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The Bhagavad Gita (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

The Bhagavad Gita is the most widely read Hindu religious text in the Western world and a key work for understanding Indian religions and the way Hinduism has been represented in modern India and the West. The poem considers social and religious duty, the nature of sacrifice, and the relationship of human beings to God, and continues to inspire a wide variety of interpretations, both within India and beyond. This new translation captures all the force and beauty of the original language of this awe-inspiring poem. Ideal for readers encountering the Bhagavad Gita for the first time, this edition provides a full cultural and historical context in its introduction and notes. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Reissue edition (September 21, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199538123

ISBN-13: 978-0199538126

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Hinduism > Sacred Writings > Bhagavad Gita](#)

Customer Reviews

‘‘an excellent primer in the Hindu belief system’’ Daily Telegraph, October 1994 ‘‘freshly accessible to a Western readership...The presentation is both scholarly and inviting.’ Good Book Guide, January 1995

Text: English (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Even though the Bhagavad Gita is only a small section of a much larger volume, the Mahabharata, it nevertheless gives major insight into Eastern beliefs. Many Americans have tried things such as meditating, yoga, dieting, praying, and gaining knowledge for knowledge's sake, but reading this work puts all of those things in the perspective of a higher, well-organized value system. We typically do those things, or at least try them out once or twice, to see what we can gain from them: lower stress, flatter tummy, healthier body, being well-educated and/or cultured, and sometimes even simply for bragging rights. However, after reading Krishna relate Arjuna's current plight of the war to eternity, spirituality, and self-edification, it makes you start to think about the origin of the Eastern traditions that have been Westernized in America: "What is the greater value of diet restriction, what can I gain from sitting still that will benefit me as a whole, what is the greater value of being knowledgeable?" Though at face value Krishna may be spurring the warrior Arjuna on to fight and do his duty, it is important to realize that he is also trying to reveal to Arjuna the essence of an enlightened man who has reached the epitome of self, and that he is trying to help Arjuna (as well as the audience) attain this high level of spirituality. Most enlightening!

I have read several translations of the Bhagavad-Gita. Since I am not able to read Sanskrit I don't know which translation is most accurate but this translation is very nice to read.

Excellent edition

haven't finished pretty heavy but it's a translation

Good, Just as described!

Blessings.

Great! Had a little damage to it though... perhaps damaged en transit.

Enlightening in the truist sense!

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