



more like a book of doctrine enlivened by some stories, such as the interesting Narayaniya on pages 384 and following. Lots of philosophical and mystical terms are brought up, but it's not always clear what their precise meanings are. These problems are discussed by Belvalkar, the editor of the Sanskrit text-edition that Debroy has used; Belvalkar notes that the twelfth book of the Mahabharata is "the longest and most difficult Book of the Epic." Debroy's relatively rapid translation method does not help resolve these problems, but that was probably not his intent. The University of Chicago Press translation has not reached these chapters yet, but will doubtless provide more historical context to the doctrines. I also feel that Debroy's discussion of the text is cursory and a little off (pages xxi-xxii). Better is the introduction by Smith to his one-volume version of the epic in Penguin Classics. Nevertheless, Debroy has produced, on his own, a readable translation based on the best edition of the text. The University of Chicago Press began its translation in 1973 and it's still not complete!

In Volume 9, the war is over and Yudhishtira crowned. Bhishma s instructions and advice that began in the eighth volume continue past the Shanti Parva into the Anushasana Parva.

About the Author Bibek Debroy is a member of Niti Aayog. He is an economist who has published popular articles, papers and books on economics. He also writes on Indology and Sanskrit. Penguin published Sarama and Her Children: The Dog in Indian Myth in 2008 and his translation of the Bhagavad Gita in 2006. Bibek Debroy was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015.