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The Mahabharata presents sweeping visions of the cosmos and humanity and intriguing and frightening glimpses of divinity in an ancient narrative that is accessible, interesting, and compelling for anyone willing to learn the basic themes of Hindu culture. The Mahabharata definitely is one of those creations of human language and spirit that has traveled far beyond the place of its original creation and will eventually take its rightful place on the highest shelf of world literature beside Homer's epics, the Greek tragedies, the Bible, Shakespeare, and similarly transcendent works. This collection of 3 Volumes contains 42 different chapters:

1. The Kuru Princes of Hastinapura- Veda Vyasa's epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself. The recital took place in the august presence of king Janamejaya, great-grandson of Vyasa, and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a twelve-year-long Yajnavv). This volume describes the lineage of the Kuru princes. When Pandu, the father of the Pandavas, dies in the forest, his wife Kunti returns to Hastinapura with the five boys.

The great Dronacharya trains the Kuru princes in the art of war. The feats of strength preformed by Bheema, and Arjuna's skill at wielding the bow awake jealousy in the minds of Duryodhana and the other Kuru princes.

Duryodhana plots the exile of the Pandavas to the city of Varanavata. Acting on the coded warning given by Vidura, the Pandavas manage to escape from the burning house of shellac.

They live in the guise of mendicants at Ekachakrapura. Later they proceed to Panchala to attend the Swayamvara of Draupadi. Arjuna, the skilful archer, wins Draupadi's hand. In order to obey their mother's words that they must share everything equally, all the five brothers are married with due ceremony to Draupadi. The Pandavas are recalled to Hastinapura and are given half the Kingdom.

2. The Pandavas in Exile- Volume 1 described the training of the Pandavas and Kauravas, the Pandavas' escape from the burning house of shellac, their marriage to Draupadi and their subsequent return to Hastinapura.

In this volume are described the slaying of Jarasandha by Bheema; the subjugation of the other kings by the Pandavas; and the Rajasooya Yajna performed by Yudhishthira. Later, in the game of dice, the Pandavas lose their kingdom and live in exile.

At the end of the period of exile, when the Pandavas come back to claim their kingdom, Duryodhana refuses to part with even five villages.

3. On the Battlefield of Kurukshetra- The first two volumes of the Mahabharata described the growing animosity between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, the costly game of dice which led to the banishment of the Pandavas for thirteen years, the events during the exile and the proposal of peace from Dhritarashtra conveyed by Sanjaya to the Pandavas.

This volume describes the attempts of Krishna to bring about a peaceful settlement between the Kauravas and the Pandavas. They fail and a bitter war is fought for eighteen days. The Pandavas emerge victorious in the end.

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Features

- Mahabharata
- EPIC

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Great way to recount the Indian epic

By Righthalf

I have pleasant childhood memories of reading Amar Chitra Katha and of watching BR Chopra's Mahabharat on TV. After seeing this title, I decided to give it a shot out of nostalgia. I find the graphic novel format a fabulous way to read the Mahabharata. The stories are well researched, have good attention to detail, and is free of needless mysticism that contaminates popular mythology.

There are several perspectives of the epic tale of Mahabharata, and there is no verified original source of this story passed along from generation to generation by word of mouth over 1000's of years. Amar Chitra Katha's Mahabharata is a rendering of Ved Vyasa's disciple Vaishampayana in the presence of King Janamejaya, great-grandson of the grandson of Vyasa (aka Rishi Krishna-Dwaipayana).

What I also liked about this book is that there was no glorification of good and ostracizing of evil. It calls the weaknesses of the heroes and explains the stance of the villains. Mahabharata is indeed a complex political saga and Amar Chitra Katha has done justice to the story. Read it!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Great Collector item

By Ajith Unni

The delivery mode was quick. The customer support has been pretty good.

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I would have expected better quality control from the publisher on an expensive collectors item.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent - Hard bound and boxed

By jojo

Compilation of stories, and significant events of Mahabharata by Amar Chithra Katha is excellent, well bound and quality paper. I had read these stories when I was a child and wanted to buy this for my kids, but couldn't find these in any book store while in India and saw this on Amazon. I am glad I bought this, it is a collector's item!

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