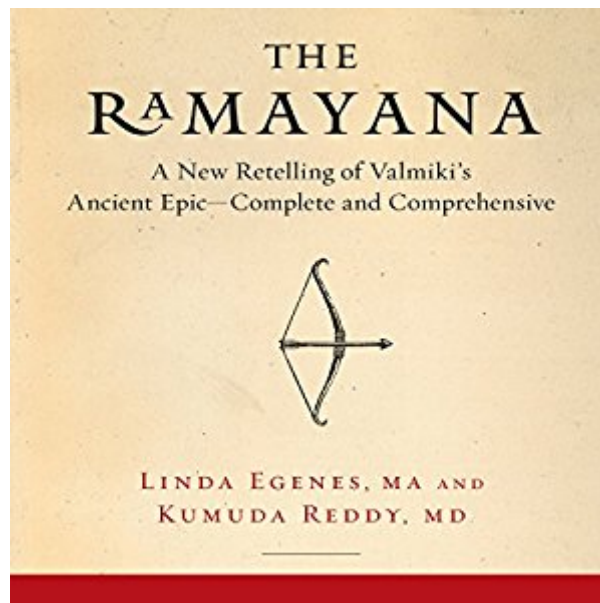




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The Ramayana: A New Retelling Of Valmiki's Ancient Epic - Complete And Comprehensive



Synopsis

A delightfully straightforward and lyrical retelling of the ancient Indian epic of loyalty, betrayal, redemption, and insight into the true nature of life - one of history's most sacred ethical works, rendered with completeness and sterling accuracy for the modern listener. Here is one of the world's most hallowed works of sacred literature, the grand, sweeping epic of the divine bowman and warrior Rama and his struggles with evil, power, duplicity, and avarice. The Ramayana is one of the foundations of world literature and one of humanity's most ancient and treasured ethical and spiritual works. Includes an introduction by scholar Michael Sternfeld.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First time I read the Ramayana was about 35 years ago - small paperback, very endearing story. About 12 yrs ago I read the complete edition 3 volumes long - enjoyed it. This edition by Egenes and Reddy is the best yet. High praise to the authors for what they selected to highlight, endless rewrites and their collaboration. Noticed in the acknowledgements they sought the input of many others to make sure they were getting it right - good move. Books of high spiritual content have a distinct quality of consciousness to them that extends beyond the written words. This particular book has touched me deeper than the previous depictions of this high epic. I've felt an emotional charge that has moved my soul, brought me to tears on some occasions. I've already bought more copies for others to share this experience. Blessings to all who took part in this effort and may the intention of this work continue to move the seekers of Truth toward their highest goal.

Linda Egenes' version of The Ramayana completely altered my experience of this classic work. It is simple and direct, yet very visceral in its expression. Each utterance or gesture of Rama and the other enlightened characters registered as a thrill in my physiology. I felt their presence almost as palpably as if I had been there with them. Her "voice" has a soft touch, spiritual in its essence, as she guides us through the daily struggles and triumphs of these very human, yet divine beings. Reading this book is something I will do again and again, if for no other reason than to experience the bliss it creates. Thank you and congratulations, Linda!

It had been almost 20 years since I last read this story, that was another time and another place. I could not recall what version that was at the moment as it leaves only a glimpse of an impression in my mind now. So to pick up this new re-telling and rediscover this treasure of a beautiful, timeless story and have it come absolutely alive as I read it to have the pages fall away as the characters come to life, and to allow the story to weave itself into the fabric of my very own consciousness, as if I were there inside the story itself these are the greatest gifts a book can offer, and this version of the Ramayana delivers these gifts effortlessly. It is beautifully written, easy to read, and tells a story expertly brought to life for those of us in the modern era who may not be born into the culture from where this story comes... Get this book you will not be disappointed!

At first I wondered "What, another version of the Ramayana?". I've already read 4 or 5 versions. But I love the Ramayana, so I bought it and immediately read this version. I loved it. It is beautifully written so it is just delightful to read. Plus this translation includes clear descriptions of the spiritual experiences and transcendental silence that are at the heart of the Vedic culture. Most versions simply ignore this part of the Ramayana, but Ms. Egenes handles this gracefully. She also includes touching details that only a woman would include. For example, when Ram, Sita, Hanuman, and Sugriva were returning to Ayodhya for Ram's coronation, only in this version did I learn that the monkey generals were also on the aerial chariot Pushpaka. And at Sita's request, Pushpaka stopped at the monkey kingdom Kishkinda so that the monkey generals' wives could board and attend the coronation. Somehow the male translators never included this lovely detail. Very, very well done.

This book is hard to put down. Because it strikes the chords in places within all of us where we long

for perfection in ourselves and in our leaders, the timeless Ramayana is a classic in any country and a model for the high-minded of any religion. Where other translators typically change or glamorize the story, Egenes' translation is pure and clean, as is her writing, a style is so simple that even though it is essentially for adults, the book would make good bedtime reading to children. To understand how this is a compliment one would have to know that there are many concepts in it that are largely unfamiliar to the average Westerner, yet Egenes explains them in such a way that one doesn't realize how gracefully and simply it has been accomplished--even a child could understand and be inspired by it. I was struck by how it is the perfect tone and medium for the story. The story itself is what we typically call a page turner--an exciting journey into a dangerous forest, followed by a dangerous battle between good and evil that includes talking monkeys, bears, and superpowers. It is a story of duty fulfilled, of profound psychological understandings, courage and justice. Long before Shakespeare gave us his classic characters, the Ramayana gave us heroes, villains, and phrases that are classics around the world, so deeply part of our cultures that we have forgotten from where they came. Some readers will of course find things to criticize for anyone can find fault if they try, but if the reader can be as simple and pure as the story, this retelling in this unpretentious but profoundly clear style, will charm, enliven, and become unforgettable as it has for millions over thousands of years. This is very meaning of the word "classic."

This book is a real treasure. The writing is beautiful--simple yet profound, sweet and elegant. And the reader is so fulfilled as the story unfolds. I've been wanting to reread the Ramayana for years, and am delighted by this inspiring retelling.

For people in the West, The Ramayana is likely be an unknown--some mysterious story from a far-away land. Nevertheless, it is the basis of all our stories. Often it's in an ancient language, in a foreign style. However, it has so much to say about our daily lives. Egenes brings the compelling events into focus in a way that so much more related to our culture now. Thus, we benefit from it as much as those in the last thousands and thousands of years.

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