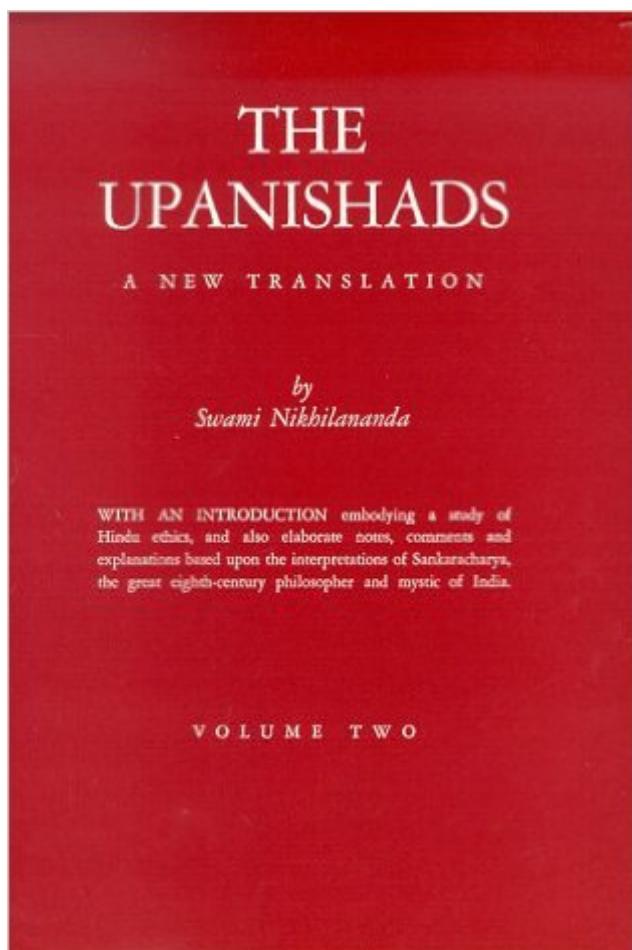


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Upanishads, Vol. 2



Synopsis

Swami Nikhilananda's English translation of three of the major Upanishads - Svetasvatara, Prasna, and Mandukya - 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 second of four volumes also contains an introduction with a general outline of Hindu ethics.

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Customer Reviews

After a more or less introductory volume (volume I), this second volume goes straight into the subject of the Ultimate Reality (or "Atman", "Brahman", "emptiness of phenomena" for buddhists). While i consider the first volume not to be an easy read, this volume goes beyond any such treatment of the "Absolute" i've seen so far. Beware of the various contentions and objections between the dualists and non-dualists schools that are mentionned in the text, because it could easily mislead the reader about the point to be explained. If you feel unsufficiently prepared for that when reading the introduction of this volume on Hindu ethics (if you feel you mix the different views) then it would be better to stop and go to another more general book (Hindu, Buddhist, Vedanta...) to better feel the different approaches for the "Absolute". Anyway, this is the deepest treatment of the "Absolute" at a conceptual point of view. This is not without problems because dealing with the

"Absolute" in a purely conceptual manner seems contradictory at first (concepts are dual by nature so they cannot help directly explain the infinite), but in fact the treatment is so exhaustive that it happens to be possible, at least if the reader can grasp the meaning of the text (a thorough understanding is required).

Contains the most important Gaudapada Karika texts of Shankara's teacher on Advaita Vedanta that exist.

Very informative and excellent commentary.

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