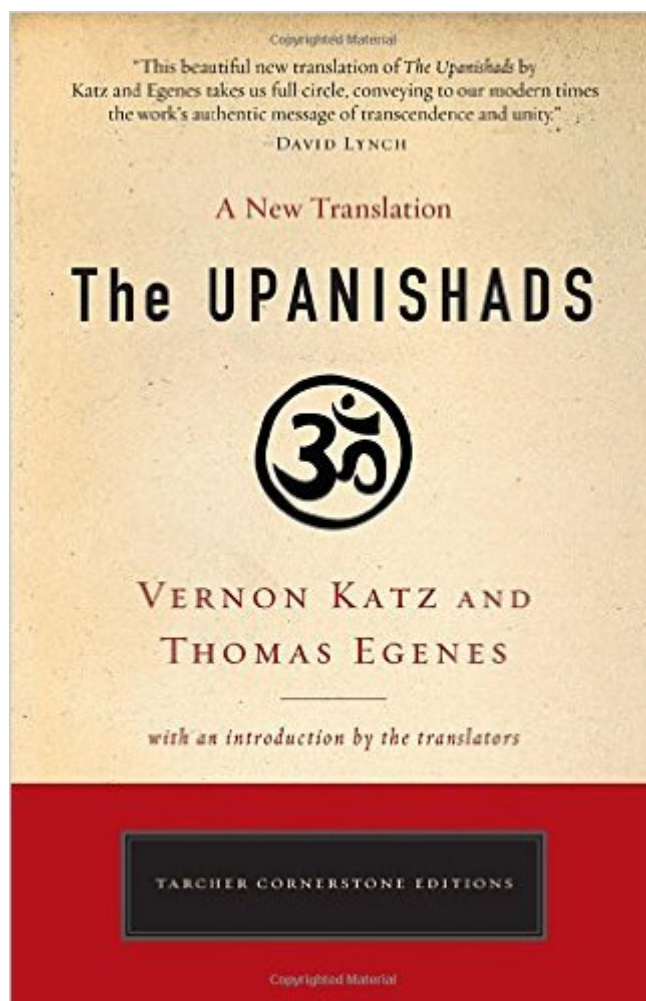


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The Upanishads: A New Translation By Vernon Katz And Thomas Egenes (Tarcher Cornerstone Editions)



Synopsis

This new translation of The Upanishads is at once delightfully simple and rigorously learned, providing today's readers with an accurate, accessible rendering of the core work of ancient Indian philosophy. 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 readers 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 the truth 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. 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), the inner essence that transcends the personality, and its relationship to Brahman, the Totality, the Wholeness of life that encompasses the ever-changing relative field and the unchanging Absolute.

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