

Mahābhārata-Tātparyā-Nirṇaya

The Mahābhārata-Tātparyā-Nirṇaya of Madhva (1238-1317), written in the early 14th century, is the earliest datable commentary, in some 5000 verses, on the Sanskrit epic known as the Mahābhārata. Until now, the Mahābhārata-Tātparyā-Nirṇaya, as indeed many other rare works, has been difficult to obtain, and has even been mostly out of print and available only in limited print runs. Even when in print, the work has not been easily accessible to many. In fact, the definitive critical edition of the Mahābhārata itself, done by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, India, in the first half of the twentieth century, makes no reference to this work because it was unavailable to those scholars then.

Printed texts of this work, even where found, contain many corrupted readings, and there has not been a critical edition until now.

It is our hope with the present effort to remedy these difficulties by creating an e-text of this critical edition and making it freely available on the Internet, from where anyone interested may download and print a copy for personal use. Other e-texts are in the process of creation and will also be added in due course.

E-texts of this work have been given to the TITUS project (Thesaurus Indogermanischer Text-und Sprachmaterialien, Universität Frankfurt, Germany). Hard copies have been deposited with the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India, the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, U.S.A, and other places.

This text follows the 14th-century manuscript of the work written by the author's immediate disciple Hṛṣīkeśa Tīrtha. The manuscript, in highly dilapidated condition, is preserved at the Palimar Maṭha, Udupi. Our encoding was then proofed against other published versions of the work, and obvious errors were corrected where found. We also referred to the chief commentary on this work, by Vādirāja Tīrtha (1480-1600)—this was helpful in many cases. For instance, in XXII-162, the commentator notes and honors two readings, and following him, so do we. Only in two instances, II-148 and XXXII-166, did we include verses that are not found in the ancient manuscript, based on their being explained by the commentator word-for-word (showing his acceptance of them).

The text was created using the ITRANS freeware program for Indian languages. This software is by Avinash Chopde (see web page at <http://www.aczone.com/itrans> for information). The text is in the Devanagari script common for Sanskrit documents. The font used is a 11pt Type 1 freeware font by Franz Velthius, commonly called the Velthius font.

A computer program in Java was used to generate an alphabetical listing of verse hemistiches (see near the end), and an appendix gives this index, which may be useful if one is trying to locate a verse based on a few words with which it begins.

Included on the CD are the raw text files (mbtn.itx and ancillaries) needed to create our file. The PDF files (available from the website <http://www.dvaita.net> on the date of this writing) are included as well. There are files with the .itx suffix for a Devanāgarī text, and files with the .tex suffix for a Romanized text.

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