



# Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation

By Stephen Mitchell

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## Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation By Stephen Mitchell

Stephen Mitchell is widely known for his ability to make ancient masterpieces thrillingly new, to step in where many have tried before and create versions that are definitive for our time. His celebrated version of the Tao Te Ching is the most popular edition in print, and his translations of Jesus, Rilke, Genesis, and Job have won the hearts of readers and critics alike. Stephen Mitchell now brings to the Bhagavad Gita his gift for breathing new life into sacred texts.

The Bhagavad Gita is universally acknowledged as one of the world's literary and spiritual masterpieces. It is the core text of the Hindu tradition and has been treasured by American writers from Emerson and Thoreau to T. S. Eliot, who called it the greatest philosophical poem after the *Divine Comedy*. There have been more than two hundred English translations of the Gita, including many competent literal versions, but not one of them is a superlative literary text in its own right.

Now all that has changed. Stephen Mitchell's *Bhagavad Gita* sings with the clarity, the vigor, and the intensity of the original Sanskrit. It will, as William Arrowsmith said of Mitchell's translation of *The Sonnets to Orpheus*, "instantly make every other rendering obsolete."

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## **Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation By Stephen Mitchell Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

On the list of the greatest spiritual books of all time, the *Bhagavad Gita* resides permanently in the top echelon. This poem of patently Indian genius sprouted an immense tree of devotional, artistic, and philosophical elaboration in the subcontinent. The scene is a battlefield with the prince Arjuna pitted against his own family, but no sooner does the poem begin than the action reverts inward. Krishna, Arjuna's avatar and spiritual guide, points the way to the supreme wisdom and perfect freedom that lie within everyone's reach. Worship and be faithful, meditate and know reality--these make up the secret of life and lead eventually to the realization that the self is the root of the world. In this titular translation, Stephen Mitchell's rhythms are faultless, making music of this ancient "Song of the Blessed One." Savor his rendition, but nibble around the edges of his introduction. In a bizarre mixture of praise and condescension, Mitchell disregards two millennia of Indian commentary, seeking illumination on the text from Daoism and Zen, with the *Gita* coming up just shy of full spiritual merit. Perhaps we should take it from Gandhi, who used the *Gita* as a handbook for life, that it nourishes on many levels. --*Brian Bruya*

### From Library Journal

Mitchell must by now be accounted one of our generation's heroic translators, having taken on the Book of Job, the Tao te Ching, and Genesis and done so much to popularize Rilke in English. Now he applies his considerable skill and sympathy to one of the most noted sacred texts of Asia, the Bhagavad Gita, and the results are very happy. He works in free-verse quatrains of about three beats per line, and his language flows with great naturalness. Inevitably, this text will remain both ancient and foreign to many modern readers, but Mitchell's work goes a long way to making these words...[drive] away your ignorance and delusion. Highly recommended.

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### From [Booklist](#)

Thoreau said of this Indian masterpiece that "in comparison, our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial," while Gandhi claimed that those who meditated upon it would "derive fresh joy and new meanings from it every day." The sixth book of the epic *Mahabharata*, the *Gita* is one of Asia's most renowned spiritual texts. Mitchell, whose translation of the *Tao Te Ching* has been extraordinarily popular, offers a direct, clean translation of the *Gita* that reads like a series of pithy epigrams of advice and comfort. Some purists may find his simplification of the sometimes ornate, prayerful Sanskrit questionable, but for the average reader, Mitchell clarifies meaning without sacrificing beauty and emotional resonance: "Cut down this deep-rooted tree / with the sharp-edged ax of detachment: / then search for that primal Person / from whom the whole universe flows." Recommended for libraries whose patrons show strong interest in non-Western religious traditions. *Patricia Monaghan*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eva Stanfield:**

Hey guys, do you want to find a new book to study? May be the book with the subject Bhagavad Gita: A

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### **Catherine Crider:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

### **Timothy Lumpkin:**

This Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it info accurately using great organize word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation in your hand like finding the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen minute right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

### **Peggy Dunn:**

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