



The Gita Within Walden

Paul Friedrich

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This book explores and interprets the myriad connections between two spiritual classics, Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* and the *Bhagavad-Gita*. Evidence shows that Thoreau took the *Gita* with him when he moved to Walden Pond, and the books have much in common, touching on ultimate ethical and metaphysical questions. Paul Friedrich looks at how each work speaks to fundamental problems of good and evil, self and cosmos, duty and passion, reality and illusion, political engagement and philosophical meditation, sensuous wildness and ascetic devotion. His examination moves through several stages, from an analysis of key symbols, such as the upside-down tree, to an exposition of social, ethical, and metaphysical values, to a consideration of the many sources of these syncretic works. This book should be of lively interest to those concerned with the origins of Indian and American thought, activism, and poetry."

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