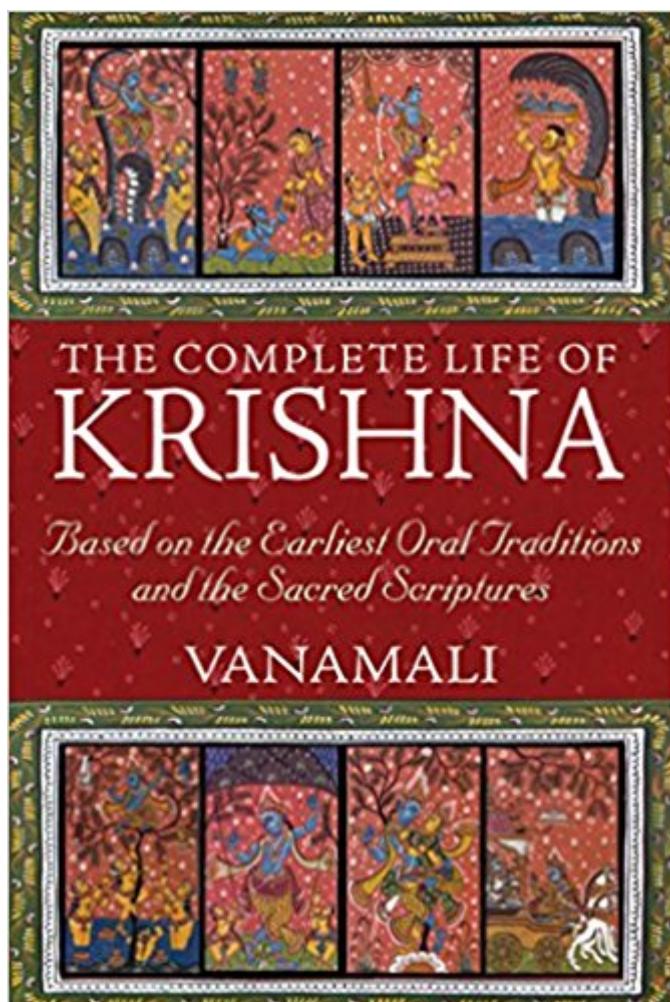


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# The Complete Life Of Krishna: Based On The Earliest Oral Traditions And The Sacred Scriptures



## Synopsis

The first book to cover Krishna's entire life, from his childhood pranks to his final powerful acts in the Mahabharata war. Draws from the Bhagavad Purana, the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata, and India's sacred oral tradition. Shows how the stories of Krishna's life are expressed with such simplicity and humor that they enable anyone--man, woman, or child--to see the wisdom of his teachings. Provides a valuable meditative tool that allows the lessons of these stories to illuminate from within. Krishna, one of the most beloved characters of the Hindu pantheon, has been portrayed in many lights: a god-child, a prankster, a model lover, a divine hero, an exemplary ruler, and the Supreme Being. In *The Complete Life of Krishna*, Vanamali, a leading Krishna expert from a long line of prominent Krishna devotees, provides the first book in English or Sanskrit to cover the complete range of the avatar's life. Drawing from the Bhagavad Purana, the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata, and India's sacred oral tradition, Vanamali shares stories from Krishna's birth in a dungeon and early days as a merry trickster in Vrindavana, through his time as divine ruler at Dwaraka, to his final powerful acts as the hero Arjuna's charioteer and guru in the Kurukshetra war. She explains how Krishna became a mahayogi, the greatest of all yogis, and attained complete mastery over himself and nature. By integrating the hero-child with the mahayogi, the playful lover with the divine ruler, Vanamali shows how the stories of Krishna's life are expressed with such simplicity and humor that they enable anyone--man, woman, or child--to see the wisdom of his teachings. This complete biography of the man who was also a god provides a valuable meditative tool allowing Krishna's lessons to illuminate from within.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ã¢ “VanamaliÃ¢ ’s new book will entrance readers as a first introduction to the immortal Lord of Love, or as a cherished opportunity to once again dip into the nectar of the LordÃ¢ ’s lila, his play on earth.Ã¢ • (Light of Consciousness, October 2012)Ã¢ “Recommended for new age and spirituality collections alike, this draws from a range of sources, from IndiaÃ¢ ’s oral tradition to the Bhagavata Purana, Gita, Mahabharata and more, exploring KrishnaÃ¢ ’s life, how he became the greatest of all yogis, and how he evolved to the position of a divine ruler. Any collection strong in Indian spirituality needs this in-depth coverage.Ã¢ • (Midwest Book Review, November 2012)Ã¢ “Scholarly and insightful on the meanings of these legends, The Complete Life of Krishna is a strongly recommended pick for religious history collections focusing on Hinduism and eastern religions.Ã¢ • (Midwest Book Review, August 2012)Ã¢ “Drawing from the Bhagavad Gita and other sacred texts, the author explains how Krishna became a mahayogi, the greatest of all yogis, with complete mastery over himself and nature. On whatever level you receive these stories, they are a valuable meditative tool, full of delight and wisdom.Ã¢ • (Whole Life Times, August 2012)

**RELIGION / HINDUISM** Krishna, one of the most beloved characters of the Hindu pantheon, has been portrayed in many lights: a god-child, a prankster, a model lover, a divine hero, an exemplary ruler, and the Supreme Being. In *The Complete Life of Krishna*, Vanamali, a leading Krishna expert from a long line of prominent Krishna devotees, provides the first book in English or Sanskrit to cover the complete range of the avatarÃ¢ ’s life. Drawing from the Bhagavad Purana, the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata, and IndiaÃ¢ ’s sacred oral tradition, Vanamali shares stories from KrishnaÃ¢ ’s birth in a dungeon and early days as a merry trickster in Vrindavana, through his time as divine ruler at Dwaraka, to his final powerful acts as the charioteer and guru of the hero Arjuna during in the Kurukshetra war. She explains how Krishna became a mahayogi, the greatest of all yogis, and attained complete mastery over himself and nature. By integrating the hero-child with the mahayogi, the playful lover with the divine ruler, Vanamali shows how the stories of KrishnaÃ¢ ’s life are expressed with such simplicity and humor that they enable anyone--man, woman, or child--to see the wisdom of his teachings. This complete biography of the man who was also a god provides a valuable meditative tool allowing KrishnaÃ¢ ’s lessons to illuminate from within. MATAJI DEVI VANAMALI has written 7 books on the gods of the Hindu

pantheon, including Shakti, Hanuman, and The Song of Rama, as well as translating the Bhagavad Gita. She is the founder and president of Vanamali Gita Yoga Ashram Trust, dedicated to sharing the wisdom of Sanatana Dharma and charitable service to children. She lives at the Vanamali ashram in Rishikesh, in northern India.

I wanted to read about Krishna's life from start to finish. When I saw this book and its author, Vanamali, I knew there was no way I'd be disappointed. Vanamali's books are terrific. As usual, Vanamali delivers. The Complete Life of Krishna will take you through Krishna's life. The book reads like a good novel, not like a collection of myths gathered in an academic, dry way. Not only does Vanamali tell these stories in an entertaining manner, she explains the esoteric meaning behind the myths, which are as important as the stories themselves. It's a great story when Krishna cavorts with the gopis and then disappears, leaving them distraught, but it's illuminating when we learn the reason why the gopis let their egos get between them and Krishna, and thus he disappeared. There were portions of this book that were genuinely funny, and others that were genuinely sad. Once I finished it, I kind of wished I could erase my memory of the book so I could enjoy it as a new reader again. I can't recommend this book highly enough. If you're interested in Krishna at all, you have to get this book ASAP.

This book took me by surprise more times than I could count. Whether it was Lord Krishna, his perfect nature, the combination of the innocence of a child, the wisdom of a learned man, and the heart of God, or the turns his life took and the divine meaning behind his actions. Vanamali's writing brings to surface the fathomless depths of intimacy between humanity and the Creator who took mortal form to show us his love. Whether as brother or husband, son or friend, his every role reveals his unity with us in all aspects of life.

Vanamali's work on the Life of Sri Krishna is ever so gracefully enchanting and revealing. This is the first book I've read on the life of Sri Krishna, and I admire Vanamali's insight and concise explanations on an Avatar that more and more of us are becoming aware of. Vanamali describes the life and actions of Sri Krishna without being dogmatic and in a way that can melt your heart. *Namaste*

Humble obeisance to Lord Krishna. Humble obeisance to Mata Vanamali. The book is written in simple language. The incidents are mind capturing and the role of Lord Krishna that is highlighted is enrapturing. The small commentaries by the author highlighting the greatness of The Lord and the

inherent meaning along with each incident gives life to the book and hence is an experience. In all there are no words to explain the bliss derived from the first reading. Lord willing hope to read it many more times.

Very beautifully written life of Krishna! Every phase of his blessed life, from baby Krishna, to mischievous child Krishna, to Gopala and his play with the Gopis, to Father and Husband, Ruler of Dwarka, and the Mahabharata. Some of the stories I've never heard and many others in their retelling become fresh and new. The prose itself is beautiful and clear, and the devotion of the author is infectious.

I have read Mata Vanmali;s book on Rama and now reading on Krishna. I cannot describe the feeling I get while reading, she touched the subject with such intensity and brings almost history back to life to feel through her writing. Amazing God Gifted talent. Thank you Mata ji

A must for Krishna Consciousness or anyone curious about Krishna. Vanamali writes in a style so easy for Westerners [like myself!] to understand. This is a wonderful companion to Krishna's divine message in The Bhagavad-gita and The Mahabharata. She really emphasizes Lord Krishna's humanity, as well as divinity... so much so, I laughed and cried. I can't say enough good points about her writing. No matter what-- or how many--books and stories on Krishna you read, this one stands on its own.

This is probably the best book I've seen on the life of Lord Krishna. I love it. For me it's almost a scripture. I've learned, I've laughed, I've cried while reading this book. Most of all, best of all, I've loved while reading it. For anyone who loves Lord Krishna, or for the one curious about Him, this book is one that you don't want to miss. It's a great source of faith. And love.

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