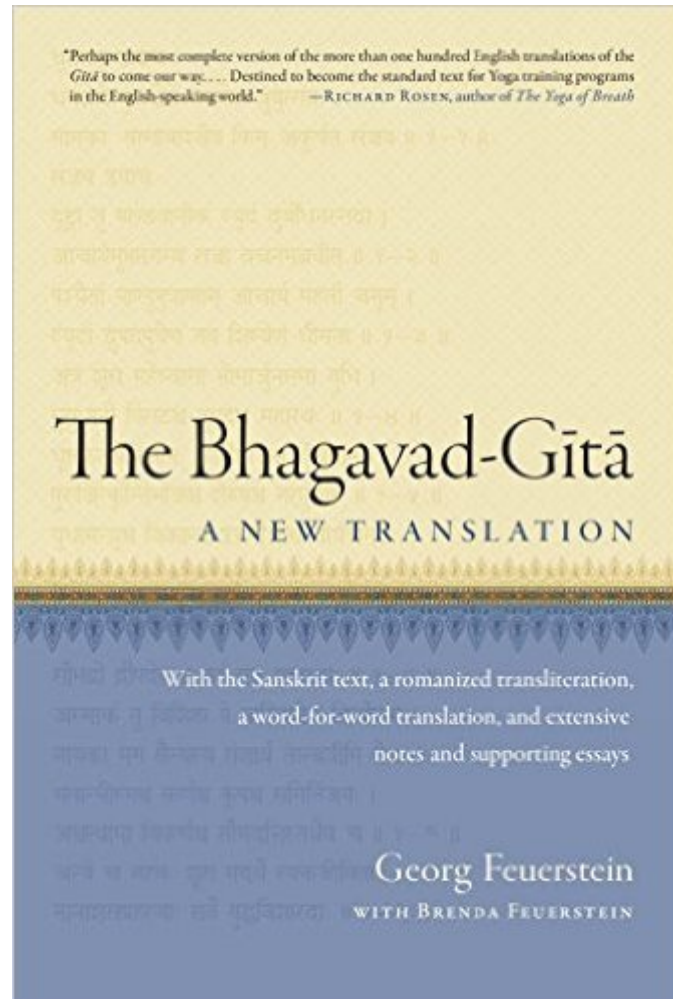


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The Bhagavad-Gita: A New Translation



Synopsis

A fresh English translation laid out facing the original Sanskrit for easy reference and accompanied by a wealth of essential ancillary materials that make this book a complete course on the Bhagavad-Gītā in a single volume. This translation stands out from the many others first of all in its careful faithfulness to the original language, but also for the extensive tools for understanding it provides. It is accompanied by detailed explanatory notes, as well as by the entire Sanskrit text on facing pages--both in the original Devanagiri alphabet and in a romanized version that allows the reader to approximate the sounds of this work (a pronunciation guide is also provided). Also included is a literal, word-for-word translation for comparison; extensive material on the background, symbolism, and influence of the Gītā; and an exhaustive glossary of terms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Known to many "Western" readers as the shoddy paperback they bought under duress in an airport, the *Bhagavad-Gita* is a classic of world spirituality that comes alive in this careful new edition from Georg and Brenda Feuerstein, published with the well-known Shambhala Press. The product of a lifetime's worth of scholarship, Feuerstein's translation can be comfortably read in a sitting but the textual apparatus (featuring the original Sanskrit alongside a transliteration, and a "word-for-word" translation at the back of the book) could provide decades of intellectual diversion. The *Bhagavad-Gita* is an episode in the epic *Mahabharata*, one where Prince Arjuna confronts the god Krishna with his doubts about the slaughter he is appointed to. Krishna answers the prince with a detailed explanation of a properly spiritual approach to human life. The topic of Krishna's dialogue with Arjuna is known in Sanskrit as *yoga*: however, we are not necessarily talking here about

contorted poses in a possibly-too-hot room but the concept of a "spiritual practice" comprehending all aspects of human life, what the Greeks called an *askesis*. I will wager the generalization that Abrahamic religions tend to emphasize what to think, whereas Asian religions focus on what to *do*: whatever your "theological" beliefs, anyone reflective will benefit from considering this ancient and hallowed perspective on mindfulness in the practice of living, whether it be the preparation of food or the making of war. Feuerstein's decision to carefully gloss important words he leaves untranslated is a wise one which improves the reader's understanding of this important text, rather than covering up the original with poesy. If "cultural literacy" meant anything, it would mean reading this. (It doesn't, but do read it anyway: I suspect it will help you on your way in life.)

Worth the \$\$

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