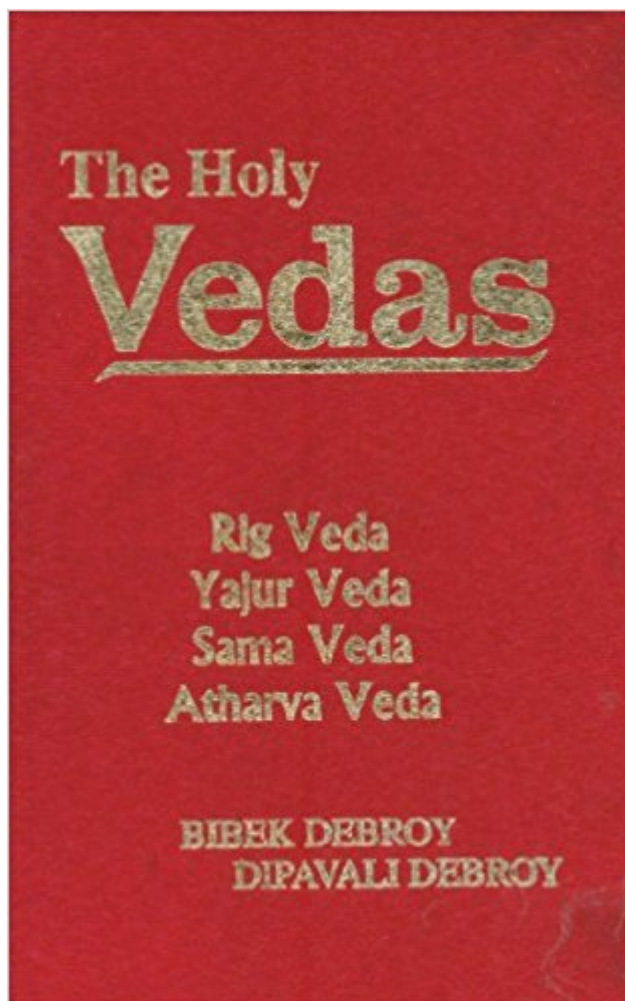




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# The Holy Vedas ; Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, Atharva Veda



## Synopsis

The Vedas are ancient texts that are sacred in India and renowned the world over. There are four Vedas, known as the Rig Veda, the Yajur Veda, the Sama Veda and the Atharva Veda. Vedas teach the three paths to salvation. These paths are jnana (knowledge), bhakti (devotion) and karma (action). The Rig Veda is identified with the path of knowledge, the Yajur Veda with the path of action and the Sama Veda with the path of devotion. A honest effort has been made in this Book to explain the contents of the Vedas in easy to follow language.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the most popular interpretations. First published in 1994 it has already run into Five Editions the latest being in 1999 -- This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

The book is divided into 4 sections, each describing one Veda. The sections have very lucid, readable, modern English summary translations of the original text. There is no original Sanskrit, only English translation, and that too a summary or excerpt since the original Vedas are very long. I've seen many translations of the Vedas, but what impressed me about this book are: (1) Translation is extremely readable/fluent, in prose-style (not in verse), not monotonous/boring and uses modern English (no thou, didst and stuff) (2) Print is good, font is big and clear, pages are good quality, binding is hardcover and feels solid (3) Translation is loyal to the original text. I've compared many sections with 4 other translations (by different authors) and this matches them (within boundaries of interpretation) Things this book could have done better: (1) There is no cross-reference to original Vedic verse. For example, when you're reading a paragraph in the Rig Veda, it doesn't

tell you which mandala or verse it refers to.(2) The Rig Veda is the oldest and many of its verses are restated in the other Vedas. But they should be translated under Rig Veda since that is the original source. For example, this book has the Gayatri Mantra in the Yajur Veda, which is not incorrect, but everyone expects it in the Rig Veda since that's where it originally is from. Other than a few quirks like this, this is the only book I could find that gives a good, lucid, prose overview or flavor of the contents of all the Vedas.

This book contains only a fraction of the Vedas, and excludes some of the more famous verses. The copy I bought had worn-off print on cover and water stains on cover. The actual text of the Vedas was interspersed with explanatory comments by the translators, which was somewhat confusing.

Bad diction, misspellings, sentence structure and no appendix make this copy very hard to understand. I couldn't get past the first few pages. Spend the extra money and invest in a better edition.

Just excerpts from the four Vedas.

The red cover has stains on it, I have pages 171-176 looks like someone crumpled the pages and dragged it across the floor. Page 426 is bended in half and the binding on this is poor. Too, bad it would had made a nice book. Not worth the money.

A good overview, yet much is actually left out from the Vedas. If you are looking for an english overview of the Vedas, this is the one for you.

The printing was substandard. Has many a word with missing, faded, or broken letters. Not collectable quality.

Will make a good reference of the vedas if you are into scriptural studies. However, it may not be complete.

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