

The Mahabharata A Modern Rendering Kindle Edition Ramesh Menon

This is the first volume in a series of books that covers Indian history from the earliest times to August 1947, when India achieved independence from foreign rule. This volume covers the prehistoric antecedents before the Indus Valley Civilisation and gives a vivid account of the developments that took place in the Indian sub-continent till the demise of the glorious Maurya dynasty. In doing so, the book describes the evolution of languages and religion, examines cultural and other factors that have influenced the evolution of Indian civilisation and also vibrantly portrays the historical events that took place during this period of over 5000 years. The author also provides his own succinct comments on the events that took place in antiquity as have been reported in, and corroborated by, various sources. This book is a worthy addition to the analysis of Indian history.

Volume Two tells the story of the Great War, and of how Ravana was vanquished by the great Rama with imagination, power and beauty. Modern scholars claim that the Ramayana was first composed around 300 BC. The epic is called the Adi Kavya, the world's first poem. Ramesh Menon's The Ramayana is a novelist's lush, imaginative rendering, rather than a scholar's translation.

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'I, Kalari Kovilakom, grande maison, guardian of memories—births, deaths, marriages, hopes, dreams, laughter and tears—having gone through so many lifetimes, now stand witness to the march of time and the waywardness of fortune. I, with my louvered windows.' This is the chronicle of a grand old mansion bursting to tell its tale! The House That Dhathri Built and Other Stories will lead you deep into the heart of a Malabar palace, a sequestered world behind high walls where life is veering towards an unlit crossroad, strange and unfamiliar. Throughout this telling, the life of Dhathri, Ranee of the 'little kingdom', appears and reappears like a skein of silken thread that draws the narrative together into a moving saga of the times. Sweeping from British-occupied Malabar—through the war years and Independence up until the 'sea of red' causes the feudal system to break up and implode—can Kalari Kovilakom, the house that Dhathri built, survive the stormy buffets of social change? Or will it be condemned to die an ignoble death at the hands of a common pickaxe?

Volume One of this great epic follows Rama's life through his growing-up years and his exile in the forest to Sita's abduction and Hanuman's leap of faith. Modern scholars claim that the Ramayana was first composed around 300 BC. The epic is called the Adi Kavya, the world's first poem. Ramesh Menon's The Ramayana is a novelist's lush, imaginative rendering, rather than a scholar's translation.

The Mahabharata is the more recent of India's two great epics, and by far the longer. First composed by the Maharishi Vyasa in verse, it has come down the

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centuries in the timeless oral tradition of guru and shishya, profoundly influencing the history, culture, and art of not only the Indian subcontinent but most of south-east Asia. At 100,000 couplets, it is seven times as long as the Iliad and the Odyssey combined: far and away the greatest recorded epic known to man. The Mahabharata is the very Book of Life: in its variety, majesty and, also, in its violence and tragedy. It has been said that nothing exists that cannot be found within the pages of this awesome legend. The epic describes a great war of some 5000 years ago, and the events that led to it. The war on Kurukshetra sees ten million warriors slain, brings the dwapara yuga to an end, and ushers in a new and sinister age: this present kali yuga, modern times. At the heart of the Mahabharata nestles the Bhagavad Gita, the Song of God. Senayor ubhayor madhye, between two teeming armies, Krishna expounds the eternal dharma to his warrior of light, Arjuna. At one level, all the restless action of the Mahabharata is a quest for the Gita and its sacred stillness. After the carnage, it is the Gita that survives, immortal lotus floating upon the dark waters of desolation: the final secret! With its magnificent cast of characters, human, demonic, and divine, and its riveting narrative, the Mahabharata continues to enchant readers and scholars the world over. This new rendering brings the epic to the contemporary reader in sparkling modern prose. It brings alive all the excitement, magic, and grandeur of

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ancient oral tradition of guru and shishya, before it was first written down. Along the way, surely, numberless variations and embellishments were introduced into it by a host of now forgotten rishis, pauranikas, and even grandmothers telling Rama's story to their grandchildren- in so many different languages and folk traditions. There is also a comparatively recent tradition of retelling the Ramayana in English, to which this volume belongs. Though he takes no liberties with the story, Ramesh Menon's Ramayana is a novelist's lush, imaginative rendering of the epic, rather than a scholar's translation. Yet, even if the language he uses is modern and exciting, his book remains, first and last, a work of worship, of bhakti. As he wrote and rewrote it for ten years, this was his offering to Rama.

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Curious about the chains that bound Fenriswulf in Norse mythology? Or the hut of Baba Yaga, the infamous witch of Russian folklore? Containing more than one thousand detailed entries on the magical and mythical items from the different folklore, legends, and religions the world over, this encyclopedia is the first of its kind. From Abadi, the

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named stone in Roman mythology to Zul-Hajam, one of the four swords said to belong to the prophet Mohammed, each item is described in as much detail as the original source material provided, including information on its origin, who was its wielder, and the extent of its magical abilities. The text also includes a comprehensive cross-reference system and an extensive bibliography to aid researchers.

Those who have never known the future have always hoped for the best. But Sahadeva, who has known the future since the past, has only hoped for it to never become the present! Not allowed to reveal about this ability of his, the youngest Pandava speaks only when he is asked for responses and opinions. Nevertheless, Sahadeva's incessant musings about all relevant events across spaces of time prove that he indeed is 'Sahadeva'. Via Sahadeva's ability to envision everything about everyone and everything, 'Sahadeva Undercover' uncovers the unrevealed, unheard-of struggles of the wisest Pandava, Sahadeva, and explores the unexplored sub-plots of the story of Mahabharata.

Exploring the phenomenon of socio-religio-magico reality in Java called wong pinter, this study is a pioneering academic work based on a first hand data. By interviewing 108 practitioners within the framework of anthropological and ethnographical approaches and putting the discussions in the context of shamanism study, this work is also a unique inquiry on Javanese culture conducted by a native. Wong Pinter delineates significant connectivity between Javanese shamanism and Asian or Southeast Asian shamanism. It also describes various aspect of shamanism practices in Java and assesses the sustainability and challenges of this

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phenomenon vis-a-vis the suppression of religious and political establishment. Above all, this book is an outstanding report valuable to those who are interested to delve into the core of Javanese culture and to the deliberation of social science in general.

Arjuna is the immortal tale of one of India's greatest heroes. These pages retell in riveting detail the story of the Pandava Warrior-Prince who has captured the imagination of millions across centuries. This is the intense and human story of his loves, friendship, ambitions, weaknesses and follies, as well as his untimely death and revival, his stint as a eunuch, and the innermost reaches of his thoughts. Told in a refreshingly modern and humourous style and set against the staggering backdrop of the Mahabharata. Arjuna's story appeals equally to the average, discerning reader and the scholar. It spans the epic journey from before his birth, when omens foretold his greatness, across the fabled, wondrous landscape that was his life. "Here there be dragons"—this notation was often made on ancient maps to indicate the edges of the known world and what lay beyond. Heroes who ventured there were only as great as the beasts they encountered. This encyclopedia contains more than 2,200 monsters of myth and folklore, who both made life difficult for humans and fought by their side. Entries describe the appearance, behavior, and cultural origin of mythic creatures well-known and obscure, collected from traditions around the world.

India is killing the Ganges, and the Ganges in turn is killing India. The waterway that has nourished more people than any on earth for three millennia is now so polluted with sewage and toxic waste that it has become a menace to human and animal health. Victor Mallet traces the holy river from source to mouth, and from ancient times to the present day, to find that the battle to rescue what is arguably the world's most important river is far from lost. As one Hindu

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sage told the author in Rishikesh on the banks of the upper Ganges (known to Hindus as the goddess Ganga): "If Ganga dies, India dies. If Ganga thrives, India thrives. The lives of 500 million people is no small thing." Drawing on four years of first-hand reporting and detailed historical and scientific research, Mallet delves into the religious, historical, and biological mysteries of the Ganges, and explains how Hindus can simultaneously revere and abuse their national river. Starting at the Himalayan glacier where the Ganges emerges pure and cold from an icy cave known as the "Cow's Mouth" and ending in the tiger-infested mangrove swamps of the Bay of Bengal, Mallet encounters everyone from the naked holy men who worship the river, to the engineers who divert its waters for irrigation, the scientists who study its bacteria, and Narendra Modi, the Hindu nationalist prime minister, who says he wants to save India's mother-river for posterity. Can they succeed in saving the river from catastrophe - or is it too late? This work is a shortened prose rendering of a poem considered to be the longest in any language and some 3500 years old. It is one of the founding epics of Indian culture, filled with vivid characters, who are obsessed with the rise and fall of gods, empires and heroes.

The work focuses on a subaltern local sovereignty movement called "Telangana" in India. Over the last ten years, this movement has engaged in a massive political mobilization, including strikes, rallies, work stoppages, occupation of public spaces, electoral contests, 200 and more political suicides and media battles. But, interestingly enough, notwithstanding a political mobilization that has brought day-to-day life to a halt on a number of occasions, it has remained largely invisible in international media and

