

as it is bhagavad gita

as it is bhagavad gita represents a profound and authentic translation and commentary on the ancient Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita. This version aims to present the original teachings without distortion or dilution, preserving the spiritual wisdom conveyed by Lord Krishna to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. The Bhagavad Gita, a revered text in Indian philosophy and spirituality, addresses critical themes such as duty, righteousness, devotion, and the nature of the self. The "as it is" rendition is especially significant for readers seeking to understand the scripture in its purest form, often accompanied by detailed explanations to clarify complex concepts. This article explores the significance, background, and key teachings of the as it is Bhagavad Gita, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of this timeless text. The discussion also touches upon the impact of this edition on modern spiritual studies and its relevance today. The following table of contents will guide the exploration of these topics in detail.

- Understanding the As It Is Bhagavad Gita
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Understanding the As It Is Bhagavad Gita

The as it is Bhagavad Gita is a translation and commentary that strives to present the scripture exactly as it was delivered in its original Sanskrit form. This approach emphasizes literal accuracy combined with comprehensive explanations to avoid misinterpretations. The Bhagavad Gita itself is a 700-verse dialogue between Lord Krishna and the warrior prince Arjuna, addressing the moral and spiritual dilemmas faced by Arjuna. The as it is edition preserves the sanctity of these verses by avoiding paraphrasing or subjective alterations, thereby maintaining the original intent and depth of the scripture.

Purpose and Approach

The primary purpose of the as it is Bhagavad Gita is to provide readers with an unaltered insight into the spiritual teachings of Krishna. Rather than adapting the text to fit modern sensibilities or philosophical trends, this edition prioritizes fidelity to the source material. It incorporates word-for-word translations followed by detailed purports that explain the context, cultural nuances, and intended meanings behind the verses. This method facilitates a deeper understanding of the Gita's message and ensures that its teachings remain accessible and relevant across generations.

Audience and Accessibility

This edition caters to scholars, spiritual practitioners, and general readers interested in a precise study of the Bhagavad Gita. The as it is Bhagavad Gita is available in multiple languages, though the original English version is noted for its clarity and scholarly rigor. The commentary supports readers who may not be familiar with Indian philosophy or Sanskrit terminology by providing extensive explanations and cross-references within the text.

Historical Background and Authorship

The Bhagavad Gita is part of the Indian epic Mahabharata, traditionally attributed to the sage Vyasa. The as it is Bhagavad Gita, however, is most famously associated with A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). His translation and commentary were first published in the late 1960s, marking a significant moment in the global dissemination of Vedic knowledge.

Role of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Prabhupada's work on the as it is Bhagavad Gita was motivated by a desire to restore the original spiritual teachings to their full potency, free from misinterpretations introduced over centuries. His translation is distinguished by its strict adherence to the original Sanskrit text and its inclusion of detailed purports explaining philosophical concepts, historical context, and scriptural cross-references. This comprehensive approach made the Bhagavad Gita accessible to a worldwide audience and played a crucial role in popularizing Krishna consciousness in the Western world.

Historical Context of the Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita was composed around the 2nd century BCE to 2nd century CE, during a period of intense philosophical development in ancient India. It synthesizes key elements of various Indian philosophical traditions, including Vedanta, Sankhya, and Yoga, into a concise spiritual guide. The as it is Bhagavad Gita preserves this synthesis and presents it without dilution, allowing modern readers to appreciate the text's original philosophical depth and spiritual guidance.

Core Teachings and Philosophical Insights

The as it is Bhagavad Gita encapsulates several fundamental spiritual teachings that have universal applicability. These teachings address the nature of the self, the concept of dharma (duty), the practice of yoga, and the path to spiritual liberation (moksha). The text integrates practical guidance with profound metaphysical insights, offering a holistic framework for personal and spiritual development.

Concept of Dharma and Duty

One of the central themes of the Bhagavad Gita is the importance of performing one's prescribed duty without attachment to the results. Krishna instructs Arjuna to act according to his dharma as a warrior, emphasizing selfless action and detachment from outcomes. This teaching encourages readers to fulfill their responsibilities with dedication while maintaining equanimity, thereby reducing anxiety and confusion.

Paths of Yoga

The Bhagavad Gita describes several yogic paths to spiritual realization, including:

- **Karma Yoga:** The yoga of selfless action and duty.
- **Bhakti Yoga:** The yoga of devotion and love towards God.
- **Jnana Yoga:** The yoga of knowledge and wisdom.
- **Dhyana Yoga:** The yoga of meditation and mental discipline.

The as it is rendition elucidates these paths with clarity, highlighting their interrelatedness and suitability for different spiritual aspirants.

Understanding the Self and God

The Bhagavad Gita discusses the eternal nature of the soul (atman) and its distinction from the temporary physical body. It also reveals the supreme personality of God, Krishna, as the ultimate source of all existence. The as it is Bhagavad Gita explains these metaphysical concepts in detail, making the profound spiritual truths accessible to readers seeking a deeper understanding of existence and divinity.

Unique Features of the As It Is Edition

The as it is Bhagavad Gita stands out among numerous translations and commentaries due to its unwavering commitment to textual accuracy and spiritual authenticity. Several features contribute to its uniqueness and widespread acclaim.

Literal Translation and Detailed Purports

Unlike paraphrased versions, the as it is Bhagavad Gita provides a word-for-word translation directly from the Sanskrit verses. Each verse is followed by comprehensive purports that explain the meaning, context, and implications of the text. These purports often reference other Vedic scriptures and classical commentaries, enriching the reader's understanding.

Emphasis on Devotional Perspective

This edition emphasizes the devotional aspect of the Bhagavad Gita's teachings, particularly the path of bhakti or loving service to God. It interprets Krishna as the supreme personality of Godhead, consistent with the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition. This devotional context distinguishes the as it is Bhagavad Gita from more secular or philosophical interpretations.

Clarity and Accessibility

The language used in the as it is Bhagavad Gita balances scholarly precision with readability. Complex Sanskrit concepts are explained in straightforward English, making the text accessible to a broad audience without compromising depth. This clarity has contributed to its popularity among both scholars and spiritual seekers.

Impact and Influence in Contemporary Spirituality

The as it is Bhagavad Gita has had a profound impact on contemporary spiritual thought and practice worldwide. Its dissemination through ISKCON and other channels has introduced millions to the philosophical and devotional teachings of the Bhagavad Gita in a pure and unaltered form.

Global Reach and Translation

Since its first publication, the as it is Bhagavad Gita has been translated into numerous languages, making it accessible to diverse populations. Its global distribution has fostered greater appreciation of Vedic wisdom and has influenced various spiritual movements and academic studies.

Role in Spiritual Practice

Many spiritual practitioners use the as it is Bhagavad Gita as a guide for meditation, ethical living, and devotional service. The text's emphasis on practical application of spiritual principles has made it a valuable resource for personal transformation and community building.

Influence on Modern Philosophy and Ethics

The ethical teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, as presented in the as it is edition, have contributed to modern discussions on duty, leadership, and morality. Its insights into selfless action and inner discipline resonate with contemporary challenges in both personal and professional contexts.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' and who authored it?

'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' is a translation and commentary on the Bhagavad Gita by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It presents the Bhagavad Gita from the perspective of Gaudiya Vaishnavism.

How does 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' differ from other versions of the Bhagavad Gita?

'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' differs by providing word-for-word translations and extensive purports that explain the text in the context of Bhakti Yoga and Krishna consciousness, aiming to present the original spiritual message without modern reinterpretations.

Is 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' suitable for beginners?

Yes, 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' is suitable for beginners as it includes detailed explanations and purports that help readers understand the philosophical concepts and practical teachings step-by-step.

Where can I find a reliable copy of 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita'?

Reliable copies of 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' can be found on the official ISKCON website, authorized bookstores, and in print or digital formats on platforms like Amazon and Google Books.

What is the significance of the phrase 'As It Is' in the title?

The phrase 'As It Is' signifies the author's intent to present the Bhagavad Gita without any personal interpretation or distortion, preserving the original teachings as conveyed by Lord Krishna.

Can 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' be used for academic study?

Yes, 'As It Is Bhagavad Gita' can be used for academic study, especially in courses related to Hinduism, philosophy, and religious studies, as it provides a comprehensive and authentic perspective on the text.

Additional Resources

1. *The Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation*

This book offers a fresh and accessible English translation of the Bhagavad Gita, capturing the essence of its spiritual teachings. It provides clear commentary that helps readers understand the philosophical concepts and their application in daily life. Ideal for both beginners and those familiar with Hindu scriptures.

2. *Bhagavad Gita: The Song of God* by Swami Prabhupada

Swami Prabhupada's translation and commentary present the Bhagavad Gita from the perspective of the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition. The book emphasizes devotion (bhakti) and the practice of Krishna consciousness. It is widely regarded for its devotional insights and practical guidance.

3. *The Living Gita: The Complete Bhagavad Gita - A Commentary for Modern Readers* by Swami Satchidananda

This commentary makes the Bhagavad Gita relevant to contemporary life by explaining its teachings in modern terms. Swami Satchidananda's approach focuses on yoga, mindfulness, and spiritual growth, making it suitable for readers seeking practical applications of the text.

4. *The Bhagavad Gita According to Gandhi*

This edition highlights Mahatma Gandhi's interpretation of the Gita as a spiritual guide for nonviolence and self-discipline. It explores how the Gita influenced Gandhi's philosophy and his approach to social and political activism. The commentary is concise and deeply reflective.

5. *Essence of the Bhagavad Gita: Explained by Paramhansa Yogananda*

Paramhansa Yogananda distills the core spiritual teachings of the Gita, emphasizing meditation and self-realization. The book provides insights into the inner meaning of Krishna's dialogue with Arjuna, bridging Eastern philosophy with universal spirituality.

6. *The Bhagavad Gita for Daily Living* by Eknath Easwaran

Easwaran's edition presents a practical guide to applying the Bhagavad Gita's wisdom in everyday life. With accessible language and relatable examples, this book encourages readers to incorporate the Gita's teachings on duty, devotion, and detachment into their routines.

7. *Krishna's Counsel: The Bhagavad Gita* by Christopher Isherwood and Swami Prabhavananda

This collaborative translation blends poetic expression with scholarly insight, making the Gita both beautiful and understandable. It emphasizes the ethical and philosophical dimensions of the text, appealing to readers interested in literature and spirituality alike.

8. *The Bhagavad Gita: A New Commentary* by Swami Vivekananda

Based on Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings, this commentary explores the Gita's message of self-empowerment and action without attachment. It encourages readers to embrace courage and spiritual strength in the face of life's challenges.

9. *The Heart of the Bhagavad Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War* by Eknath Easwaran

This book focuses on the central themes of the Gita, such as duty, righteousness, and inner

peace during conflict. Easwaran's clear explanations and practical advice make the ancient text relevant for modern readers facing moral dilemmas and stress.

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