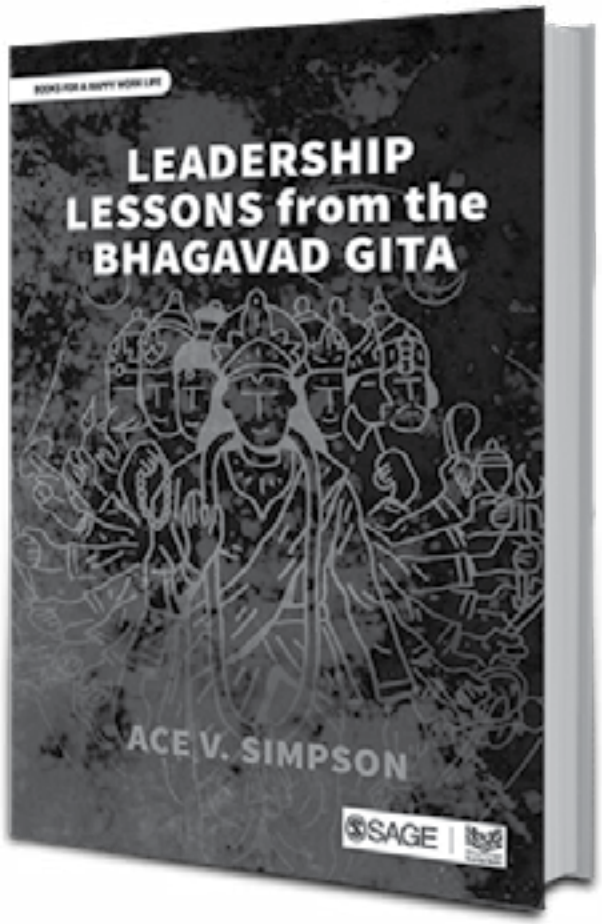
Book Review

LEADERSHIP LESSONS from the BHAGAVAD GITA

by ACE V. SIMPSON



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About the Author

Ace V. Simpson is a Reader in Human Resource Management and Organizational Behaviour at Brunel Business School, Brunel University London, and an Adjunct Fellow at UTS Business School, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. Each term, Ace is among the lecturers with the highest feedback ratings in his faculty. He researches positive organizational practices that promote employee well-being, psychological safety, flourishing and thriving. His primary research focus is on cultivating organizational compassion, and he has worked with industry and public sector organizations to develop organizational compassion capabilities as a positive approach to addressing the persistent problem of workplace bullying. Ace's research has been published in journals such as the Journal of Management, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Management Inquiry and Management Learning. In addition to his love for research and teaching, Ace also enjoys practicing yoga, exploring philosophy, travelling, learning from history and supporting the performing arts.

Appreciation and Critique

This book is very unique in which Dr. Simpson has translated the timeless teachings of the Bhagavad Gita into the linked-leadership model connecting four core and essential elements - Self-Leadership and Servant Leadership, Higher purpose and Holistic Systems. He shows how the 700-verse Sanskrit scripture represents a noble source of wisdom for leaders who aim to discover paths to be wiser, more humble, better human beings and virtuous builders of organizational and societal sustainability. The work offers leaders invaluable perspectives on Human psychology, Motivation, strategy, Culture, Sustainability and a service orientation that are derived from the work's deep spiritual foundation.

The author provides an alternative to conventional leadership. Particularly, in the times we live, where there is a crisis of faith in leadership, the insights from this book provide a vision of linked leadership-leaders who are linked through loving connection or bhakti yoga with themselves (through self-knowledge), with other beings, with nature and with the Supreme Source. Although there already exists books on leadership that purport to be based upon the Bhagavad Gita, this publication is unique as it takes a literal approach to the text. It can be found that all 700 verses of the Bhagavad Gita's 18 chapters are presented in original literal translations with not a single verse omitted. In each chapter, the verses are broken up into logical clusters to consider the implications for

leadership in 'Reflections'. The reflections are richly illuminating for deep understanding of what is true leadership, and insights are backed up with references for empirical support. If today's leaders-to-be read this book and imbibe its teachings, there is great hope for our world.

End of the chapter summary of Leadership lessons help readers to understand the concepts learned and discussed. This first edition is a comprehensive and unique book with in depth wisdom for the problems in one's own life. It sets the direction to understand what is right and wrong. The great effort made by Dr. Ace Simpson in offering Leadership Lessons from the Bhagavad Gita will not only be useful for Indian business leaders, but will provide the psychological and philosophical insights for Western business leaders too.

Ms. Sowmya D S
Assistant Professor,
Department of Human Resources
R V Institute of Management (RVIM)
#CA-17, 36 th Cross, 26 th Main
4 th "T" Block, Jayanagar
Bengaluru – 560041, India.
E-mail: sowmyads.rvim@rvei.edu.in