

as it is bhagavad gita

As It Is Bhagavad Gita: A Timeless Guide to Life and Spiritual Wisdom

as it is bhagavad gita is more than just a spiritual text; it is a profound dialogue that has inspired millions for centuries. This version, famously translated and commented upon by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, offers readers an authentic and accessible insight into the essence of the Bhagavad Gita. Whether you are seeking spiritual growth, philosophical understanding, or practical guidance for daily living, exploring the Bhagavad Gita “as it is” can open doors to timeless wisdom.

Understanding the Essence of As It Is Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita, often called the “Song of God,” is a sacred scripture forming part of the Indian epic Mahabharata. This dialogue between Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna takes place on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, where Arjuna faces a moral and existential crisis. The text addresses the nature of duty, righteousness, and the path to self-realization.

What Makes “As It Is” Unique?

Many translations and interpretations of the Bhagavad Gita exist, but the “As It Is” edition stands out because it remains faithful to the original Sanskrit verses without diluting their spiritual significance. Prabhupada’s translation includes detailed purports that explain the philosophical concepts in everyday language, making the scripture approachable for modern readers.

One key feature of the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” is its emphasis on bhakti yoga or the path of devotion. Prabhupada’s commentary highlights how loving devotion to Krishna can lead to liberation, a perspective sometimes underrepresented in other versions focused more on karma or jnana yoga.

The Core Teachings Explored in As It Is Bhagavad Gita

Delving into the teachings of the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” reveals a wealth of guidance that transcends religious boundaries. Here are some central themes that resonate deeply with readers:

Dharma and Duty

At the heart of the Gita is the concept of dharma — the righteous duty aligned with cosmic law. Arjuna’s hesitation to fight in the war is a metaphor for the inner conflicts we all face when our responsibilities challenge our emotions or desires. Krishna advises performing one’s duty without attachment to outcomes, emphasizing selfless action (karma yoga).

Paths to Spiritual Realization

The Bhagavad Gita discusses multiple spiritual paths to reach self-realization, including:

- **Karma Yoga:** The yoga of selfless action.
- **Jnana Yoga:** The path of knowledge and wisdom.
- **Bhakti Yoga:** The way of devotion and love towards God.

“As it is Bhagavad Gita” particularly underscores bhakti yoga as the supreme path, encouraging a personal relationship with the Divine.

The Imperishable Soul

One of the most profound teachings is the immortality of the soul (atman). Krishna explains that while the body is temporary, the soul is eternal and beyond birth and death. This understanding helps alleviate fear of mortality and encourages living with spiritual awareness.

How to Approach Reading As It Is Bhagavad Gita

For many, the Bhagavad Gita might seem intimidating due to its depth and ancient context. However, the “As It Is” version is crafted to guide readers gently into these profound ideas.

Tips for Engaging with the Text

1. **Read Slowly and Reflect:** Each verse is layered with meaning. Take time to ponder the purports provided alongside the verses.
2. **Use the Commentary:** Prabhupada’s explanations clarify difficult Sanskrit terms and philosophical concepts, making the teachings applicable to everyday life.
3. **Practice Regularly:** Daily study or contemplation of the Gita can deepen understanding and integrate its wisdom into your life.
4. **Discuss with Others:** Joining study groups or online forums can enrich your perspective through shared insights.

Incorporating Bhagavad Gita's Wisdom into Daily Life

The teachings of the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" are not just theoretical; they offer practical tools to navigate life's challenges. For example:

- **Dealing with Stress:** The principle of detachment helps manage anxiety by focusing on effort rather than results.
- **Finding Purpose:** Understanding dharma can guide career choices and personal responsibilities.
- **Enhancing Relationships:** Bhakti yoga encourages empathy and unconditional love.

By applying these lessons, readers can cultivate inner peace and clarity, regardless of external circumstances.

The Impact of As It Is Bhagavad Gita in Modern Times

Over the decades, the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" has influenced spiritual seekers, scholars, and even leaders worldwide. Its emphasis on devotion and direct experience of God resonates with those looking for a heartfelt spiritual path rather than a purely philosophical one.

Many people turn to this edition to regain perspective in times of confusion or moral dilemmas. Its teachings about righteous action and devotion provide a compass in an often chaotic world.

Global Reach and Accessibility

Thanks to translations in multiple languages and the efforts of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" is accessible globally. This widespread availability has helped bridge cultural gaps and introduce Eastern philosophy in a way that is respectful and authentic.

Exploring Related Concepts and Texts

If you find the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" compelling, you might also explore related spiritual texts and practices:

- **Srimad Bhagavatam:** Another foundational scripture in Krishna devotion.
- **Bhagavad Gita Lectures:** Audio and video talks by Prabhupada and contemporary teachers.

- **Chanting the Hare Krishna Mantra:** A practice closely linked with bhakti yoga.

These resources complement the Gita's teachings and provide practical ways to deepen your spiritual journey.

Reading the Bhagavad Gita "as it is" invites not just intellectual understanding but a transformation of heart and mind. This sacred dialogue continues to illuminate the path for countless individuals, offering timeless wisdom on how to live with purpose, devotion, and clarity. Whether you are new to spiritual study or seeking to deepen your existing practice, embracing the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" can be a meaningful and enriching experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita?

The 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita is a translation and commentary of the Bhagavad Gita by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It presents the original Sanskrit text along with word-for-word meanings and explanations based on the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition.

How does 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita differ from other translations?

Unlike many other translations, 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita emphasizes the devotional aspects and philosophical teachings of Krishna consciousness without altering or interpreting the original message. Prabhupada includes detailed purports to explain the verses from a bhakti yoga perspective.

Why is 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita popular among spiritual seekers?

Its popularity stems from its clear and authentic presentation of Krishna's teachings, making complex philosophical concepts accessible. Additionally, the detailed purports help readers understand the spiritual practices and worldview of bhakti yoga practitioners.

Can beginners understand the 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita easily?

Yes, 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita is written with beginners in mind. The word-for-word translation and extensive purports provide context and explanations that guide readers through the spiritual teachings in a comprehensible manner.

Where can I find an official copy of 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita?

Official copies can be found through the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT) website, ISKCON centers worldwide, and authorized online retailers. Many free versions are also available on official ISKCON

websites for study and download.

What is the significance of the phrase 'As It Is' in the title?

The phrase 'As It Is' signifies that the translation and commentary aim to present the Bhagavad Gita exactly as it was originally intended by Lord Krishna, without distortion, personal interpretation, or modernization, preserving the original spiritual message.

How does 'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita relate to ISKCON teachings?

'As It Is' Bhagavad Gita forms the core scripture for ISKCON's teachings. It encapsulates the principles of Krishna consciousness, devotion, and the path to spiritual enlightenment that ISKCON members follow and promote worldwide.

Additional Resources

As It Is Bhagavad Gita: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Timeless Spiritual Scripture

as it is bhagavad gita has emerged as one of the most influential and widely studied spiritual texts in the world. This edition, translated and commented upon by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), presents the Bhagavad Gita not only as a philosophical masterpiece but also as a practical guide to life and spirituality. The Bhagavad Gita itself is a 700-verse Hindu scripture that forms part of the Indian epic Mahabharata, consisting of a dialogue between Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna, who serves as his charioteer and spiritual guide.

This article delves into the unique characteristics of the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” edition, its impact on contemporary spiritual discourse, and its relevance for readers seeking a deeper understanding of Hindu philosophy and practical application of spiritual principles.

Understanding the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” Edition

The “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” stands apart from other translations and interpretations due to its commitment to preserving the original text’s meaning without distortion or dilution. Unlike versions that adapt the scripture to fit modern sensibilities or personal interpretations, Prabhupada’s translation aims to convey the exact message as it was intended in the original Sanskrit verses.

Literal Translation and Commentary

One of the defining features of this edition is its word-for-word translation approach. Each Sanskrit verse is broken down into its individual components, allowing readers to grasp the precise meaning of each word and phrase. This method aids in appreciating the richness and depth of the original language, which often contains multiple layers of meaning.

The commentary provided by Prabhupada elaborates on the philosophical concepts, cultural context,

and practical applications of the teachings. His explanations emphasize devotion (bhakti), duty (dharma), and the path to self-realization through surrender to Krishna, aligning with the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition.

Comparison with Other Bhagavad Gita Versions

When compared to other popular Bhagavad Gita editions—such as those by Swami Vivekananda, Eknath Easwaran, or Paramahansa Yogananda—the “As It Is” version offers a more orthodox and devotional perspective. While some translations focus on universal spirituality or philosophical abstraction, Prabhupada’s work grounds the scripture firmly within the Vaishnava tradition, emphasizing Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

This focus can be both a strength and a limitation depending on the reader’s background and expectations. For those interested in a devotional path and literal interpretation, it provides unparalleled insight. For readers seeking a more secular or metaphorical approach, other versions might resonate more deeply.

Philosophical Themes in “As It Is Bhagavad Gita”

The Bhagavad Gita addresses numerous philosophical questions that remain relevant today, such as the nature of the self, the ethics of action, and the means to attain spiritual liberation. The “As It Is” edition highlights several key themes with clarity and depth.

Dharma and Duty

Central to the Gita is the concept of dharma—righteous duty aligned with cosmic order. Arjuna’s moral dilemma on the battlefield serves as a metaphor for the human struggle to act ethically amidst complex circumstances. Prabhupada’s commentary stresses that performing one’s prescribed duties without attachment to outcomes is essential for spiritual progress, a principle known as Nishkama Karma.

Bhakti Yoga: The Path of Devotion

Unlike some interpretations that prioritize knowledge (jnana) or disciplined action (karma), the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” underscores bhakti yoga as the supreme path. Devotional service to Krishna is presented as the most accessible and fulfilling means to attain liberation, making the teachings highly practical for everyday spiritual seekers.

Self-Realization and the Eternal Soul

The text elucidates the distinction between the temporary physical body and the eternal soul

(atman). Prabhupada's annotations provide detailed explanations of reincarnation, the cycle of birth and death (samsara), and how understanding one's spiritual identity leads to freedom from material suffering.

Impact and Global Reach of the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita”

The translation's global influence cannot be overstated. Since its first publication in 1968, it has been distributed worldwide in multiple languages and formats, becoming a cornerstone text for ISKCON devotees and spiritual enthusiasts alike.

Accessibility and Educational Use

The inclusion of elaborate explanations alongside the original verses makes the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” a valuable resource for academic study, spiritual education, and personal reflection. Its structured presentation facilitates systematic learning, enabling readers to progress from basic understanding to in-depth contemplation.

Critiques and Controversies

Despite its popularity, the edition has faced criticism from some scholars who argue that Prabhupada's commentary sometimes reflects sectarian views, potentially limiting broader interpretive possibilities. Others contend that his devotional emphasis might overshadow the philosophical pluralism inherent in the Gita.

Nevertheless, these critiques have not diminished the text's significance but rather highlight the diversity of approaches to this ancient scripture.

Practical Applications of the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” Teachings

Beyond philosophical insight, the “As It Is Bhagavad Gita” offers tangible guidance for modern readers seeking to navigate life's challenges.

- **Stress and Decision Making:** The Gita's counsel on detachment from results encourages resilience and mental clarity in stressful situations.
- **Ethical Living:** Emphasizing dharma encourages readers to align their actions with moral integrity.

- **Spiritual Discipline:** The practices of meditation, devotion, and selfless service outlined in the text provide a framework for holistic personal development.
- **Understanding Purpose:** By contemplating the nature of the self and ultimate reality, readers can cultivate a sense of purpose beyond material success.

Integration in Contemporary Spirituality

In today's pluralistic spiritual landscape, the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" continues to inspire seekers from diverse backgrounds. Its emphasis on devotion, ethical action, and self-knowledge resonates with individuals looking for depth and authenticity in their spiritual practice.

At the same time, the text's literal and orthodox approach invites readers to engage critically and reflect on how ancient wisdom can be adapted or preserved in modern contexts.

The enduring appeal of the "As It Is Bhagavad Gita" lies in its ability to bridge millennia, cultures, and philosophies, offering a pathway into the profound mysteries of life and consciousness as they were originally revealed. Whether approached as a sacred scripture, a philosophical treatise, or a practical manual, this edition remains a vital resource for those drawn to the eternal dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna.

As It Is Bhagavad Gita

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Godhood. The book comprises the text, transliteration, word-meaning, translation and commentary. A unique contribution is the topic-wise division of each chapter. It helps capture the thought-flow and message in the text.

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from perplexity to spiritual enlightenment. In the course of doing so, Krishna concisely but definitively explains transcendental knowledge; karma-yoga, jnana-yoga, and bhakti-yoga; knowledge of the Absolute; devotional service; the three modes of material natures; the divine and demoniac natures; and much more.

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Kshetrajna * The Differentiation of the Three Gunas * The Supreme Purusha * The Differentiation of the Divine and the Demonic * The Differentiation of the Threefold Shraddha * The Yoga of Liberation and Renunciation. This book also contains detailed notes to the Gita chapters, a Further Reading section, a combined Glossary and Index of Sanskrit terms, and an Index of English words. (Series: A Sussex Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices)

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