Mastering Sanskrit and Latin words and phrases with Bhagavad Gita as a digital corpus

Sunoikisis DC, Thursday June 7, 2018

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Seminar Outline

Bhagavad Gita

Schlegel

Digital sources

Concordancing

Aligning

Exercises

What next?

Bhagavadgītā

भगवद्गीता

("The Song of God")

- an episode recorded in the great Sanskrit poem of the Hindus, the Mahabharata
- it occupies chapters 23 to 40 of Book VI of the Mahabharata
- a dialogue between Pandava Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna

द्रोणसैन्य
भीम
अर्जुन
धर्मराज

- The beginning:
  dharmakṣetre kurukṣetre samavetā yuyutsavaḥ
  māmakāḥ pāṇḍavāś caiva kim akurvata saṃjaya.

  धर्मक्षेत्रे कुरुक्षेत्रे समवेता युयुत्सवः।

  मामकाः पाण्डवाश्चैव किमकुर्वत सञ्जय।।1.1।।

- Translation: In Kururkshetra, the field of the Kurus and also the field of righteousness, both my sons and Pandu's sons gathered, eager to fight. What did they do?

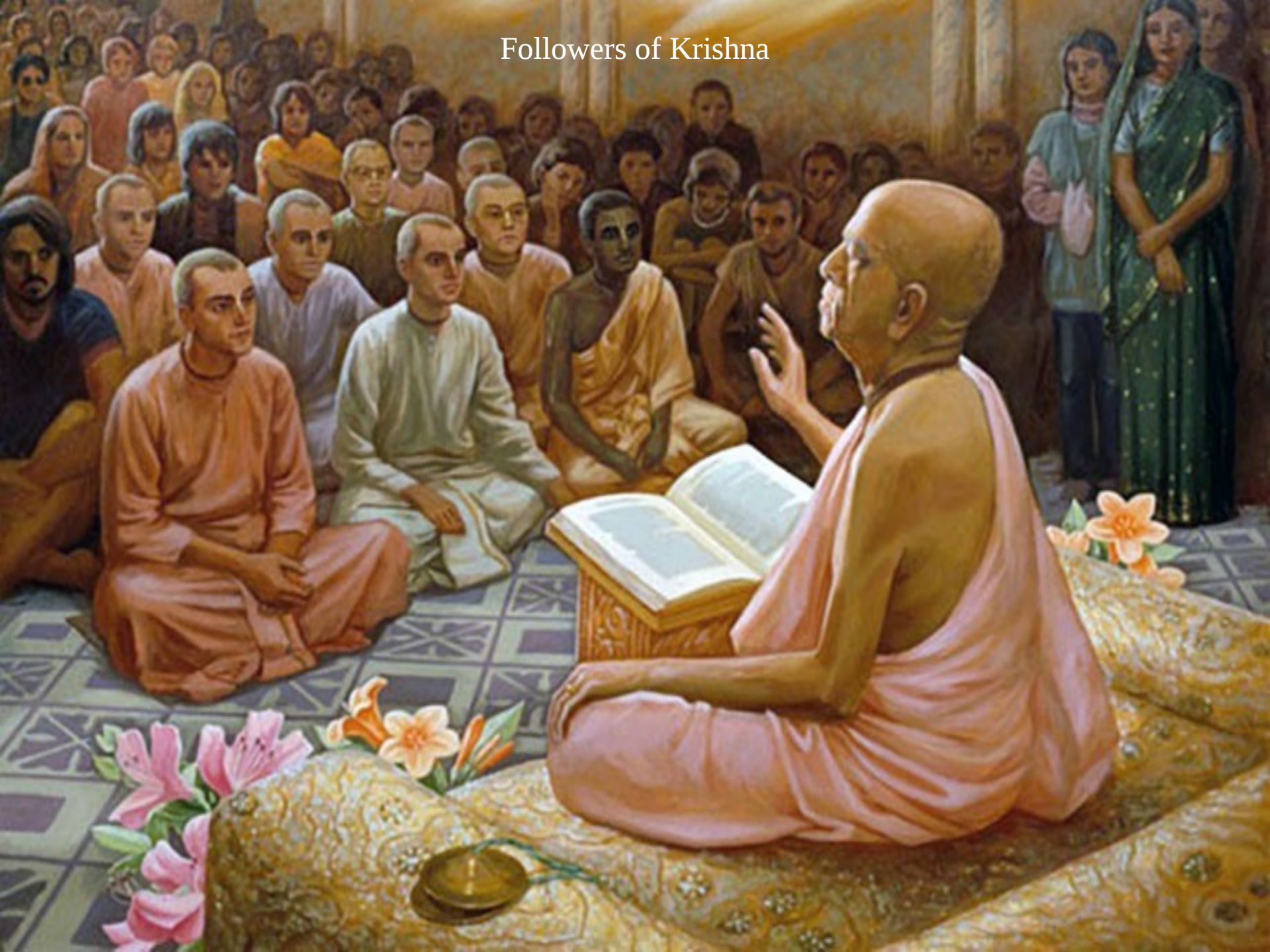
The location of Kurukshetra

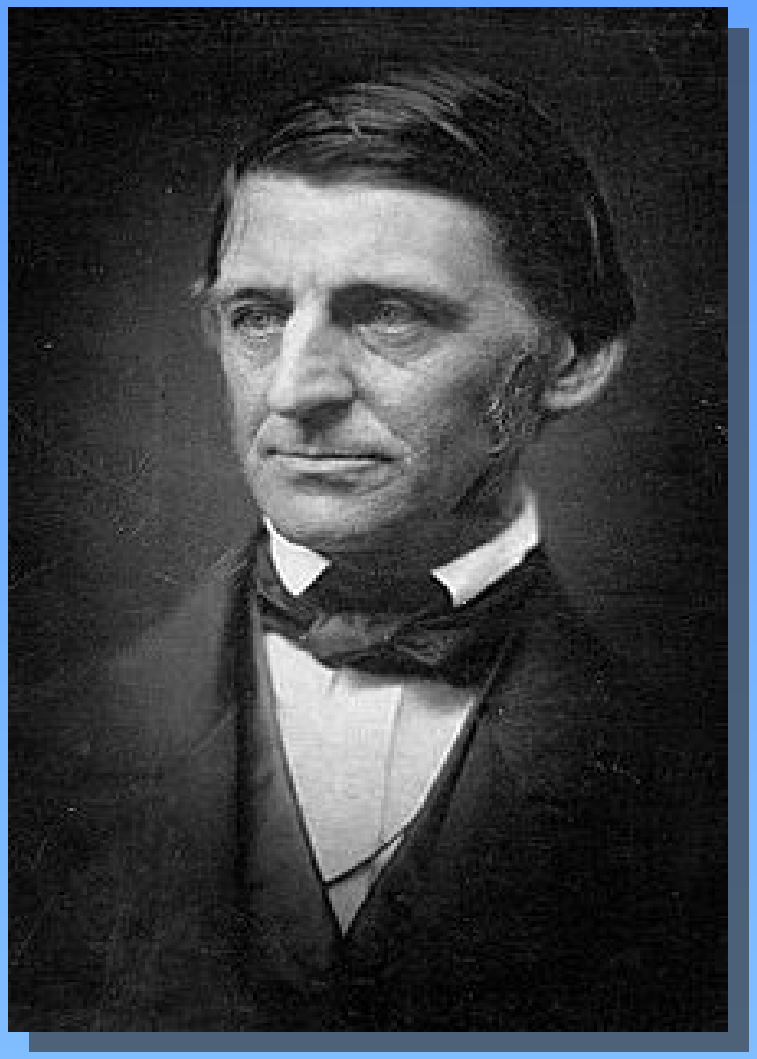
Dharma (धर्म)

According to Monier Williams dictionary:

- that which is established or firm, steadfast decree, law, usage, practice, customary observance or prescribed conduct, duty, right, justice (often as a synonym of punishment), virtue, morality, religion, religious merit etc.

- Many traditional followers of Krishna (Krishnaism) accept and believe that every man is unique in nature (*svabhava*) and hence *svadharma* for each and every individual is also unique and must be followed strictly with sole *bhakti* (devotion) and *shraddha* (faith)


Followers of Krishna



Ralph Waldo Emerson

Henry David Thoreau

The Bhagavad Gita was first translated into English in the 1785 by Charles Wilkins

Bhagavad Gita in Latin

Bhagavadgītā in Latin translation

- late 18th and early 19th centuries – romanticism in Germany
- growing interest in Asian culture and Oriental languages and literature
- Englishmen:
  - pioneers of European studies of Indology
  - influenced German romanticists

August Wilhelm Schlegel

- 1767–1845
- Collège de France, 1815.
- University of Bonn, 1818

Schlegel and Indology

- the scholarly journal **Indische Bibliothek**
- a Sanskrit printing press
- the first printed editions of the **Bhagavadgītā** (1823) and **Rāmāyana** (1829) in continental Europe
- the first complete translation of the Bhagavadgītā from Sanskrit into Latin

BHAGAVAD - GITA,

ID EST

ΘΕΣΠΕΣΙΟΝ ΜΕΛΟΣ,

SIVE

ALMI KRISHNAE ET ARJUNAE

COLLOQUIUM

DE REBUS DIVINIS,

BHARATEAE EPISODIUM.

TEXTUM RECENSUIT,

ADNOTATIONES CRITICAS ET INTERPRETATIONEM LATINAM

ADIECIT

AUGUSTUS GUILELMUS A SCHLEGEL.

IN

ACADEMIA BORUSSICA RHENANA

TYPIS REGIIS.

MDCCCXXIII.

PROSTAT BONNAE APUD EDUARDUM WEBER,

BIBLIOPOLAM.

Why Latin translation?

- Latin as a scholarly *lingua franca*
- As a flective language, more suited for translation of Sanskrit
- Appropriate for rendering the abundant nuances of Sanskrit
- Great resource of ideas for literary expression

Digital sources

(Scholarly) Sanskrit on the Internet

GRETIL

DCS - Digital Corpus of Sanskrit

Schlegel's Latin translation (1846):
archive.org
a machine-readable edition *coming soon*

Concordancing

AntConc

A freeware corpus analysis toolkit for concordancing and text analysis

Laurence Anthony

Aligning

Perseids

Exercises

The tools:
Moodle
(called Omega at our Faculty)
H5P.org

What next?

Automatic creation of many exercises

Spaced repetition for self-study

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Discussion?