

FOREWORD

THE Srimad-Bhagavad-Gitā occurs in the Bhishma Parva of the Mahābhārata and comprises 18 chapters, from the 25th. to the 42nd. The discourse between Arjuna and Krishna on the battle-field, on the eve of the war which forms the subject-matter of the work, was strung together in seven hundred verses and put in its place in the body of his great history by Vyasa.

The Gita opens with Dhritarāshtra's query to Sanjaya about the progress of events. In the second chapter of the Bhishma Parva, we find Vyasa offering the power of sight to the blind king, that he might see the war. Dhritarāshtra declined to have it, saying he did not care to have eyes with which only to see the death of his own people; but he would like to hear what was happening. On this the Great Rishi Vyasa said, that all the occurrences in connexion with the war would be reflected in the mind of Sanjaya, and he would faithfully report them to Dhritarāshtra.

The Gita is called an Upanishad, because it contains the essence of Self-knowledge, and