



# **The Mahabharata: An English Version Based on Selected Verses**

*Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan (Translation)*

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Intended to be a treatise on life itself, this epic poem embraces religion and ethics, polity and government, philosophy and the pursuit of salvation. This collection of more than 4,000 verses is supplemented by a glossary, genealogical tables, and an index correlating the verses with the original Sanskrit text.

### **The Mahabharata: An English Version Based on Selected Verses Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Mahabharata: An English Version Based on Selected Verses for online ebook**

### **Pooja Vyas says**

Even though it's selected verses, it portrays a complete story very easy to follow. Read the entire book in a day. Such great stories and adventures.

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### **Laurelyn Anne says**

This is a really good abridged translation, giving the major plot points in an 18 book epic, while completely cutting out books like Gita. It is a great introduction to the Indian epic for any student or curious reader.

The Mahabharata tells the epic story of the last of a noble line, the end of an epoch, an entire class, way of life, and a royal line. Five princes engage in warfare against their cousins over who will be kings over their inheritance. During these tricks and trials the Pandavas explore philosophical and spiritual ideas and problems facing man. This is the epic of religion, as well as of human character and spiritual development.

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### **Sarah says**

Traditional India Required Reading

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### **RDT says**

Mau tahu jiwa ksatria seperti apa?

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### **Cassandra Kay Silva says**

This is a better translation than most. I love these old Indian Epics and can't get enough of the elegant warriors and elephant ridden battles. I wish more of the original text would make it into English!

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### **Kaitlyn says**

The names are quite difficult throughout the epic, but I really enjoyed reading this piece. Simply put, it's comparable to the Iliad with a cultural immersion in India. I found it fascinating to read an epic that is lesser known in America and discover the cultural significance of this historical text.

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## **Jodi says**

I love me some Indian mythology, what can I can say?

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## **Jeff Russo says**

"As the sacred ocean and the snow-clad mountain are both regarded as mines of precious gems, so is this Mah?bh?rata."

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## **Kyung says**

Fun

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## **Catherine Schaff-Stump says**

Well, there's a lot of fighting, a lot of major mythic movements, not too much for women to do, and plenty of well-defined good and evil.

It's mythology. What do you want?

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## **Russell says**

The Bhagavad Gita is just a small aside in this epic, sprawling tale. Let me steal a snippet from Wikipedia : "With more than 74,000 verses, long prose passages, and about 1.8 million words in total, the Mah?bh?rata is one of the longest epic poems in the world. Including the Hariva??a, the Mahabharata has a total length of more than 90,000 verses.

It is of immense importance to the culture in the Indian subcontinent, and is a major text of Hinduism. Its discussion of human goals (artha or purpose, k?ma or pleasure, dharma or duty, and moksha or liberation) takes place in a long-standing tradition, attempting to explain the relationship of the individual to society and the world (the nature of the 'Self') and the workings of karma."

The version I read only had 4,000 verses translated into English. It was like taking Iliad and the Odyssey, throw in some great tragic plays, and add a good chunk of "The Tale of Genji" and then add the uniqueness of India. And that is just from the part I read!

I enjoyed how the heroes, the 5 Pandava brothers, were flawed. Not broken, just imperfect. One liked gambling, for example, to the point where they lost their kingdom and wealth. Twice!

One thing that stuck me was how it was a good vs evil battle, there where heroes on both sides and since they family, they evinced concern for the other side, since they were family. Krishna even went to try to convince

the other side, the Kauravas, to stop going down the path to war, in vain.

I found it to be a fun and interesting read. More so since we are engaging more with people from India at work.

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### **Tommy says**

Only 4 stars because this translation captures approximately only 4.5% of the story. As I wait for the ten volume van Buitenen and Fitzgerald edition to get finished up I might be satiated by the new Smith translation, which is a whopping 11% of story in almost 800 pages.

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### **Ada says**

i have read 3 versions of the mahabharata translated and this one is by far the best - very lucid and moving

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### **Anjoo says**

Excellent translation of the narrative regarding the war, but there's so much more to this story that I wish was translated in this manner. Still, phenom. job.

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### **Robert Geer says**

#### **Udyoga Parva**

Forty thousand chariots, five times that number of horses, ten times that number of foot soldiers, and sixty thousand elephants were gathered there...

...All the soldiers of the army became cheerful on hearing the thunderous sound of Krsna's conch, the Pancajanya.

#### **Bhimsa Parva**

"O King, man is the slave of wealth, though wealth is no ones slave."

\_Bhimsa to Yudhisthira

"Anyone who believes that this kills, or thinks that this is killed, fails to understand that one neither kills nor is killed."

\_Krishna to Arjuna

"You should not mind the fact that your enemy has been killed deceitfully. When one is outnumbered by his enemies, the destruction should be brought about by strategem. The gods themselves in killing the asuras, have followed the same methods." \_Krishna

"Death has been ordained by the Creator himself, and comes to all in course of time." \_Krishna

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