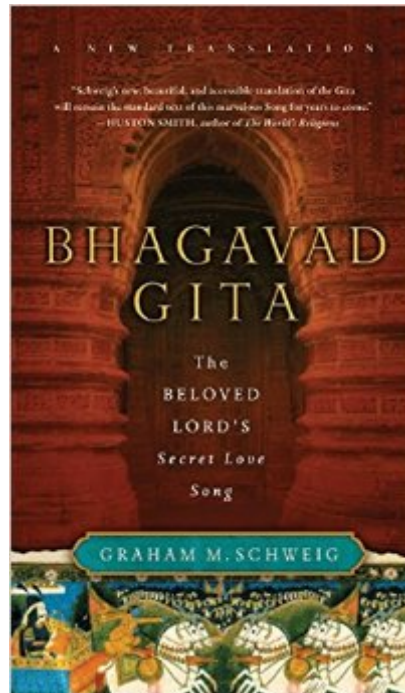


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# Bhagavad Gita: The Beloved Lord's Secret Love Song



## Synopsis

It will remain the standard text of this marvelous Song for years to come, if indeed it is ever superseded. • "Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*—Graham M. Schweig's translation of the Bhagavad Gita—the "Bible of India"—is an elegant, highly accessible version of one of the most important sacred scriptures in world religion. This beautiful translation of the famous conversation between the Hindu god Krishna and the young prince Arjuna includes a glossary, a pronunciation guide, and expert commentary for greater ease of understanding.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Graham Schweig's new, beautiful, and accessible translation will remain the standard text of this marvelous Song for years to come. • (Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*)—Crystal clear and eminently readable. • (Ariel Glucklich, Professor of Theology (Hinduism) at Georgetown University)—The Bhagavad Gita is a religious classic; Graham Schweig's felicitous translation deserves to be called a classic in its own right. • (Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University, author of *Our Religions*)—Schweig has produced a beautifully readable, accurate and respectful translation that should become the standard text for classroom use. • (John Borelli, Special Assistant to the President for Interreligious Initiatives at Georgetown University, author of *Interfaith Dialogue*)—Extremely reader friendly, particularly if you have little or no prior exposure to the Gita. • (Yoga Journal)

The Bhagavad Gita is often regarded as the Bible of India. With a gripping story and deeply compelling message, it is unquestionably one of the most popular sacred texts of Asia and, along with the Bible and the Qur'an, one of the most important holy scriptures in the world. Part of an ancient Hindu epic poem, the dialogue of the Bhagavad Gita takes place on a battlefield, where a war for the possession of a North Indian kingdom is about to ensue between two noble families related by blood. The epic's hero, young Prince Arjuna, is torn between his duty as a warrior and his revulsion at the thought of his brothers and cousins killing each other over control of the realm. Frozen by this ethical dilemma, he debates the big questions of life and death with the supreme Hindu deity Krishna, cleverly disguised as his charioteer. By the end of the story, Eastern beliefs about mortality and reincarnation, the vision and practice of yoga, the Indian social order and its responsibilities, family loyalty, spiritual knowledge, and the loftiest pursuits of the human heart are explored in depth. Explaining the very purpose of life and existence, this classic has stood the test of twenty-three centuries. It is presented here in a thoroughly accurate, illuminating, and beautiful translation that is sure to become the standard for our day.

As both a student and a writer, this translation has won my heart and enthusiastic support. On the eve of a great battle, Arjuna struggles with a question for the ages: How to be in the world when your values conflict with the demands placed upon you. Krishna's answer: Do what must be done, with love. Always come from love. As a student, I appreciate this translation for the clarity the author brings to what can be a difficult text. This translation is filtered through more than just an academic's understanding of Sanskrit, but an adept's appreciation for the deep meaning as a philosophy that has resonance even today. As a writer I appreciate the author's patience with and respect for the original text. Highly recommended.

This translation of the Bhagavad-Gita reveals that the teachings of the Gita are not the teachings of a particular religion, but of a purely non-sectarian spiritual science. Guided by his friend Krishna, Arjuna struggles with the big questions of life, as well as how to deal with the heart-rending task at hand: facing-off with relatives, friends, and teachers on the battlefield of Kurukshetra (which, today, is a city in the state of Haryana in India). It is a guide for living, and revelation of the nature of the universe, the soul, and most importantly the soul's relationship with the Supreme Soul, as Dr. Schweig states in his introduction: "Indeed, this divine intimacy is revealed in the form of a dialogue that takes the soul on an inward journey culminating in the ultimate state of yoga, in which souls unite with the heart of God." There are many translations of this 5,000 year old

Sanskrit text and many of them have been edited down, or not translated literally, and I have found that those translations leave Krishna's teachings a bit murky, but, Dr. Schweig's translation is a literal translation from the original Sanskrit, thoroughly poetic, and clearly remains true to the original message of the Gita in every chapter, verse and word.

Having been a student of the Bhagavad Gita for many years now, I have read several translations and commentaries, both academic and traditional. Dr. Schweig's has struck me as deeply illuminating. While a work of rigorous scholarship it remains philosophically engaging and eminently readable. It stands out to me for its keen awareness of Krishna's original intent. Dr. Schweig expertly brings out the layers of Sanskrit poetry and meaning, condensed into this ancient dialogue, unlike any other translator. I especially recommend that every reader pay close attention to his Textual Illuminations section that upon first reading, many years ago, moved me to tears. I now carry his translation with me on my kindle everywhere I travel.

Good teachers simplify the teachings so that the student can easily grasp the sacred teachings. This author does that. We were fortunate enough to have him visit our school and teach us for two days. He was able to lead us through the verses, translation and philosophy with rhythm, grace, knowledge and devotion. He was able to apply what Krishna was teaching Arjuna to conflicts we could battle today - present! Highly recommend this author and can't wait for his next translation to be published of another classical text that he could be working on.....

As a professor of religion, I have read many versions of the Gita and have assigned several of them to my classes. This translation is by far the best. I first read this translation while on a houseboat on the Kerala backwaters with the sounds of jungle temples floating across the waters, but rereading it several times hasn't dampened my initial love of the text. The translation is always accessible, yet includes the key Hindu terms with excellent concise notes that help introductory students understand the text at a deeper level, or at least understand that there are layers of meaning playing out through the text. The critical essays are also excellent. While there are some translations that are more explanatory or conversational, this translation carries the sense of gravity, inquiry and the sublime that is at the heart of the Bhagavad Gita. The critical essays are also excellent.

In addition to an excellent translation, Schweig offers some very helpful tools for fully and fruitfully entering the text including a unique introduction, a dramatis personae, a chronological list of

appellations for Lord Krishna and Arjuna, literary essays, an expansive bibliography and more. If you are new to the Bhagavad Gita or a lifelong student, there is something for you in Dr. Schweig's latest offering.

This is by far one of the best editions of the Gita that I have ever read. Schweig's translation is a timeless masterpiece that will touch the hearts of many for years to come.

Graham M. Schweig has gifted the world with a beautiful Gita translation: but even more importantly, his commentary finally clarifies the essential message of the Gita (and all true religion): we are loved with an infinite and very personal passion by the Holy One! Simply turning our face towards the Divine Face compels a re-creation of the Universe: Love is the root, branch, flower, and fruit: smell that luscious scent: taste and let the juice of Divinity dribble down your face: you are that special! Get this. Read it. Make it your greatest treasure.

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