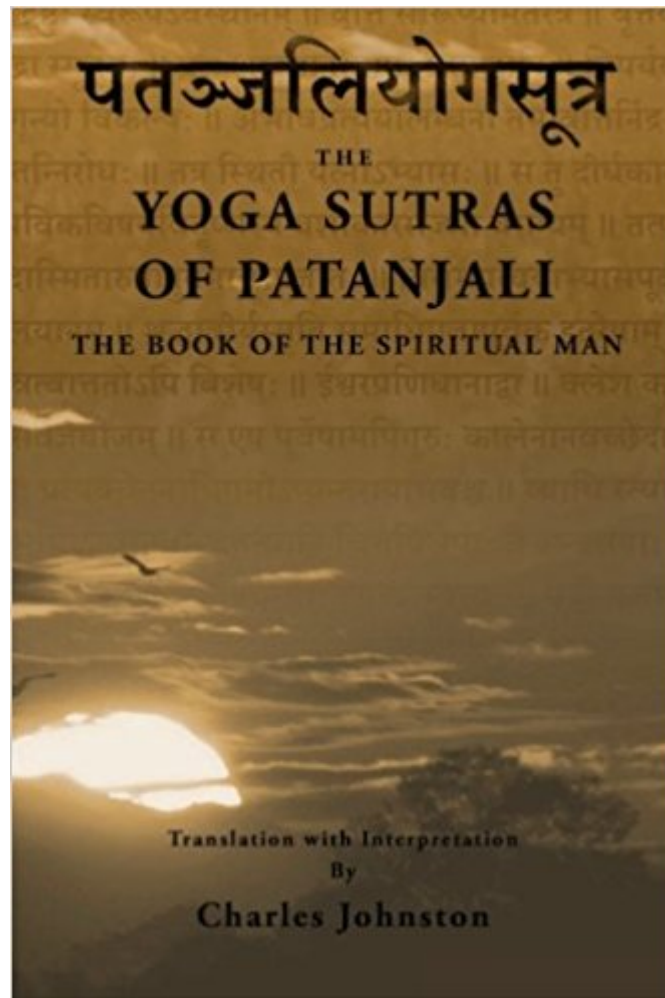




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The Yoga Sutras Of Patanjali: The Book Of The Spiritual Man



Synopsis

"The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali are in themselves exceedingly brief, less than ten pages of large type in the original. Yet they contain the essence of practical wisdom, set forth in admirable order and detail. ... "Patanjali has in mind the spiritual man, to be born from the psychical. His purpose is, to set in order the practical means for the unveiling and regeneration, and to indicate the fruit, the glory and the power, of that new birth."~Ç~ •Charles Johnston The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali are the foundational work of all Yoga practice. They contain the essence of practical wisdom, set forth in admirable order and detail. Patanjali succeeds in showing the student that spirituality is not unscientific or vague, but is an exact science. He teaches us that enlightenment is not something unattainable or solely for the elect; we can begin walking the path now. Johnston's translation of the Yoga Sutras evolved through three distinct stages. It was first published as serialized articles in the Theosophical Quarterly between 1909 and 1911. The text was then compiled and printed in book form in 1912, with only a few slight modifications. Following this, Johnston revisited the text of both his translation and commentary, as he notes in a review-article: ~Ç~ "I must not fail,~Ç~ he says ~Ç~ "to express my feeling of indebtedness to Dr. [Haughton] Woods, for a closer understanding of a number of technical points, which I hope to take advantage of, in revising the version of the Sutras I have alluded to.~Ç~ • Following this reflection, several notices appeared in the Theosophical Quarterly announcing Johnston's continuing work of revision, until a second revised edition was published in the summer of 1917. It is this version that is presently reproduced verbatim, but with an adjustment in formatting~Ç~ •providing the translation itself, in whole, prior to the commentary~Ç~ •the addition of this foreword, and of additional notes. Charles Johnston (1867-1931) was steeped in the wisdom of eastern traditions, having translated also the ten Principle Upanishads of the Vedanta, the Bhagavad Gita, the Tao Teh King of Lao Tse, and the Crest-Jewel of Wisdom of Sankaracharya. Johnston brings his in-depth understanding of the Vedanta to reveal the core meaning of Patanjali's sutras: the birth of the Spiritual Man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Johnston (1867-1931), was steeped in the wisdom of eastern traditions, having translated the ten Principle (Mukhya) Upanishads of the Vedanta, the Bhagavad Gita, the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, the Crest-Jewel of Wisdom and other works of Sankaracharya, the Tao Teh King of Lao Tze, along with a running translation/commentary on a series of Buddhist suttas. He also wrote at length on the religious traditions of both east and west, focusing largely on the Vedanta of India and the Christian texts of the New Testament. These writings have been collated posthumously under the title *“Hidden Wisdom: Collected Writings of Charles Johnston,”* a four volume set of over 2500 pages! In addition to this is a further 1600 pages in his five principle works (see below). His writings are not only impressive in quantity, but also in quality. He elucidates the worlds spiritual philosophies, from east to west, as one united whole, demonstrating the oneness of their core tenets and the high value of their essential teachings. Books by Charles Johnston: *The Tao Teh King: Lao Tse’s Book of the Way and of Righteousness*, 1st Edition (2014). ISBN: 978-1484869161. *The Bhagavad Gita: Songs of the Master*, 2nd (Expanded) Edition (2014). ISBN: 978-1490451404. *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali: The Book of the Spiritual Man*, 3rd (Expanded) Edition (2014). ISBN: 978-1484926635. *The Vedanta Philosophy of Sankaracharya*, 1st Edition (2014). ISBN: 978-1495946691. *The Mukhya Upanishads: Books of Hidden Wisdom*, 1st Edition (2014). ISBN: 978-1495946530. *Hidden Wisdom: Collected Writings of Charles Johnston* (2014). Volume I ISBN: 978-1502711229 Volume II ISBN: 978-1502711380 Volume III ISBN: 978-1502711595 Volume IV ISBN: 978-1502711953 *The System of the Vedanta*, Dr. Paul Deussen, tr. Charles Johnston, 1st Edition (1912). *Essays and Article Collections by Johnston: Karma: Works and Wisdom The Memory of Past Births The Theosophy of the Upanishads Wisdom Traditions of East and West The Noble Teachings of Lord Buddha Unveiling the Wisdom of the Bible Emanation & States of Consciousness The Beginning of Real Life On Initiation and the Mysteries The Logos Doctrine A Study of Ancient Speech and Writing*

This is a classic, authoritative translation and commentary. It’s free because it’s in the public

domain. I personally found it easier to understand than any other translation and commentary. I even prefer it over the version of my beloved hero Swami Vivekananda. The audible version published by Om Shanti Audio is taken from this version. I wholeheartedly recommend that recording. You might prefer to read this kindle version before you buy the audible book. Either way, this will clear up many of your questions about Patanjali and yogic philosophy.

I don't like this particular translation/discussion of the Sutras. Somehow the translator managed to convolute short, direct sentences. They introduce foreign terms and seem to go on tangents. I've found myself just reading the direct translation and then googling several other sites which do a much better job of discussing the sentences further, without having to create their own phrasing or concepts. And since you can already find Patanjali's writing online, you're really buying the book for the discussion of the translation.

This book was a requirement for my 200-hr YTT. It brought together many of my past spiritual and psychological readings and learnings. I think it may be harder for someone to grasp if they haven't done some sort of extensive meditation and yoga practice but the reading displays the truth of mind and collective consciousness. I recommend it as a essential reading to any spiritual-reading library.

The only other book this great for me has been the Bhagavad-Gita! I read it from front to back and it really sparked my mind! Next time I will read it paragraph by paragraph, stopping to sit in deep contemplation on each small section. This book can be read again and again with a higher understanding each time!

This translation of the Sutras makes liberal use of Christian semantics that may be of benefit to folks with that world view. I recommend the edition by Sri Swami Satchidananda, which I feel is more objective and appropriate for general audiences or those wishing to avoid the Christian narrative.

A group I am in is studying the book - The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali by Swami Satchidananda. For some reason I was not connecting with this translation. I looked for a different one on [Amazon](#) and saw this free version for the Kindle. This one is great. My subconscious can see the truth of what is being conveyed through this translator's words. When you want to read any of the great books - The Gita, Vedas, Tao... - remember to try different versions.

A nearly two thousand year old seminal book of Indian practical philosophy, it contains timeless wisdom that speaks to the heart of truth-seekers of every age and clime. Make no mistake, the knowledge expounded here, if cultivated with inner love and attention, can help the seeker rise to undreamed of heights and transcend the illusory landscape that presently contains us. Though one hundred years old (published in 1912) today, this poignant English rendition and insightful commentary are just as relevant today as they will be to readers of the English language a thousand years hence. I almost gave the book 4 stars thinking of all the typographical errors that could have been attended to by those who scanned and rendered the book to Kindle format. But I'd be saddened to despair if by doing so anyone would be turned away from reading this penetrating interpretation by Charles Johnston, a British Sanskrit scholar in the civil service during Mohandas Gandhi's India. In a later addition to this review, I will endeavor to point out the most egregious typographical errors found in the book, that all may be better served by its purposeful existence. I found an old hardcover edition that I believe will shed light on some the puzzling errors contained in the Kindle edition.

I just read only the first page of this edition. The wording is such that it might lead a naive aspirant to be self abusive instead of liberating self through yoga. That's how it feels to me, about "control" and "obdurate resistance."

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