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Bibek Debroy (Trans.)
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Bibek Debroy (Trans.) : The Mahabharata (Volume 10) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mahabharata (Volume 10):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Sanskrit Epic Completed in Translation with a Tenth Volume By Burt Thorp If you wish to read the entire "Mahabharata" from start to finish in English translation, there are at present only two readily available choices: the ten-volume translation by Bibek Debroy being reviewed here and the late-

nineteenth century translation known usually as the Ganguli-Roy version originally published in Calcutta. This older translation has been reprinted and can also be found online. I'm referring to complete translations, since there are quite a few abridgements, translations of selected passages, summaries, and retellings. (There was another old complete translation by Dutt, since reprinted, which I have sampled but found to be unreadable.) Then there is the in-progress translation published by the University of Chicago Press, begun by van Buitenen and being completed by various scholars who hold positions at universities. Debroy worked on his translation during "time stolen in the evenings and over the weekends" as he writes. Does it matter? Only in the sense that it explains the way Debroy presents his translation with minimal notes and brief introduction, while the Chicago translation presents extensive apparatus dealing with points of historical and scholarly interest. Debroy also does not use the scholarly transliteration of Sanskrit names, so no diacritical marks. I don't mean this as a criticism of Debroy; just pointing out the different audiences for the two works. A similarity between Debroy and Chicago: they both use the Sanskrit text established by V. Sukthankar and other editors and published at Poona by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1933-1966 (the first fascicle was actually published in 1927, I believe). This critical edition turns out to be somewhat shorter than older editions, since passages are relegated to the footnotes and appendices which do not have full manuscript support. Both Debroy and Chicago, of course, do not translate the additional passages; some of them may be found translated in Ganguli-Roy. What about Debroy's translation? It is certainly readable and in that sense better than older translations which suffer from problems of diction: the use of old fashioned words and phrases in an attempt to sound profound, I guess. One thing to understand about the Sanskrit of the epic: it is generally not too difficult, except for occasional passages that are obscure, probably because they were not well preserved in the manuscript tradition. The audience the epic was aimed at was more popular, it seems, than, for example, Kalidasa's poems. When one looks at the Sanskrit original and compares Debroy's rendition, it is usually clear how he arrived at his translation--his is no retelling or paraphrase. If the translators of the Chicago version look at Debroy, I imagine they may find places in which they disagree with him. Debroy is to be commended for completing such a huge task essentially on his own and in his spare time! This and the other volumes are nicely printed in large font. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Item as expected By Rebecca Schall Item as expected 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent edition. By Harold D. Walters Superb and indispensable translation. Excellent edition.

This definitive and magnificent 10-volume unabridged translation is one of the rare English translations in full of the epic. Bibek Debroy makes the Mahabharata marvellously accessible to contemporary readers. Dispute over land and kingdom may lie at the heart of this story of war between cousins the Pandavas and the Kouravas but the Mahabharata is about conflicts of dharma. These conflicts are immense and various, singular and commonplace. Throughout the epic, characters face them with no clear indications of what is right and what is wrong; there are no absolute answers. Thus every possible human emotion features in the Mahabharata, the reason the epic continues to hold sway over our imagination. In this superb and widely acclaimed translation of the complete Mahabharata, Bibek Debroy takes on a great journey with incredible ease.

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.