



Mahabharata

By William Buck

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Few works in world literature have inspired so vast an audience, in nations with radically different languages and cultures, as the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, two Sanskrit verse epics written some 2,000 years ago.

In *Ramayana* (written by a poet known to us as Valmiki), William Buck has retold the story of Prince Rama—with all its nobility of spirit, courtly intrigue, heroic renunciation, fierce battles, and triumph of good over evil—in a length and manner that will make the great Indian epics accessible to the contemporary reader.

The same is true for the *Mahabharata*—in its original Sanskrit, probably the longest Indian epic ever composed. It is the story of a dynastic struggle, between the Kurus and Pandavas, for land. In his introduction, Sanskritist B. A. van Nooten notes, "Apart from William Buck's rendition [no other English version has] been able to capture the blend of religion and martial spirit that pervades the original epic."

Presented accessibly for the general reader without compromising the spirit and lyricism of the originals, William Buck's *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* capture the essence of the Indian cultural heritage.

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Mahabharata By William Buck Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Buck recaptures a spirit which is lacking in the more [literal and complete] translation; there is a poetry of expression, an atmosphere of awe, a liveliness of appreciation. . . . Buck captures much of the beauty of the Sanskrit thought. . . . A pleasure to read and to look at; the many illustrations by Shirley Triest have a magical quality in total harmony with the magic of the text."--"Times Literary Supplement

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

About the Author

William Buck died in 1970 at the age of 37 after more than 15 years of work on the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, and the unfinished *Harivamsa*. Of the two finished books, he wrote, "My method in writing both Mahabharata and Ramayana was to begin with a literal translation from which to extract the story, and then to tell that story in an interesting way that would preserve the spirit and flavor of the original."

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