

Mahāvīrī

HANUMĀN-CĀLĪSĀ DEMYSTIFIED



NITYĀNANDA MIŚRA

BLOOMSBURY

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Dedication

To Nilayā, the abode of virtues

Transliteration key

For transliteration of Hindi and Sanskrit words, this book uses the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST) with one modification (nasalized vowel) and two additions (retroflex flaps). The transliteration characters with their Devanagari equivalents, broad transcriptions as per the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), and examples are listed in the following table. Languages are shown by their ISO 639-1 or ISO 639-2 code (DE: German, EN: English, ES: Spanish, FR: French, GD: Scottish Gaelic, HI: Hindi, PRA: Prakrit, SA: Sanskrit, and SV: Swedish).

Vowels

a	अ	ə	EN alone , fathom; SA <i>ati</i> (अति), <i>mati</i> (मति)
ā	आ	a:	EN art , far; HI <i>āma</i> (आमा); SA <i>rāma</i> (रामा)
i	इ	i	EN inner , bin; SA <i>indra</i> (इन्द्रा), <i>śiṣṭa</i> (शिष्टा)
ī	ई	i:	EN each , tree; SA <i>īśa</i> (ईशा), <i>adhīśa</i> (अधिशा)
u	उ	u	EN Uzbek , full; SA <i>ukta</i> (उक्ता), <i>anukta</i> (अनुक्ता)
ū	ऊ	u:	EN ooze , true; HI <i>ūpara</i> (ऊपरा); SA <i>nyūna</i> (न्यून)
ṛ	ऋ	ɻ	Like UK EN interesting ; SA <i>ṛta</i> (ऋता), <i>kṛta</i> (कृता): vocalic r
ṝ	ॠ	ɻ:	SA <i>pitṝn</i> (पितॄन्): long vocalic r
ḷ	ऌ	ɺ	Like EN pickle ; SA <i>kḷpta</i> (कृलृप्ता): vocalic l
e	ए	e:	Like EN say ; DE <i>Idee</i> , <i>lesen</i> , <i>zahn</i> ; SA <i>eka</i> (एका)
ai	ऐ	əi	In SA: Like EN might ; SA <i>aikya</i> (आइक्या), <i>vaira</i> (वैरा)
	अै	æ	In STANDARD HI: EN mat ; HI <i>aise</i> (आइसे), <i>baila</i> (बैला)
o	ओ	o:	Like EN no ; DE <i>Ober</i> ; FR <i>chose</i> ; SA <i>cora</i> (कोरा)
au	औ	əu	In SA: Like EN out ; SA <i>aurasa</i> (आउरसा), <i>saura</i> (सौरा)

ॐ: In STANDARD HI: EN **not**; HI *aura* (आ), *sau* (सु)

Vowel modifiers (*anusvāra*, *anunāsika*, and *visarga*)

ṁ - In SA: pure nasal after a~vowel, as in *hamṣa* (हमस)

In PRA, HI: homorganic nasal (ŋ/ɲ/ɳ/ɳ̄/m) if a~plosive follows, pure nasal otherwise

◌̃ ◌̄ FR *bon vivant*; HI *hā* (हा): vowel nasalization

ḥ - Like GD *loch*; SA *saḥ* (सह): vowel aspiration

Consonants

Note: The Devanagari equivalents in the second column below are shown with the inherent vowel /ə/.

k - k EN **call**, **black**; SA *kalā* (काला), *rocaka* (रोका)

kh - k^h Like EN **workhorse**; SA *khela* (खेला), *mukha* (मुखा)

g - ɡ EN **go**, **dog**; SA *gīta* (गीता), *rāga* (रागा)

gh - ɡ^h Like EN **doghouse**; HI *ghanā* (घना), *bāgha* (बाघा)

ṅ - ŋ EN **anger**, **sing**; SA *aṅga* (अङ्गा), *śaṅkā* (शङ्का)

c - ʈ EN **chin**, **catch**; HI *pāca* (पाचा); SA *cora* (कोरा)

ch - ʈ^h Like EN **hitchhike**; HI *chāpa* (चापा), *pūcha* (पूचा)

j - ɟ EN **job**, **badge**; SA *janma* (जन्मा), *gaja* (गाजा)

jh - ɟ^h Like EN **hedgehog**; HI *jhūlā* (जूला), *sūjha* (सूजा)

ñ - ɲ ES *español*; FR *oignon*; SA *pañca* (पाञ्चा)

ṭ - ʈ̣ Like EN **time**; SV *karta*; SA *ṭikā* (टिका), *paṭa* (पाटा)

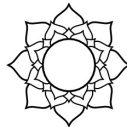
ṭh - ʈ̣^h Like EN **guesthouse**; HI *ṭhaga* (ठगा), *gāṭha* (गाँठा)

ḍ	ḍ	Like EN bird ; SV <i>nord</i> ; HI ḍara (ḍḍ), adḍiga (adḍiga)
ḍh	ḍh	Like EN birdhouse ; HI ḍhāla (ḍhāla), buḍḍhā (buḍḍhā)
ṇ	ṇ	Like EN bent ; SA <i>kaṇṭha</i> (kaṇṭha), <i>danḍa</i> (danḍa)
ḍ	ṛ	HI <i>baḍā</i> (baḍā), <i>sāḍī</i> (sāḍī): retroflex flap
ḍh	ṛh	HI <i>paḍhāī</i> (paḍhāī): aspirated retroflex flap
t	ṭ	ES <i>tres</i> ; FR <i>tout</i> ; SA <i>taru</i> (taru), <i>rati</i> (rati)
th	ṭh	Like EN bathroom ; HI thoḍā (thoḍā), hātha (hātha)
d	ḍ	ES <i>dos</i> ; FR <i>Dieu</i> ; SA <i>dīpa</i> (dīpa), <i>pada</i> (pada)
dh	ḍh	Like EN withhold ; SA <i>dharma</i> (dharma), <i>vadha</i> (vadha)
n	ṇ	EN plinth ; ES <i>cantar</i> ; SA <i>nṛtya</i> (nṛtya), <i>hīna</i> (hīna)
p	p	EN pun, top ; SA <i>putra</i> (putra), <i>kopa</i> (kopa)
ph	p ^h	Like EN upheaval ; SA <i>phala</i> (phala), <i>kapha</i> (kapha)
b	b	EN big, ebb ; HI <i>saba</i> (saba); SA <i>bīja</i> (bīja)
bh	b ^h	Like EN clubhouse ; SA <i>bhaya</i> (bhaya), <i>kṣobha</i> (kṣobha)
m	m	EN month, brim ; SA <i>mātā</i> (mātā), <i>bhūmi</i> (bhūmi)
y	j	EN yes, canyon ; SA <i>yoddhā</i> (yoddhā), <i>vāyu</i> (vāyu)
r	r	Like EN red ; ES <i>rey</i> ; SA <i>ravi</i> (ravi), <i>taru</i> (taru)
l	l	EN law, all ; SA <i>loka</i> (loka), <i>triśūla</i> (triśūla)
v	w	EN which, cobweb ; SA <i>vīra</i> (vīra), <i>kavi</i> (kavi)
ś	ʃ	EN ship, push ; SA <i>śīla</i> (śīla), <i>paśu</i> (paśu)
ṣ	ʂ	Like US EN marsh ; SV <i>fors</i> ; SA ṣaṭ (ṣaṭ)
s	s	EN see, yes ; SA <i>senā</i> (senā), <i>prasūna</i> (prasūna)
h	ḥ	EN hand, ahead ; SA <i>hita</i> (hita), <i>vihīna</i> (vihīna)



Abbreviations

AK	<i>Amarakośa</i>
AR	<i>Adhyātma Rāmāyaṇa</i>
BG	<i>Bhagavad-Gītā</i>
BP	<i>Bhāgavata Purāṇa</i>
DA	<i>Dohāvalī</i>
DP	<i>Dhātupāṭha</i>
GA	<i>Gītāvalī</i>
HB	<i>Hanumān-Bāhuka</i>
HC	<i>Hanumān-Cālīsā</i>
K	<i>Kirātārjunīya</i>
KA	<i>Kavitāvalī</i>
MB	<i>Mahābhārata</i>
MSS	<i>Mahāsubhāṣitasan̄graha</i>
MU	<i>Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad</i>
PMB	<i>Patañjali's Mahābhāṣya</i>
PP	<i>Prākṛtaprakāśa</i>
PS	<i>Pāṇinīya Sūtra (Aṣṭādhyāyī)</i>
RCM	<i>Rāmacaritamānasa</i>
RRS	<i>Rāmarakṣāstotra</i>
RV	<i>Raghuvamśa</i>
TS	<i>Tarkasan̄graha</i>
TU	<i>Taittirīya Upaniṣad</i>
ViPu	<i>Viṣṇu Purāṇa</i>
VP	<i>Vinayapatrikā</i>
VR	<i>Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa</i>
YS	<i>Yoga Sūtra</i>



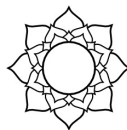
Foreword

Among the many deities that are held in high esteem by Hindus around the world, there are two zoomorphic deities: Ganesha and Hanuman. These are perhaps the most popular in the Hindu pantheon. No prayer or event can start without a prayer to Ganesha. Hanuman is also extremely popular, not only because he is so closely associated with Sri Rama and the whole Ramayan epic, but also because he is looked upon as a manifestation of Shiva's eleven Rudras. As a result, magnificent temples to Hanuman have been built around the country. The most impressive one that I have seen is at Suchindram in Tamil Nadu which houses a massive statue of Hanuman.

Hanuman is depicted in two different ways. The more popular is as Ram Bhakta Hanuman, an integral member of the Ram Darbar where he is seated in a posture of reverence before Sri Rama, Sita and Lakshmana. In another form he is shown as Veer Hanuman, standing alone and carrying his great mace. Needless to say he commands equal reverence in both these postures.

Down through the ages a large number of hymns and *stotra*-s have been composed in honour of Hanuman—also known as *Mahavir*. Of these the most popular is Goswami Tulasi Das's famous forty-verse hymn to Hanuman called the *Hanuman Chalisa*. This is recited by millions of Hindus everyday around the world. However, analytical work on this text is not easily available. In the present book Shri Nityanand Misra has translated and annotated the text based on the acclaimed Hindi commentary *Mahaviri* (1983) by Swami Ramabhadracharya. This throws a great deal of light on the deeper meaning of Tulasi Das's famous work, and will be welcomed by scholars and laymen alike. I commend Shri Nityanand Misra for the devotion and dedication with which he has undertaken this work.

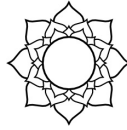
Dr. Karan Singh
July 16, 2015



Preface

I am delighted to present to readers the second edition of this book which is being published by Bloomsbury. Some minor corrections have been made to the text of the first edition. I am thankful to Pravin Tiwari of Bloomsbury for all the help in getting this published.

Nityanand Misra
Mumbai, 31 December 2017



Preface (first edition)

Forty-three verses. One thousand and forty-three syllables. One thousand four hundred and twenty-four metrical instants. That is the length of one of the most popular Hindu prayers across the world. For several hundreds of years, these 43 verses, 1,043 syllables, and 1,424 metrical instants of the *Hanumān-Cālīsā* have been a source of hope, peace, strength, and spirituality for innumerable Hindus. Millions of Hindus (and many non-Hindus too) recite the *Hanumān-Cālīsā* every day—in northern India most practising Hindus know its text by heart. Many more Hindus and non-Hindus have recited it or heard it at least once in their lifetime. Quite like the majestic Hanumān who leaped across vast expanses of ocean and land, the *Hanumān-Cālīsā* transcends across diverse educational, social, linguistic, musical, and geographical boundaries. The most learned Brahmins recite the *Hanumān-Cālīsā* with elaborate rituals lasting up to 108 days, and the most common masses recite it with minimal rituals on the community feast Tuesdays (*Bada Mangal* days) of the *Jyeṣṭha* month (May–June) in Lucknow. The rich can buy the *Hanumān-Cālīsā* printed as a book for as much as ₹40,000 (US \$605) by placing special orders with jewellers who use gold to write the text, the middle class can buy the ‘gold plated’ book for around ₹500 (US \$7.56) from e-commerce websites, the poor can buy the high quality