

G.W.F. HEGEL ON THE EPISODE OF THE  
MAHĀBHĀRATA KNOWN BY THE NAME  
BHAGAVAD-GĪTĀ BY WILHELM VON HUMBOLDT

*Edited and translated into English by Herbert Herring*

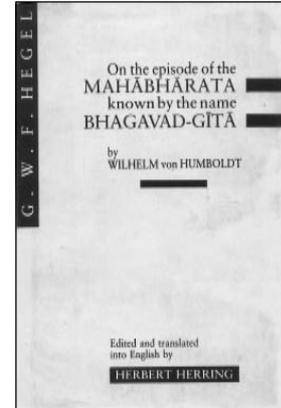
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This volume presents G.W.F. Hegel's review of Wilhelm von Humboldt's lectures on the *Bhagavad-Gītā*, delivered on 30 June 1825 and 15 June 1826, at the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences, Berlin, and published in 1827 in the *Proceedings* of the Academy. Hegel's review of these lectures, in which Humboldt had praised the *Gītā* as the greatest, most beautiful, and presumably, the only real philosophical poem of all known literatures, appeared in the January and October 1827 issues of his *Jahrbücher für wissenschaftliche Kritik*, and were meant as a critical assessment of the Hindu world-view *in toto* in a comparison with European *Weltanschauung*. Hegel's review, an extremely important document dealing with India, has so far not been translated into English. Dr Herbert Herring took up the task of preparing an English translation, which is presented here along with the German text. This bi-lingual edition is meant predominantly for the benefit of Indian scholars and students of Comparative Philosophy. In his Introduction, Dr Herring highlights Humboldt's and Hegel's entirely different, even antagonistic, approaches to Indian thought.

*Dr. Herbert Herring* (b. 1926 in Germany) studied in the Universities of Cologne, Oxford and Mainz. Between 1957 and 1989 he headed Institutes of Culture and Further Education in Germany, India and Denmark. He was Director of Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai, from 1969 to 1975, and has been a Visiting Professor in Austria, England, France, Switzerland, Denmark and India.