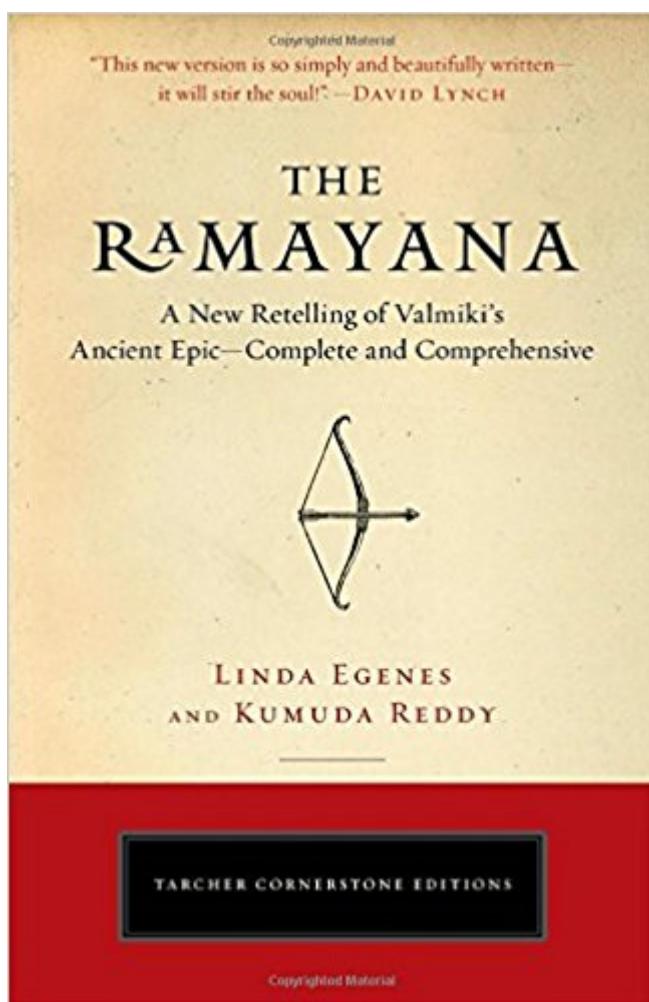


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# The Ramayana: A New Retelling Of Valmiki's Ancient Epic--Complete And Comprehensive (Tarcher Cornerstone Editions)



## Synopsis

A delightfully straightforward and lyrical retelling of the ancient Indian epic of loyalty, betrayal, redemption, and insight into the true nature of life -- one of history's most sacred ethical works, rendered with completeness and sterling accuracy for the modern reader. Here is one of the world's most hallowed works of sacred literature, the grand, sweeping epic of the divine bowman and warrior Rama and his struggles with evil, power, duplicity, and avarice. The Ramayana is one of the foundations of world literature and one of humanity's most ancient and treasured ethical and spiritual works. Includes an introduction by scholar Michael Sternfeld.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This new version is so simply and beautifully written -- it will stir the soul!" •David Lynch  
"A luminous new rendering of an epic that remains as relevant as it is timeless." •Craig Pearson, author of *The Supreme Awakening*  
"This retelling of the Ramayana is an impressive compilation, beautifully narrated, mingled with thoughtful poetic expressions both original and modern. A retelling for all times, it stays true to the original Valmiki Ramayana, and its exalted execution by Egenes and Reddy sounds natural to the ear for modern readers." •Bal Ram Singh, Ph.D., Director, Center for Indic Studies  
"At last! A retelling of Valmiki's Ramayana that understands

and expresses the role of consciousness in thought, speech, and action. This elegantly written version is the one to read. • Rhoda Orme-Johnson, Ph.D., co-author of *The Flow of Consciousness* “The age-old Sanskrit epic poem, *The Ramayana*, animates timeless themes of good and evil through the story of Rama’s journey. Reimagined by Linda Egenes and Kumuda Reddy, this vernacular prose retelling features narrative clarity, richly textured imagery, and a luminous storytelling voice that leaps off the page. This is a treasure that begs to be read out loud. • Hertha D. Sweet Wong, Ph.D., assistant chair of the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of *Sending My Heart Back Across the Years: Tradition and Innovation in Native American Autobiography* “In this wonderful newly abridged adaptation by Linda Egenes and Kumuda Reddy, the *Ramayana* takes on new life. Egenes and Reddy have given us a text that is lucid and lyrical, eminently readable, and will make a fine addition to libraries and classrooms. • Steven Schneider, professor of English at University of Texas-Pan American and editor of *The Contemporary Narrative Poem: Critical Crosscurrents* “The *Ramayana* is one of the great treasures of mankind. It tells a gripping story but it is very long and it is in Sanskrit. Linda Egenes and Kumuda Reddy have retold the story at manageable length in beautiful English and they have kept the dramatic tension, which makes the reader want to read on. I know the story well but I could not wait to see what came next. Well done. • Vernon Katz, Ph.D., author of *Conversations with Maharishi* “This eminently readable and poetic retelling by Linda Egenes and Kumuda Reddy captures the flavor of the ancient text, brings out philosophical and spiritual truths sometimes glossed over by modern translators, and flows so smoothly it is hard to put down. • Jack Forem, author of *Transcendental Meditation: The Essential Teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi* “Rama, Sita and Lakshmana are resplendent in our minds and ensconced in our hearts as we traverse the beauty, tragedy, and adventure of the *Ramayana* in this elegant retelling of the classic. • Saraswati Nagpal, author of *Sita, Daughter of the Earth* “Perhaps the best modern retelling to date, this version by Egenes and Reddy is true to Valmiki’s text yet keeps you turning the pages. Will be appreciated by adults and children, Indian and Western audiences alike. • Chandrika Tandon, Grammy nominee and founder of Soul Chants Music “This lovely and sensitive adaptation of the *Ramayana* is easy and enjoyable to read without losing the deeper layers of insight that make the story timeless. I heartily recommend it! • Prudence Farrow Bruns, Ph.D. in South Asian Studies, University of California Berkeley, and author of *Dear Prudence: The Story Behind the Song* “In this new prose translation of the *Ramayana*, Linda Egenes and

Kumuda Reddy maintain the cadence and richness of language of the original poetic epic. Their retelling is marvelously accessible to the modern reader, adding a welcome freshness to this timeless tale. Furthermore, Sternfeld's introduction provides a new dimension to understanding the depth and breadth of this universal story. •Care Connet, poet and author of *Diary of the White Bush Clover: A Peace Pilgrimage* "These authors portray Vedic life in its larger and deeper context, bringing out the nobility of the heroic action of the characters. It is beautifully written, suitable for all ages, and keeps the reader engaged. By the end I was moved to tears." •Susan Andersen, Ph.D., co-author of *The Flow of Consciousness*

Linda Egenes is the author of more than five hundred articles and five books about the benefits of meditation, yoga, and healthy living. With Kumuda Reddy, M.D., she co-authored three books on Maharishi Ayurveda for children and families, as well as *All Love Flows to the Self: Eternal Stories from the Upanishads*. A practitioner of the Transcendental Meditation technique since 1971 and certified teacher since 1975, Linda is adjunct associate professor of writing at Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, Iowa, where she lives with her husband, Sanskrit scholar and author Thomas Egenes, Ph.D. Kumuda Reddy, M.D., a former faculty member and anesthesiologist at Albany Medical College, practiced Western medicine in the United States for more than twenty-five years. After receiving her training in Maharishi Ayurveda, she dedicated herself to bringing its medical and wellness knowledge into her private practice. Dr. Reddy has co-authored eight books on Maharishi Ayurveda and a series of children's stories called the *Timeless Wisdom Series*, based on traditional Indian tales that she first heard as a child. Dr. Reddy and her husband, Dr. Janardhan Reddy, divide their time between the U.S. and India.

First time I read the Ramayana was about 35 years ago - small paperback, very endearing story. About 12 yrs ago I read the complete edition 3 volumes long - enjoyed it. This edition by Egenes and Reddy is the best yet. High praise to the authors for what they selected to highlight, endless rewrites and their collaboration. Noticed in the acknowledgements they sought the input of many others to make sure they were getting it right - good move. Books of high spiritual content have a distinct quality of consciousness to them that extends beyond the written words. This particular book has touched me deeper than the previous depictions of this high epic. I've felt an emotional charge that has moved my soul, brought me to tears on some occasions. I've already bought more copies for others to share this experience. Blessings to all who took part in this effort and may the intention

of this work continue to move the seekers of Truth toward their highest goal.

Linda Egenes' version of The Ramayana completely altered my experience of this classic work. It is simple and direct, yet very visceral in its expression. Each utterance or gesture of Rama and the other enlightened characters registered as a thrill in my physiology. I felt their presence almost as palpably as if I had been there with them. Her "voice" has a soft touch, spiritual in its essence, as she guides us through the daily struggles and triumphs of these very human, yet divine beings. Reading this book is something I will do again and again, if for no other reason than to experience the bliss it creates. Thank you and congratulations, Linda!

It had been almost 20 years since I last read this story, that was another time and another place. I could not recall what version that was at the moment as it leaves only a glimpse of an impression in my mind now. So to pick up this new re-telling and rediscover this treasure of a beautiful, timeless story and have it come absolutely alive as I readÃ¢Â¢Â¢ to have the pages fall away as the characters come to life, and to allow the story to weave itself into the fabric of my very own consciousness, as if I were there inside the story itselfÃ¢Â¢Â¢ these are the greatest gifts a book can offer, and this version of the Ramayana delivers these gifts effortlessly. It is beautifully written, easy to read, and tells a story expertly brought to life for those of us in the modern era who may not be born into the culture from where this story comes... Get this book you will not be disappointed!

At first I wondered "What, another version of the Ramayana?". I've already read 4 or 5 versions. But I love the Ramayana, so I bought it and immediately read this version. I loved it. It is beautifully written so it is just delightful to read. Plus this translation includes clear descriptions of the spiritual experiences and transcendental silence that are at the heart of the Vedic culture. Most versions simply ignore this part of the Ramayana, but Ms. Egenes handles this gracefully. She also includes touching details that only a woman would include. For example, when Ram, Sita, Hanuman, and Sugriva were returning to Ayodhya for Ram's coronation, only in this version did I learn that the monkey generals were also on the aerial chariot Pushpaka. And at Sita's request, Pushpaka stopped at the monkey kingdom Kishkinda so that the monkey generals' wives could board and attend the coronation. Somehow the male translators never included this lovely detail. Very, very well done.

This book is hard to put down. Because it strikes the chords in places within all of us where we long for perfection in ourselves and in our leaders, the timeless Ramayana is a classic in any country and a model for the high-minded of any religion. Where other translators typically change or glamorize the story, Egenes' translation is pure and clean, as is her writing, a style is so simple that even though it is essentially for adults, the book would make good bedtime reading to children. To understand how this is a compliment one would have to know that there are many concepts in it that are largely unfamiliar to the average Westerner, yet Egenes explains them in such a way that one doesn't realize how gracefully and simply it has been accomplished--even a child could understand and be inspired by it. I was struck by how it is the perfect tone and medium for the story. The story itself is what we typically call a page turner--an exciting journey into a dangerous forest, followed by a dangerous battle between good and evil that includes talking monkeys, bears, and superpowers. It is a story of duty fulfilled, of profound psychological understandings, courage and justice. Long before Shakespeare gave us his classic characters, the Ramayana gave us heroes, villains, and phrases that are classics around the world, so deeply part of our cultures that we have forgotten from where they came. Some readers will of course find things to criticize for anyone can find fault if they try, but if the reader can be as simple and pure as the story, this retelling in this unpretentious but profoundly clear style, will charm, enliven, and become unforgettable as it has for millions over thousands of years. This is very meaning of the word "classic."

This book is a real treasure. The writing is beautiful--simple yet profound, sweet and elegant. And the reader is so fulfilled as the story unfolds. I've been wanting to reread the Ramayana for years, and am delighted by this inspiring retelling.

For people in the West, The Ramayana is likely be an unknown--some mysterious story from a far-away land. Nevertheless, it is the basis of all our stories. Often it's in an ancient language, in a foreign style. However, it has so much to say about our daily lives. Egenes brings the compelling events into focus in a way that is so much more related to our culture now. Thus, we benefit from it as much as those in the last thousands and thousands of years.

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