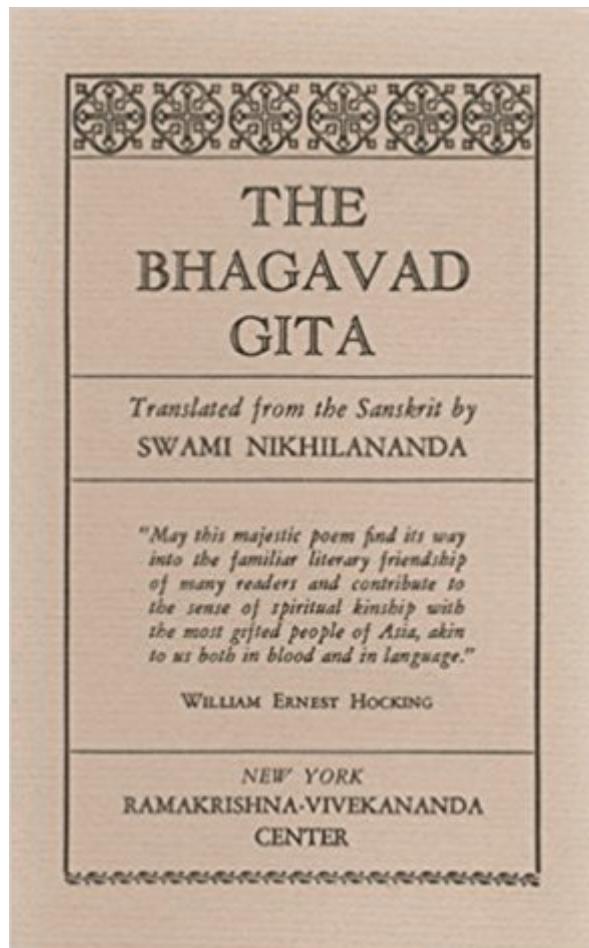


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# Bhagavad Gita : Pocket Edition



## **Synopsis**

The Bhagavad Gita, an important Hindu scripture, is one of the outstanding religious classics in the world, and this translation by Swami Nikhilananda has been called "the first really readable, authoritative translation". The Bhagavad Gita is unique among religious texts in its emphasis on the discharge of everyday duties, irrespective of their nature, as an effective discipline for the realization of God. The Gita teaches that if a man performs his duties, surrendering the fruit to God and discarding all selfish motives, he gains purity of heart and achieves ultimate liberation. It is knowledge of God that gives man the strength to face calmly and cheerfully the duties of life. The Gita shows the way to spiritualize life and illumine even its drab and gray phases with the radiance of the Spirit. It lays down practical spiritual disciplines that can be followed by all, irrespective of faith and creed. This 256 page pocket edition, with only a few necessary notes, is especially designed for devotional reading. Its small size makes it convenient to carry. The text is identical to that of the annotated edition (ISBN 0-911206-09-4) and contains an introduction with a brief background and philosophy of The Gita.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Here is a translation which seems to meet every test of literature and learning. I have been reading it with ease and unflagging delight. At last I seem to have found the Gita and to know why it is so great. Swami Nikhilananda is to be congratulated and thanked for his great achievement. Every student of religion and lover of the spirit stands in his debt. -- John Haynes Holmes, Unity I have found your introduction and the translation of Sankara's preface extremely interesting and your synopsis of the story of the Mahabharata seems to me very useful in preparing the reader and

setting him clear on the scene. I am convinced that this edition of yours will be valuable to all students of that extraordinary book. -- W. Somerset Maugham was deeply moved by the noble insistence upon spiritual inwardness that runs through the book. -- Samuel H. Goldenson, Rabbi, Congregation Emanu-El, New York May this majestic poem find its way into the familiar literary friendship of many readers and contribute to the sense of spiritual kinship with the most gifted people of Asia, akin to us both in blood and in language. -- From the Foreword by William Ernest Hocking Never in our time has this important work been made so accessible to the Western reader as in the present admirable translation by Swami Nikhilananda. -- Denver Lindley, Asia and the Americas The Bhagavad Gita is one of the great documents of the human spirit. Insofar as an outsider can judge, this translation of Swami Nikhilananda and his introduction make it a more communicable and intelligible vehicle of the great Hindu tradition than to a Western reader it generally appears. -- Irwin Edman, Professor of Philosophy in Columbia University The first really readable, authoritative English translation of one of the world's oldest and greatest religious classics. -- Time This translation and commentary of the great Indian classic has the same brilliant ease and almost incredible sense of rightness and, as it were, natural clarity that characterized Swami Nikhilananda's volume The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna. -- Stark Young, The New Republic

The Bhagavad Gita, an important Hindu scripture, is one of the outstanding religious classics in the world. Its unique feature is the emphasis given to the discharge of duties, irrespective of their nature, as an effective discipline for the realization of God. The stage set for the teaching was a battlefield; the aspirant, a warrior chief, was blessed there with the vision of the Universal Spirit. The teacher was Sri Krishna, the Lord Himself incarnated in a human body. The Lord teaches through The Gita that if a man performs his duties, surrendering the fruit to God and discarding all selfish motives, he gains purity of heart and achieves ultimate liberation. It is knowledge of God that gives man the strength to face calmly and cheerfully the duties of life. The Gita shows the way to spiritualize life and illumine even its drab and grey phases with the radiance of the Spirit. The book also treats of such metaphysical problems as the nature of the universe, God, the soul, the hereafter. It lays down practical spiritual disciplines which can be followed by all, irrespective of faith and creed. The teachings of The Gita determined the spiritual culture of India during the many centuries from the close of the Upanishad period to the rise of Buddhism. Even today its influence on the spiritual life of India remains undiminished. The Gita inspires millions of Hindus in their search after God and Truth, and shows the way to the realization of peace and blessedness. The present translation, it is hoped, will help make this universal teaching available to the Western

readers in this time of confusion and spiritual need.

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 Prasthana 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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