank among my favorite of all spiritual books from any religion. Which is important to me because as a student of comparative religions I have read many spiritual books from all the major religions, even though I am still young. This is my favorite interpretation to date, not only because I feel it in the depth of my being, but because it is clear, concise, and fluid. Many other translations keep the Upanishads in verse, making them rigid and a bit more difficult to get the full meaning from while being rendered into another language. This translation is mostly in

prose and reads like a story or essay--as the preface states: "With minor exception the original Sanskrit here rendered is verse. With minor exception we have employed prose." I have read a few books by Swami Prabhavananda and all have been of superb caliber, his genius and spiritual understandings shine through in every sentence and concept. It is good to read several translations of a deep and symbolic spiritual work--that goes for all religions. The more translations you read the more you get a deeper understanding of what was originally intended by the creator and their native language. Don't miss this, and if you only read one translation, let it be this one!

I bonded with this book...or rather with this translation. I read parts of other translations of The Upanishads but found this one resonated like no other. I believe this might be just my own subjective experience but nonetheless it happened.

I wouldn't choose the word predictable, but it was the only one out of the 3. The book is filled with beautiful soul-inspiring stories that speak to you at different places in your journey to enlightenment or self-realization.

My favorite translation of the principal Upanishads. It is not a word for word translation. For that you need to go to other translations. But what it does, and superbly, is to capture, through its poetry, the mystical character of these books.

This is a complex subject. I suggest you engage in steady and serious meditation because direct experience is the only way you will understand the material. After your first real spiritual experience, you will understand all the Upanishads. Peter

Studying the Upanishads through this book is a most welcome adjunct to having listened to it many times on CD read by Christopher Isherwood. As a church musician and yogi, I am continually awe-struck, in the literal sense of the word, by the vocabulary used in the Upanishads which so resembles that not only of the Bible in general, but of the specific words so often 'featured' in hymnody. This is so lovely for someone of the 'He Ain't Heavy, He's my brother' generation.

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