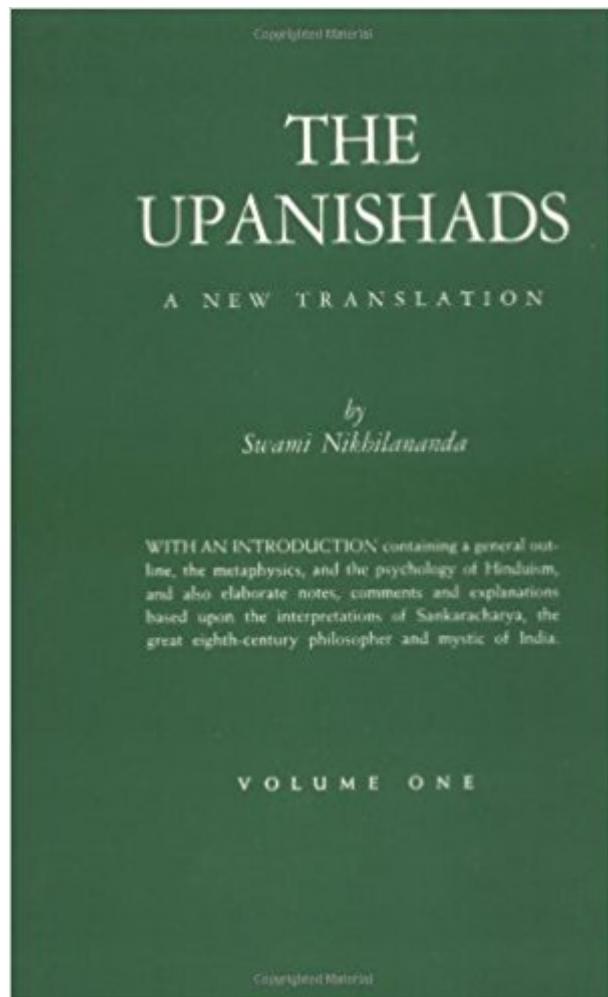


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Upanishads, Volume 1



Synopsis

Swami Nikhilananda's English translation of four of the major Upanishads - Katha, Isa, Kena, and Mundaka - offers a scholarly, yet readable version of the sacred texts of ancient India. The Upanishads form the foundation of the Hindu religion and describe the ultimate objective of life - the liberation of the soul from the bondage of the phenomenal world. Swami Nikhilananda's clear and insightful writing combined with notes and explanation based on the commentary of Sankaracharya, the great eighth-century philosopher and mystic of India, will help the spiritual seeker delve into the meaning of these spiritual treasures. This first of four volumes also contains an introduction with a general outline of the metaphysics and philosophy of Hinduism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A remarkably felicitous and spiritual translation which will go far toward making the great literature of the Hindu philosophical scriptures both accessible and intelligible to [the] thoughtful -- Edgar S. BrightmanA scholarly and highly illuminating work. At a time when we are all seeking to understand the soul of India and to interpret the religious heritage of the deeply spiritual people, [these volumes] ought to be carefully studied -- Edward J. JurjiAnyone who is seriously interested in the religious and philosophical thought of India would be anxious to have this, as well as the [other] volumes of Upanishads in translation by Swami Nikhilananda. -- Pitirim A. SorokinHis translation of the original Sanskrit is literal but fresh and vigorous; to this he has added succinct, brilliantly written notes. It is difficult to over-estimate the value of Swami Nikhilananda's project for those who are interested in the spiritual life. Will add incomparable riches to any which contemplates it. -- Thomas

Sugrue, New York Times Book ReviewSwami Nikhilananda's line by line commentary on The Upanishads is a most welcome addition to our knowledge and understanding of the country and culture which perhaps more than any other is now taking on a position of primary importance in the Oriental world. -- F.S.C. NorthropThis is by far the most satisfactory and readable translation of The Upanishads I have seen. -- Herbert W. Schneider

The Upanishads - Volumes I through IV are published by The Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center of New York which bases its teachings on the principles of Vedanta, or Hinduism. Hinduism teaches that every soul is potentially divine, and that its divinity may be manifested through worship, contemplation, unselfish work, and philosophical discrimination. According to Hinduism, Truth is universal and all humankind and all existence are one. It preaches the unity of the Godhead, or ultimate Reality, and accepts every faith as a valid means for its own followers to realize the Truth.

This series is a beautiful and scholarly introduction to the Upanishads. The volume contains a rich introduction by Swami Nikhilananda and lengthy discussion of Brahman-important for us Western readers who may not be familiar with many of the basic concepts of Hindu thought. Then follows a line by line commentary by Nikhilananda (who founded the Ramakrishna-Vivikenanda Mission in New York City) and helpful notes from the Sri Shankara, the great Hindu scholar of the 8th Century. The result is an impressive and fresh presentation of some of the most important texts in the Hindu religion. Volume one covers the Katha, Isa, Kena and Mundara Upanishads. This series is for the serious student or religious scholar. The depth of presentation and rich footnotes will remind readers of other great commentaries such as St. Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologica or Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics.

If you have basic knowledge already then this book is extra enlightening. I recommend this to people who are searching various religions for the "truth".

A favorite Upanishad of Swami Vivekananda's. He said to his disciple, "Among the Upanishads, one finds no other book so beautiful as this. I wish you would all get it by heart. What will it do only to read it? Rather try to bring into your life the faith, the courage, the discrimination, and the renunciation of Nachiket." Here is the Razor's Edge.

Thank you.

Very pleased

Spiritual. Upanishads are great source of wisdom.. Very well distilled and readable form. You need lot of time to read, reread and digest these books.

Great, thank you

excellent

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