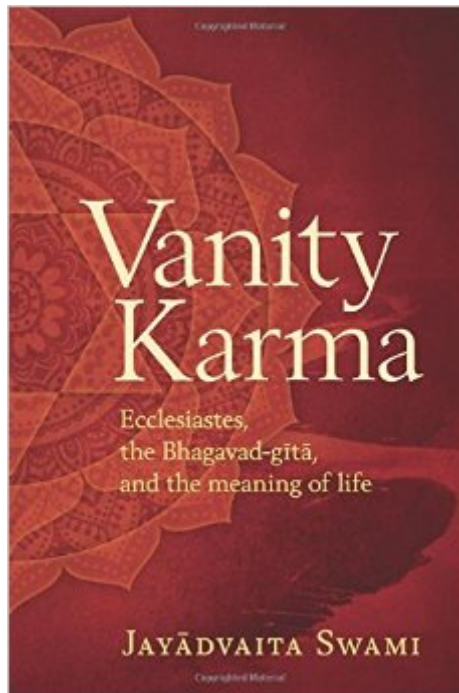


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Vanity Karma: Ecclesiastes, The Bhagavad-gita, And The Meaning Of Life



Synopsis

This cross-cultural exploration in self-realization and spiritual awakening brings India's most celebrated classic of wisdom into dialogue with the most radically powerful wisdom book of the Hebrew scriptures. Jayavaita Swami writes, "As wisdom meets wisdom, as found in these two books--one biblical, the other from spiritual India--we see the daily issues of our world in a different way as we rise above them to consider what life is for, what ultimate profit we can gain from it, what meaning, what happiness, what lasting value. And as we read, we grow in wisdom ourselves." Vanity Karma includes the full text of Ecclesiastes in a modern English rendering, with an illuminating commentary on each verse. The plain-language commentary is followed by meticulous notes, making Vanity Karma valuable for the seeker, for the scholar, and for anyone who has ever asked, "What is the meaning of my life?" Vanity Karma is the winner of the 2016 Benjamin Franklin gold award given by the Independent Book Publishers Association for the year's best book in the category "religion."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• Seek and ye shall find • is an important statement that sets the tone for this knowledgeable book. Despite strong religious overtones and a few unbiased preferences it manages to override this by bringing overall enlightenment. Those coming to this book in general will be seekers. They are either somewhere between the scale of looking for meaning in life and being disillusioned by the world. Using the Ecclesiastes from the Hebrew bible as the subject this is reflected upon by the

Bhagavad-Gita a Hindu scripture. The title suggests vanity is the meaning of life, where we foolishly follow the materialistic society in vain. The saying "too much of good thing" comes to mind, as we work, eat, drink, sleep and have love as an endless circle. Why do we do this and is it something worth seeking? This question is dissected using both ancient texts with the author's beliefs. A frame of mind and openness by the reader will allow you to contemplate and reflect on your path in life. The beginning chapters are very bleak and feel like a midlife crisis. There is a strong sense of frustration with life and the world. Despite the ages our general life path has remained the same and we continue in this circle regardless of modern innovation. Our seeking of happiness continues to be momentary rather than permanent are the conclusions drawn from reading. There is a sense of loss and hopelessness in maintaining life in the Ecclesiastes. Which takes a slight reluctant stance in requesting we simply enjoy the pleasures that we can in life despite its vanity. I believe sensing this issue the author utilises the Bhagavad-Gita's more optimistic outlook and focus on serving a Supreme Being.

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