

The Mahabharata A Modern Rendering Vol 1

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the mahabharata is the more recent of india s two great epics and by far the longer first composed by the maharishi vyasa in verse it has come down the centuries in the timeless oral tradition of guru and shishya profoundly influencing the history culture and art of not only the indian subcontinent but most of south east asia at 100 000 couplets it is seven times as long as the iliad and the odyssey combined far and away the greatest recorded epic known to man the mahabharata is the very book of life in its variety majesty and also in its violence and tragedy it has been said that nothing exists that cannot be found within the pages of this awesome legend the epic describes a great war of some 5000 years ago and the events that led to it the war on kurukshetra sees ten million warriors slain brings the dwapara yuga to an end and ushers in a new and sinister age this present kali yuga modern times at the heart of the mahabharata nestles the bhagavad gita the song of god senayor ubhaya madhye between two teeming armies krishna expounds the eternal dharma to his warrior of light arjuna at one level all the restless action of the mahabharata is a quest for the gita and its sacred stillness after the carnage it is the gita that survives immortal lotus floating upon the dark waters of desolation the final secret with its magnificent cast of characters human demonic and divine and its riveting narrative the mahabharata continues to enchant readers and scholars the world over this new rendering brings the epic to the contemporary reader in sparkling modern prose it brings alive all the excitement magic and grandeur of the original for our times

astounding satyamurti s mahabharata brings the past alive as though it were a novel in finely crafted verse vinay dharwadker originally composed approximately

two thousand years ago the mahabharata tells the story of a royal dynasty descended from gods whose feud over their kingdom results in a devastating war but it contains much more than conflict an epic masterpiece of huge sweep and magisterial power a hundred times more interesting than the iliad and the odyssey writes wendy doniger in the introduction the mahabharata is a timeless work that evokes a world of myth passion and warfare while exploring eternal questions of duty love and spiritual freedom a seminal hindu text which includes the bhagavad gita it is also one of the most important and influential works in the history of world civilization innovatively composed in blank verse rather than prose carole satyamurti's english retelling covers all eighteen books of the mahabharata this new version masterfully captures the beauty excitement and profundity of the original sanskrit poem as well as its magnificent architecture and extraordinary scope

the war rages on and readers are given a taste of what unchecked violence can lead to even between kith and kin ask yourself is murder for the sake of honor or duty still occurring today have we learned nothing since this was written thousands of years ago the author

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astonishing satyamurti's mahabharata brings the past alive as though it were a novel in finely crafted verse vinay dharwadker originally composed approximately two thousand years ago the mahabharata tells the story of a royal dynasty descended from gods whose feud over their kingdom results in a devastating war but it contains much more than conflict an epic masterpiece of huge sweep and magisterial power a hundred times more interesting than the iliad and the odyssey writes wendy doniger in the introduction the mahabharata is a timeless work that evokes a world of myth passion and warfare while exploring eternal questions of duty love and spiritual freedom a seminal hindu text which includes the bhagavad gita it is also one of the most important and influential works in the history of world civilization innovatively composed in blank verse rather than prose carole satyamurti's english retelling covers all eighteen books of the mahabharata this new version masterfully captures the beauty excitement and profundity of the original sanskrit poem as well as its magnificent architecture

and extraordinary scope

in this volume the author inches closer and closer to the impending war we can learn more about ourselves the human race if we simply acknowledge that we have been questioning the very same matters as five ancient characters created millenias ago

there s never been a greater nor more controversial topic than that famous oxymoron holy war when has war ever been more than a physical embodiment of twisted logic clashing with twisted logic and in the end there is no true victor but death the author

what is the meaning of life is it better to live a life of abstention and piety or die a hero in battle is it ever justified to wage war with your kin what makes a warrior sound of body mind and spirit these and many other questions are not subjects that sprung from the mind of man as of late in this saga of gods goddesses demons monsters magic and the like the reader can see in a new unabridged format that such matters were just as mystifying then as they are now this volume one of eighteen to follow takes us on a long and winding road that asks us hesitate ruminare and ultimately celebrate the triumph of good over evil the author

as our saga continues the band of exiles explore their new surroundings and wonders never cease though this is one of the lengthier volumes it still remains a page turner and just as enticing as the rest the author

please take a moment to enjoy this book a volume the original editors feel is an interpolation since the story pauses for a time to catch its breath the original editor thought the pale men of white island were romans were they really that pasty author

but war is made for the satisfaction of men s ambition for the sake of worldly gain to the few terrible misery is brought to numberless homes breaking the hearts of hundreds of men and women how many widows mourn their husbands how many stories of savage cruelty do we hear how many little orphaned children are crying for their dead fathers how many women are weeping for their slain sons there is nothing so heart breaking and terrible as an outburst of human savagery abdul baha paris talks p 29

it s hard to believe that we are coming to a close on the truly divisive war however the saga is only halfway finished join me as we continue on and read of the aftermath and quest for peace of mind heart and soul the author

in this brief volume the grief of the women is mentioned i find it interesting that for the billions of deaths mentioned here very little is said with regard to reflecting on the unimaginable grief or its affect on the women the author

in this rather brief volume we read of the seemingly final violent deed of the war now we begin the harsh reality many war widows face even today bidding a fond farewell to a loved one yesterday and burying him today the author

a fascinating book questioning the necessity of war a question still discussed today but for those who prefer it to peace there s as much discussion of carnage as such a one could ever imagine the author

includes section reviews and notices of books

papers presented at a national seminar on social awareness in modern indian literature organized by the indian institute of advanced study shimla in 1991

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Introduction

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