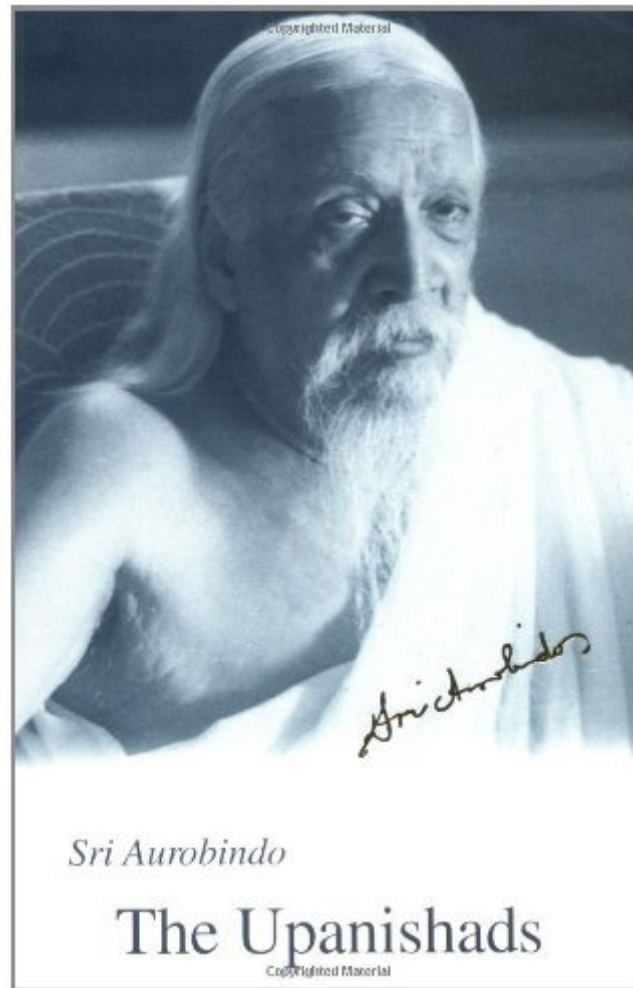


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The Upanishads, 1st US Edition



Synopsis

The Upanishads is a collection of Sri Aurobindo's final translations of and commentaries on every Upanishad or other Vedantic text he worked on. Upanishads are the ancient treatises on spiritual truths as envisioned by the seers, sages and rishis of the civilization of India. Index.

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Customer Reviews

The 18 verses of Isha Upanishad, which also appear in the Veda, were most dear to Sri Aurobindo in the sense that he has attempted several commentaries upon them in order to break free from the anomalies occurring in the received interpretations. In the process, he has audaciously ventured to disagree with many venerated masters and philosophical doctrines. Now that all these commentaries are available in one single volume, one should relish the delightful arguments and illuminating explanations. It is important to know that, out of the repeated revision of these commentaries was born, 'The Life Divine', by far, the greatest philosophical work to date. His shorter commentary on the Kena Upanishad deals with epistemological issues while that on Isha takes up the ontological aspects. These works are much more accessible than the sophisticated idiom of 'The Life Divine', and, in fact, serve as guide-books.

Having completed 51 pages of this 466 page work I suggest that this translation, analysis and commentary of Upanishads, by Sri Aurobindo is the what to read if anything for those on the paths of knowledge and devotion. Don't go any further. If it be upon my suggestion that you read anything, read this first. If it is illumination of this great work that you seek, let Sri Aurobindo be your guide. May you find your way. Clarence

This review is limited to the translation only, and on that I must disagree with the other reviewers. The translation, as I understand it by Aurobindo himself, is nearly impenetrable. The syntax and grammar, sentence arrangement and choice of vocabulary are confusing and do not effectively convey the meaning of the text. This became sharply apparent when I read another translation and the profound beauty of the text came through. Try the Juan Mascaro version.

Not sure this is the right place, but ... I have purchased several Lotus Press titles, and they each arrive heavily perfumed. I have to put them out on the clothesline for weeks before I can begin to read them, and even so I must tolerate a headache to do so. Aurobindo is difficult enough as it is (though definitely worth it). Please let the people who want the perfume add it themselves.

The language is, the far, the clearest that I have come across compared to translations by other authors. Sri Aurobindo has also shown the Sanskrit text with his English translation---no author would do such a thing unless he/she is confident of doing a good work at the translation. Strongly recommended and my gratitude to the author for his good work and effort.

I have not come across any better translation better than this. Anyone interested in the Upanishads... look no further. This one is a polished version of an earlier edition.

There are few who can compare with Sri Aurobindo Ghose. His erudition is only surpassed by his realization. A wordsmith of the highest order, who can bring to light and clarity the often confusing and veiled jargon of the ancient Rishis. His commentaries on the Upanishads opens vistas of thought that allow the earnest and informed seeker the opportunity to sit at the feet of a modern master-sage.

Aurobindo is first of all a mystic qualified by Alexandra David-Neel "a reasonable mystic". and I quite

agree. The translation, by modern habits is difficult to read and may for certain look grammatically incorrect, and they may be therefore disturbed. Getting a comment from a field I know much better than Hinduism, I am tempted to say of that translation what Sir Alan Gardiner, a foremost egyptologist said once of the "The Chapters of coming forth by day" also known as "The Egyptian Book of the Dead" -- a misleading title --: "[A]ll translation (of this texts) must be considered as wrong". I do pretend that the same can be said of many if not all very old religious texts, i.e. also of the Upanishads. But the commentary is really interesting, and brings in my mind as "a simple reader interested but no mystic" more than other such comments. Aurobindo make a comment from the inside, and feeling himself what currents pass through the texts. And this is why I do read and reread that translation. Not to find a text of modern English poetry.

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