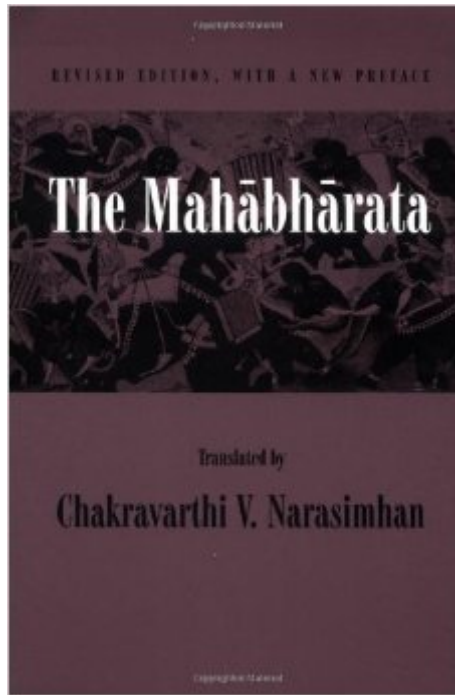


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The Mahabharata



Synopsis

Intended to be a treatise on life itself, this epic poem embraces religion and ethics, polity and government, philosophy and the pursuit of salvation. This collection of more than 4,000 verses is supplemented by a glossary, genealogical tables, and an index correlating the verses with the original Sanskrit text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the best abridgment of the Mahabharata currently available. Unlike other abridgments it is based on an actual translation of Sanskrit verses Chakravarti Narasimhan has selected. He includes an index of the verses and a glossary of names at the end of the book, as well as several simplified genealogical tables. The introduction could be more informative, but at least it is accurate in its references to previous translations. In my opinion more verses should have been included from the Philosophical portions of the Mahabharata, especially from the Santi- and Anusasana-parva. Still, the translation is accurate and it a much better introduction than some of the other abridgments. For the beginning student, wanting to get a glimpse of the Epic, I highly recommend this book.

Reading any abridgement gives me a bad feeling of missing something important, but this book deserves five stars:- It is written in simple English, without archaic words, so I was able to read it without using my dictionary too much. It means much to me, English not being either my mother or

second, but learned language.- Every Sanskrit word is written using diacritics, so that you know how to pronounce names and places. I like to know that Pandu's brother is DhritaraSHtra and not DhritaraStra.- All the ninety-nine chapters are self-contained, each forming a logical unit, so you can read one chapter at a time.- It has very useful genealogical tables, glossary and list of alternative names. Like the Mahabharata by Rajagopalachari this is a very good book for introduction to this great epic.

This is the best abridged Mahabharata with modern English and true to the original Sanskrit. I purchased at least twelve copies over years. Many I gave to friends who were interested in the Mahabharata but were not willing to read a full translation. This covers the main characters and have amply explanations about their biography. The author did justice in this translation. I have done translations of the Bhagavad Gita, Anu Gita and the Uddhava Gita from the Srimad Bhagavatam Purana. I know that this author was true to the Sanskrit. You won't feel that you wasted your money reading this one.=====Bhagavad Gita EnglishAnu Gita ExplainedUddhava Gita English

This is one of those important texts that I have always wanted to read, but have never gotten around to reading. To be honest, the length daunted me (1.8 million words), and I never know which abridged version to buy or which is worth reading. This abridged translation weighs in at 216 pages, and the translator prepared this book with the purpose of providing only the main story of the epic. In his own words: "I have selected only those verses which relate to the main theme, and which help provide a more or less continuous narrative. This process of selection reduced the total number of verses translated to some 4,000." (The 4,000 is out of the possible 74,000.) Although the nature of an abridgment like this nearly guarantees that the poetry in an epic poem will be lost, I still found it worthwhile to read. The nested story-in-a-story was great, and the rivalry between the Pandavas and the Kauravas was interesting. I have read enough references in Indian literature to be aware of the story without ever really understanding the subject. This gave me enough base to connect the dots. I am sure that there are scholars out there who can point out the positives and negatives of this particular translation. I am uniquely unqualified to say anything at all about its respective qualities. It does seem to be generally well-respected. What I can say is that for someone who wants to get a bare-bones understanding of the narrative, then this appears to be a good choice. It is clearly and cleanly written.

Although Narasimhan has done a proficient enough job in this translation - his English is certainly much better than most full length translations currently available -- it is nevertheless a rather dry version of the great epic. If you are new to the text this will be heavy going, IMO, and you will probably soon find yourself lost in the morass of characters and their complicated relationships. He has not done much to help the reader make sense of the whole thing, unlike some other introductory versions, such as that by Krishna Dharma. It is a page turner only in the sense that you will be constantly turning backwards to remind yourself what is going on. But three stars anyway, as it is after all a faithful version of this wonderful work.

If you like to watch the programs on the History channel about Ancient Aliens, they talk about this book all the time. It is a little difficult to read at times, but it's a translation from an ancient language, Sanskrit or something, so be ready to only use this for fun. I looked into this at several places online and decided most people thought this translation was fairly true to the original. Though by no means is it the whole book. I own this in paperback

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