



The Ramayana: A Modern Retelling of the Great Indian Epic

Ramesh Menon

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The great Indian epic rendered in modern prose

India's most beloved and enduring legend, the *Ramayana* is widely acknowledged to be one of the world's great literary masterpieces. Still an integral part of India's cultural and religious expression, the *Ramayana* was originally composed by the Sanskrit poet Valmiki around 300 b.c. The epic of Prince Rama's betrayal, exile, and struggle to rescue his faithful wife, Sita, from the clutches of a demon and to reclaim his throne has profoundly affected the literature, art, and culture of South and Southeast Asia—an influence most likely unparalleled in the history of world literature, except, possibly, for the Bible. Throughout the centuries, countless versions of the epic have been produced in numerous formats and languages. But previous English versions have been either too short to capture the magnitude of the original; too secular in presenting what is, in effect, scripture; or dry, line-by-line translations. Now novelist Ramesh Menon has rendered the tale in lyrical prose that conveys all the beauty and excitement of the original, while making this spiritual and literary classic accessible to a new generation of readers.



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