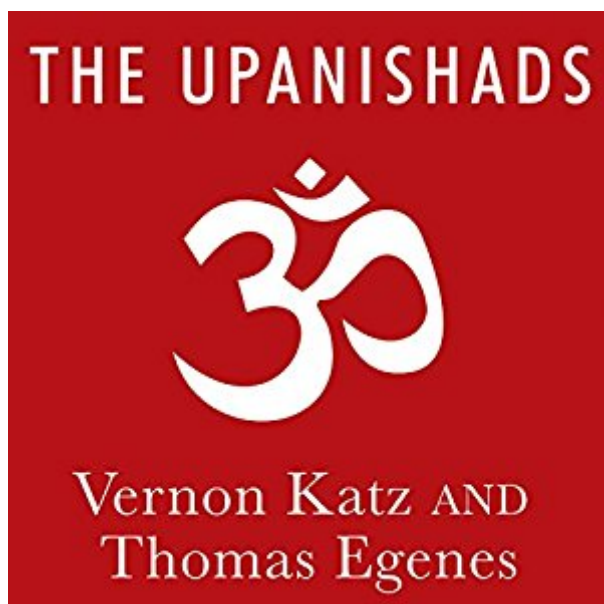


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The Upanishads: A New Translation



Synopsis

The Upanishads are often considered the most important literature from ancient India. Yet many academic translators fail to capture the work's philosophical and spiritual subtlety, while others convey its poetry at the cost of literal meaning. This new translation by Vernon Katz and Thomas Egenes fills the need for an Upanishads that is clear, simple, and insightful - yet remains faithful to the original Sanskrit. As Western Sanskrit scholars who have spent their lives immersed in meditative practice, Katz and Egenes offer a unique perspective in penetrating the depths of Eastern wisdom and expressing these insights in modern yet poetic language. Their historical introduction is suited to newcomers and experienced listeners alike, providing the perfect entry to this unparalleled work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been reading the Upanishads since the 1960s. Over the years I have perused many translations. Some are so academic, and burdened with Sanskrit terminology and footnotes, that they are virtually unreadable by a non-scholar. At the opposite pole, others are so simplified that the real spiritual juice is lost. This welcome new translation by Vernon Katz and Tom Egenes is eminently readable, even poetic, and at the same time captures the profundity of these great texts in a way that would surely gratify the ancient rishis who wrote them down. In addition to their fine translation, Drs. Katz and Egenes offer valuable supplementary material. In a brief preface, Katz, a Sanskrit scholar, educator, and author, shares the story of how he first encountered these texts in a

small seminar at Oxford University, conducted by professor Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a brilliant scholar and second president of modern India. In contemporary language, Dr. Katz was simply blown away by these works, recognizing almost immediately that Ātma here was the truth. It was self-evident. No proof was needed, even across the span of centuries. I had stumbled upon it, and I have never wavered from this conviction. Ātma A similar gem is the Introduction by Tom Egenes, also a Sanskrit scholar, author, and professor. In just a few pages he offers a beautiful and concise education in the fundamental principles of Vedanta, the highest level of Indian philosophy, including an explanation of the unbounded, blissful nature of our true Self (Atman), Ātma the inner essence that transcends the personality, Ātma and its relationship to Brahman, the Totality, the Wholeness of life that encompasses the ever-changing relative field and the unchanging Absolute. This is expressed in the familiar phrase, Ātma Atman is Brahman, Ātma or, less abstract and more personal, Ātma I am the Totality. Ātma Realizing this, not just intellectually but experientially, is Enlightenment, the great theme of the Upanishads. Students of Indian philosophy may note the absence of two of the great Upanishads, the Chandogya and Brihadaranyaka. Katz and Egenes note that they plan to publish these longer works in a separate volume at a later date. It is something to look forward to.

Finally, a translation of the Upanishads that is readable and clearly aimed at those of us fortunate to practice Transcendental Meditation. I'm so thankful to Vernon Katz and Thomas Egenes for their absolute labor of love in translating this immortal knowledge into lively and beautiful words. In my experience, translations of the Upanishads usually feel academic and vague, this new translation by two eminent scholars really does seem to capture the soul and totality of this ancient tradition in a way that makes instant sense to the mind and heart. I'm very thankful to have found this book.

This translation of the Upanishads is so beautifully poetic that it's a pleasure to read. The Upanishads were written from the point of view of advaita Vedanta, the concept that everything in its deepest nature is made up of Brahman. They are beautiful writings, but this translation is somehow more readable and flowing than other translations I've written. It's also more comprehensible--making the Upanishads more accessible to the reader.

I first bought the Kindle version and began reading, and felt it was necessary to then purchase a paperback version in order to continue. The problem with the Kindle version is that it was released with wonky fonts not aligning (the transliteration font is too far above the baseline). This is very

distracting. I feel that the Kindle version should be immediately corrected and re-released, with a free upgrade for purchasers of the first release. Meanwhile, I now additionally own the paperback version and am happily continuing to dive deep into this superb translation of the Upanishads!

Always a bit sad when the kindle formatting is all wonky and weird. Here we have a tiny picture of a word every time there is a diacritical mark. I have many kindle editions which use a font that has native diacriticals, so I know this is not necessary. Check out my photo. Of course, the paper edition probably has many problems of its own, including that cheap newsprint that so many paperbacks are printed with these days. Sigh.

This was a great translate version of the original Upanishads. The book itself is set in poem form almost making it very easy to follow along with and when coming to a new section it was clearly bold so it didn't all run together. The author really did do a great job at translation but could of made the introduction a lot smaller. The book itself can easily be read through in 1 day. If you practice Hinduism or just starting to look into it I would strongly recommend this version of the Upanishads!!! did pay full retail for this book

Unless one can read in the Sanskrit (and even then one should read both the author's introductions), this is simply the finest translation available that I have read in 40 years. I am not a scholar, but a person who loves the Vedic Wisdom.

This is the most profound translation of the Upanishads that I have ever read. Besides being fun to read and true to the original, the translators clearly have the experiences that are being discussed in the Upanishads. When a translation comes from direct experience, as this does, I notice that some quality of that experience comes to the reader. For example, the conversation in the Katha Upanishad and Death are good to read for anyone who is experiencing a loss of a family member or facing a serious illness--well presented, beautifully phrased, and profoundly enlightening. I hope that Profs. Vernon Katz and Thomas Egenes translate more of the Vedic literature soon.

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