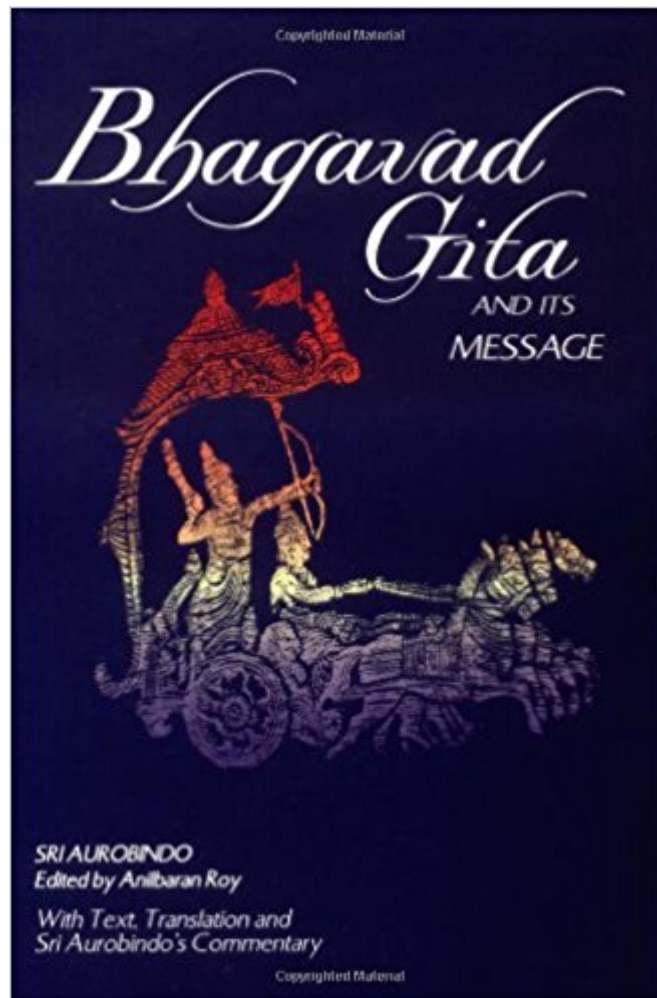


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Bhagavad Gita And Its Message



Synopsis

This translation and commentary also analyzes the causes of problems individual and collective, and how to achieve peace, unity and bliss.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, a few words about the scripture (Bhagawad Gita) itself so that the importance and usefulness of this particular book becomes more evident. Bhagwad Gita, although originating from the East (India, to be specific) contains the wisdom which is universal in nature transcending all the Time, Nation and Religion. It is not 'Time' specific because although written centuries back it still holds people in awe about its applicability to modern time of strife, of friction between people of different races, of friction between nations etc. - the problems are endless... It is not specific to a 'Nation' because the philosophical thoughts in Gita are immediately applicable to human being in general, you only have to go through this commentary and see how it holds your attention when it deals with the human nature, its behavior etc. you will feel that it is talking about you as if it has been in the depths of your mind... It is not (in my opinion) any Religion specific (meaning it does not serve the cause for a particular religion), although the thoughts here are influenced by the Hindu way of thinking. Certainly when it says that "you are a manifestation of the same Ultimate Divine but you act the way you act because of the play of 'Nature' in you and your spiritual purpose in this life is to be one with That" is not a religion specific. While just going through the translation of any particular verse in this book I felt many times that I understood the meaning of that particular verse, but when I read the commentary then it impressed me that I had grasped just the word meaning as opposed to the actual, intended, real meaning. Certainly, a scripture which deals with highly profound and

sublime thoughts has to be very difficult to grasp, and that is where a person like Sri Aurobindo helps.

The Gita and the Qur'an both are texts which are in need of proper translation and interpretation based on their orthodox roots rather than the opinions of people from a time which is so far off from the original composition of these texts. We all have our biases but one should try to censor that out when discussing a text such as the Gita as it would give a warped idea to another individual. We should give the same scope and chance for them to understand the Gita rather than provide our own conclusions as the deviation from the truth increases. Aurobindo understood this and so gave the translation in its proper form and then pontificated on its meaning based on his understanding which is separated from the original text. This is important to note as the Gita is said to encapsulate the essence of Vedanta and Vedas which are texts that expound a great magnitude in their literary form and no one individual can realistically claim to be the knower of their true quintessential meanings. Thus how can they generalize and make assumptions about a text which encapsulates and condenses the four Vedas. The Gita is considered the fifth Veda by many and is the most valid commentary on it (in terms of acceptance). It came from a being who taught the worship of the Cosmic Lord God who basically is not endemic to the Semitic religion as one can see with this book. That is what gives this Holy Book the more beauty to those belonging to Semitic religions as they see their own teachings within this book however its development (with respect to context) is independent of say texts like the Tanakh, Gospel or Qur'an. Aurobindo composed a few other works which compare the innate nature of the religion of Gita with these Semitic texts.

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