

Ravi Ravindra

Personal Data:

Born in India in 1938; naturalized Canadian since 1972.

Permanent Address: 13 Fortress Drive, Ferguson's Cove, Nova Scotia B3V 1S5 Canada.
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Formal Education:

B.Sc.(1959) in Geology & Geophysics, and Master of Technology (1961) in Exploration Geophysics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur;

Master of Science (1962) and Ph.D. (1965) in Physics from the University of Toronto; Toronto, Canada;

Master of Arts (1968) in Philosophy from Dalhousie University, Halifax; Canada

Post-doctoral Fellowships in Physics (University of Toronto, 1965), History and Philosophy of Science (Princeton University 1968-69) and Religion (Columbia University 1973-74).

Professional Experience:

Research Officer, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, India, 1965-66;

Assistant Professor of Physics, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada 1966-68;

Visiting Fellow, History & Philosophy of Science, Princeton Univ., 1968-69;

Associate Professor of Physics and of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1969-73;

Visiting Scholar, Religion Department, Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, New York, 1973-74;

Associate Professor of Physics and of Religion, Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1974-79;

Member, Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, 1977-78; [Specifically invited by Freeman Dyson to be a Member of the School of Natural Sciences];

Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 1978; again in 1998;

Visiting Professor of Theater, Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1979-80;

Professor of Comparative Religion and Adjunct Professor of Physics, Dalhousie University, 1979-2002;

Professor of International Development Studies, Dalhousie, 1988-2002;

Chair, Department of Comparative Religion, Dalhousie, 1983-2002;

Pilot Professor of Science and Spirituality, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, spring quarters 1989 and 1991;

Koretz Visiting Professor, Philosophy and Medicine, Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, 1992;
Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, since 2002.

Awards and Honours:

Commonwealth Scholarship from Canada in 1961.

Several Leave fellowships from the Canadian Science Research Council and from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Senior Killam Research Fellowship (1968-69); Fellowship for Values in Higher Education (1973-74); Senior Fellowship from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Inst. (1977-78).

Several visiting professorships and lectures at various universities and conferences.

Numerous research grants from various agencies for research in the fields of Physics, Philosophy and Religion, including one from the John Templeton Foundation for investigating the relationship between science and religion in the Indian philosophical tradition.

One of the courses of Ravi Ravindra, *Mystical Consciousness and Modern Science*, was selected by the Templeton Foundation for an award in their Science-Religion Courses Program in 1996.

Teaching Experience:

Experience of teaching a variety of subjects, both at a graduate as well as at an undergraduate level, in the Departments of Physics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Religion and Classics in several universities. Recent emphasis on personal and community transformation, comparative spiritual traditions, science and the Sacred, and Yoga and consciousness.

Several courses have been taught under the aegis of the International Theosophical Society in India, the Yoga University in Switzerland, the Schumacher College in England, the Wrekin Trust in England, the Krotana Institute in Ojai, California, and many other institutions. Courses taught have included 'Spiritual Search—East and West', 'Science and the Sacred', 'A Science of Inner Transformation', 'Daily Life as Spiritual Practice', 'Introduction to the *Bhagavad Gita*', 'Levels of Attention in the *Yoga Sutras*', 'Inner Dimensions of Christianity', 'The Journey of Transformation', etc.

General and Miscellaneous:

Founding Director, Threshold Award for Integrative Knowledge, and Chair of its International and Interdisciplinary Selection Committees, 1978-1980 {These committees consisted of distinguished scientists and scholars, including several Nobel Laureates like John Polanyi in Chemistry, Abdus Salam in Physics and Maurice Wilkins in Medicine, in addition to other distinguished scholars like A. Hillary Armstrong in Classics and poets like Scot Momaday.}

Director of the School of the Wisdom, International Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai, India; for several sessions from 1985-2014.

Member of the Board of Advisors, Sir John Templeton Foundation, 1996-98, 2001-2004.

Member of the Advisory Committee for the Program of Dialogue Between Science and Religion., American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1996-97.

Appointed one of the 9-member International Board of Judges for the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, 1999-2001.

Appointed an Honorary Member of the Scientific and Medical Network, England, in 2004.

Invited to be the keynote speaker at a conference organized by the “Forum for Psychology and Spirituality” in Granavollen, Norway during June 10-12, 2005

Invited to be the keynote speaker at the 9th conference of Consciousness and Experiential Psychology held at St. Anne’s College, Oxford University during September 16-18, 2005.

Appointed as a Member of Broader Social Impact Committee of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, in 2010.

Appointed as a Fellow of the Temenos Academy, England in 2011.

Invited to be the Keynote Speaker at 2012 McGill Centre for Research on Religion Graduate Students’ Conference, Montreal, 2012.

Invited to be the Keynote Speaker at The Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Nineteenth Annual Conference, Ottawa, 2013.

Invited to be the Chief Guest of Honour at the Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations of the European Yoga Union, Zinal, Switzerland, 2013.

Nominated for the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion., 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Invited to be a Guest of Honour at the Forty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations of the European Yoga Union, Zinal, Switzerland, 2018. Made an Honorary Member of the European Yoga Union.

Member of the Galileo Commission for Extended Science, launched in September 2018.

Scientific and Medical Network organized a day-long celebration in London on September 15, 2018, to mark the eightieth birthday of Prof. Keith Ward and Ravi Ravindra under the theme ‘Scientia & Sapientia: a Spiritual Quest.’”

Publications:

Journal Articles:

More than one hundred twenty articles in various journals dealing with Physics, Philosophy and Religion. (Detailed list can be sent on request.)

Encyclopedia Articles:

Ravindra, R.: "Yoga: the Royal Path to Freedom," in *Hindu Spirituality: Vedas Through Vedanta*; ed. K. Sivaraman; New York, Crossroads Publishers, 1989, pp. 177-191. [This is volume 6 of *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest*.]

Ravindra R.: "J. Krishnamurti: Traveller on a Pathless Land," in *Hindu Spirituality: Flowering of Tradition*, ed. R. Sundrarajan; New York, Crossroads Publishers, 1997. [This is volume 7 of the *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest*.]

Ravindra, R.: Five articles –on "Physics and Religion", "Albert Einstein", "Isaac Newton", "Johann Kepler", and "Galileo Galilei" –published in the relevant volumes of *The Encyclopedia of Religion*; gen. ed. Mircea Eliade; New York, Macmillan Press, 1987.

Miscellaneous:

An article on Ravindra, with the title “All is Krishna, a Profile of Ravi Ravindra” by Cynthia Overweg was published in the winter 2103 issue of the *Quest Magazine*.

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has a bilingual inter-religious journal, *Religions/AdyĀn*. An interview with Ravindra on Science and Religion was published in the December 2013 issue of the journal.

Ravindra was invited to contribute to the *Global Chorus: 365 Voices on the Future of the Planet*; ed. Todd E. MacLean; Rocky Mountain Books, 2014. [Ravindra’s contribution is on the page for June 11.]

Books:

Theory of Seismic Head Waves; University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1971 (with Vlastislav Cervený, Professor of Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia). {Translated into Russian.}

Whispers from the Other Shore: Spiritual Search East and West; Quest Books, Wheaton,

Illinois, U.S.A. 1984; new edition in 2000 by Shaila Press, Halifax, Canada. [Also published by Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Chennai, India in 2003.] {Translated into Portuguese.}

Science and Spirit; Paragon House, New York, U.S.A., 1990. [R. Ravindra is the editor and the principal author.]

The Yoga of the Christ; Element Books, Shaftesbury, England, 1990. [Reprinted as *Christ the Yogi* by Inner Traditions, International, Rochester, Vermont, U.S.A., 1998; and as *Gospel of John in the Light of Indian Mysticism* in 2004. Also published by Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Chennai, India in 2009.] [Translated into Portuguese, French, German, Greek, Croatian, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Finnish.]

Krishnamurti: Two Birds on One Tree; Quest Books, Wheaton, Illinois, U.S.A., 1995. [Also, published by Pilgrim Books, Varanasi, India in 2003.] {Translated into French, Italian, Greek, Turkish.}

Yoga and the Teaching of Krishna; Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Chennai, India, 1998.

Heart Without Measure: Gurdjieff Work with Madame de Salzmann; Shaila Press, Halifax, Canada, 1999. [A paperback edition published by Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A. in 2004.] [Translated into Portuguese, Spanish, French, Russian, Italian, Finnish, Serbian]

Science and the Sacred: Eternal Wisdom in a Changing World; Quest Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2002. {Translated into Dutch, Spanish.}

Centered Self Without Being Self-Centered: Remembering Krishnamurti; Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A., 2003. [Also published by Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Chennai, India in 2011.] [Translated into Hindi and Dutch.]

Pilgrim Without Boundaries; Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A., 2003.

Spiritual Roots of Yoga: The Royal Path to Freedom; Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A., 2006. [Also published by the New Age Books, New Delhi in 2010.]

The Wisdom of Patñjali's Yoga Sutras: A New Translation and Guide; Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A., 2009. [Also published by Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Chennai, India in 2012.]

The Pilgrim Soul: A Path to the Sacred Transcending World Religions; Quest Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2014.

The Bhagavad Gita: A Guide to Navigating the Battle of Life (with a New Translation and Commentary); Shambhala Publications, 2017. [Translated into Portuguese.] Also published in India in 2018 by Jaico Publishing House.

Pocketbook Bhagavad Gita A Guide to Navigating the Battle of Life; Shambhala Publications, 2018.

Ravindra is the Series Editor of an eight volume series dealing with *The Inner Journey* in the major spiritual traditions of the world, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The series has been published by the Morning Light Press, Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A.

Interviews and Public Audio and Video Recordings:

Many lectures and talks of Ravindra have been publicly broadcast and can be accessed on line. Some examples are:

Two talks by Ravindra on "Spiritual Search - East and West" delivered under the aegis of the Temenos Academy in London, England in September 2010 can be heard at

<https://temenos.thelincolncentre.co.uk/20100913/> and

<https://temenos.thelincolncentre.co.uk/20100914/>

Another talk on “The Heart of Spiritual Quest in India” can be heard at

<https://temenos.thelincolncentre.co.uk/20120903/>

Ravindra gave a talk on ‘Eternal Wisdom and Modern Science’ at the London Group of the Scientific and Medical Network on September 5, 2016. That talk can be listened to at <https://soundcloud.com/ravi-ravindra-377945875/eternal-wisdom-smn-2016>

A video "Journey Towards Oneness" at <https://youtu.be/1cj-3r-BVSM> This is the last of the series called "Global Spirit" produced by the Link TV in San Francisco, USA. In this Ravi Ravindra and the Sufi sheikh Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee" are being interviewed about oneness.

A video of Ravindra giving a talk at the Schumacher College in England on “Science and Spirituality” can be seen at <https://youtu.be/AhYet4ybUFo>

A video of Ravindra giving a talk on “Love in the Bhagavad Gita and in John’s Gospel” is available from the Yoga University, Villeret, Switzerland, www.yoga-university.ch

Ravindra was invited for an interview by conscious.tv in the United Kingdom on September 3, 2015. This video can also be viewed at <http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1321306269?bctid=4477923450001>

“Interview on Science and Religion”; *Network Reviews*, Winter 2015-16, 10-12.

“The Journey Toward Oneness: A Conversation with a Scientist and a Mystic”, pp. 37-42, 6 pages in *Getting Out of the Box: Living a Whole Life*, Chinmaya Publications The Mananam Series, 2017.

Interview in *Well Being Journal*, January/February 2018 Vol. 27 No. 1 , pp. 34-43.

Interview in *Quest* Summer 2018, p. 14-18, 5 pages. “A Great Soul—An Interview with Ravi Ravindra”.

Brief Excerpts from Selected Reviews:

Theory of Seismic Head Waves

“This book will be primarily of use to seismologists with a formidable mathematical understanding. Others need not apply.”—*Comments in Earth Sciences: Geophysics*, vol. 3, no. 6, 1973.

“Both Cerveny and Ravindra have made significant contributions to our understanding of these waves... They are well qualified as theoretical seismologists to present the mathematical complexities of the subject and to discuss the physical significance of their analysis.”—*American Scientist*, vol. 61, 1973.

“At once authoritative and comprehensive, the book will serve as an enormously useful guide... Written by recognized authorities in the field, and excellent, both in content and in style.”—*Engineering Practice*, vol. 16, no. 3, 1973.

“Altogether this book is the best known summary on the subject. It is an important book for all interested in the development of elastic wave theory.”—*Geophysical Prospecting*, vol. 20, September, 1972.

One of the consequences of the wave analysis presented in this book was the ability to distinguish between natural and artificial earthquakes. The U.S. Senate had refused to pass the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty because of their suspicion that the Soviets were exploding nuclear bombs but claiming them to be natural earthquakes. With the ability to separate the two kinds of earth tremors, the Senate was willing to pass the Treaty; however, other political considerations intervened.

Whispers from the Other Shore

“*Whispers from the Other Shore* is an excellent book, full of insights for those who are willing to take up the task of discovering who they are.” Deborah Willoughby, Editor, *Yoga International*.

“This delightful book is a prolonged meditation on the seminal question ‘Who am I?’ The author here explores spiritual wisdom from the perspectives of the Judeo-Christian heritage on the one side and the Hindu-Buddhist tradition on the other. He is looking for commonalties that will shed light on the spiritual quest as it has stirred the aspirations and imagination of countless individuals in the past, and as it continues to do so today – at least for those who are neither sound asleep nor fully awake but strangely troubled by the human condition. This is a lucid and sensitive introduction to the perennial philosophy

that at times soars to poetical heights.” Georg Feuerstein, author of *Yoga and Beyond* and other books.

“‘All religions, like all philosophies, are ultimately lies’. The reader pauses for thought at this arresting statement, which Ravi goes on to justify by explaining that formalising (the letter) betrays the spontaneity of the experience (spirit), commenting that the words tradition and betrayal come from the same root. The important thing is presence, the flame of the Spirit. It is also refreshing to read a definition of faith as ‘radical openness to the plenitude of being’, which makes it integral to an experiential approach. Ravi speaks for the prophet rather than the priest, but the burgeoning spirituality of our time (indeed of any time) is essentially prophetic rather than priestly. What we need, asserts Ravi, is a path of spiritual becoming rather than a system of theological talking.” --Reviewed by David Lorimer in *Scientific and Medical Network Review*.

The Yoga of the Christ [also published as The Gospel of John in the light of Indian Mysticism]:

The Catholic Theological Society of America held a Special Session on this book in their annual meeting in 2009.

“A Landmark in interfaith dialogue.” –Huston Smith, author of *The World’s Religions* and many other books.

“Superb in every way! It catches the tone and spirit of St. John and his gospel’s profound coherence with other traditions, particularly the Hindu tradition in India and of course the Bhagavad Gita.” –Father Thomas Berry, co-author of *The Universe Story* and author of several other books.

"For the first time, a systematic study of the *Gospel according to St. John* is made by a non-Christian. Dr. Ravindra explores John's twenty-one chapters, one by one, with beautiful and incisive style... Ravindra's commentary is not an intellectual exercise but a heart pilgrimage. He warns us that the 'rational mind is always uneasy about the Spirit which displaces it from the centre of being...' The author shares with us his spiritual journey, using John's Gospel as the structure for his development. The basis of personal experience of the spirit within us is reminiscent of Pascal's *Pensées*, and, closer to us, Thomas Merton's reflections on Zen Buddhism... Stemming from this are larger, more universal truths; on an otherwise too-familiar text he brings us countless insights, which can only be gained from such a fresh perspective. Throughout the book these nuggets startle and delight... *The Yoga of the Christ* will be for many readers such a source of light, as the best insights of the Hindu tradition are integrated to better reveal the dynamic elasticity and immense spiritual wealth of John's Gospel."

-Jacques Goulet, *Atlantic Provinces Book Review*.

“Ravindra’s is a great book. It challenges the spirit. It calls for deep cogitation and prayerful reconsideration of eternal verities. The author has understood the cosmic significance of Christ as the universal Spirit, Truth and Love. Undoubtedly, the best

commentary on the Fourth Gospel from an Indian point of view.” –Reviewed in *The Hindu*, Chennai, India, 1990.

Professor Wilfred Cantwell Smith, the Founding Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University, wrote in a letter dated July 6, 1990: “...just to say that reading your *Yoga [of the Christ]* is not merely a delight, it also tended to make me weep. How is it, I wondered, paragraph by paragraph almost, that so many Christians fail to understand the Gospel of John when ‘an outsider ‘ can do it so much better? On second thoughts, however, I realized that that was grossly imperceptive of me... Of course, I have come to know—and by now should have not merely known, but viscerally realized and assumed—that insight, the ability to understand, is a function of the observer’s spiritual depth, not of his or her community membership. And therefore *of course* you would understand better.”

“Ravindra’s book remains a moving guide to this most deeply mystical of the canonical gospels and is excellent on several themes such as Christ as both crucifer and crucified, on the nature of evil and the role of Satan, on both Judas and Peter. All offered as insight into the theory and practice of our own transformation, its possibilities and difficulties.” – *Scientific and Medical Network Review*.

“The reflections of Ravi Ravindra will stimulate the initiated as well as the less informed. This book contributes, in a spirit of tolerance, to the enrichment of religions.”—Raimon Panikkar, author of *Christophany* and of *The Hidden Christ of Hinduism* and of many other books.

“A dazzlingly brilliant spiritual and cross-cultural study of the most mystical of the books of the Bible, the Gospel of John. Few will finish this book unchanged, either intellectually or spiritually.” -- Robert Ellwood, author of *The Cross and the Grail* and many other books.

Science and Spirit

“A comprehensive treatment of science and spirituality... This book reveals the great value of Eastern thought to understanding in areas previously taken to be the main preserve of Western science, and the cognitive power of mysticism. A significant contribution to the fields of philosophy of science, comparative religion and religious studies. First-rate scholarly minds, who also have considerable spiritual sensitivity, deal with science without being intimidated by science, yet respecting its virtues and contributions. A fresh approach to the dialogue between science and religion, East and West.”—Jacob Needleman, author of *The Heart of Philosophy*, *A sense of the Cosmos*, *What is God?* and many other books.

“This is a significant contribution... This book will certainly be of interest to the general public and all those concerned with the relationship between religion and science.” –S. H. Nasr, author of *Encounter of Man and Nature*, *Science and Civilization in Islam*, *Sufi Essays* and many other books.

Krishnamurti: Two Birds on One Tree

“With a critical mind and an open heart, Dr. Ravindra allows us to see both the spiritual greatness and the human pathos of this truly remarkable teacher.” —Jacob Needleman, author of *The Heart of Philosophy*, *The Wisdom of Love*, *What is God?* and many other books.

“Krishnamurti, as he himself said, is not the Answer. But he is the Interrogation. Ravi Ravindra succeeds in presenting that man whose life remains a constant challenge to our times—and helps the reader continue the search. It is not a biography of K. It is a splendid presentation of a living example of the constitutive quest of the human condition.”—Raimon Panikkar, author of *The Hidden Christ of Hinduism* and many other books.

Yoga and the Teaching of Krishna

“The style of the author is disarming and easy and, even while stating profound ideas, there is a simplicity of form that is appealing. In many essays the author goes beyond the superficial word meanings and touches the wisdom of the sages at its deepest levels. The author exhibits great versatility in being able to convey the significance of the use of words such as *asmita*, *buddhiyoga*, *yajña*, *yoga*, *dharma*, etc., in the Indian tradition. His 20-year conversation with J. Krishnamurti is a delightful essay and captures the personality of this great thinker of the 20th century.” Reviewed by T. S. Rukmani, Professor of Hindu Studies in Concordia University, Montreal, in *Religious Studies*.

Heart Without Measure

“*Heart without Measure* has the makings of a classic of spiritual biography and autobiography. “--*Scientific and Medical Network Review*.

“For those of us who want to learn who a true teacher is and what honesty in effort means, this book would be inspiring.” Reviewed by Guru Prasad in *Quest*.

Science and the Sacred

Received a designation of ‘Book of Distinction’ from the Templeton Press.

“Ravindra’s exposition of the remarkable similarities and profound differences between the pursuit of science and the pursuit of spirituality goes to the heart of the matter. Complex issues are presented with delightful clarity.” Shimon Malin, author of *Nature Loves to Hide: Quantum Physics and Reality, A Western Perspective*.

“I personally find this book captivating and mesmerizing. It is very important because it speaks not only to the spiritual and psychological health of humankind, but to the survival of our planet. It is refreshing to read the opinions of a first-rate mind who is willing to unabashedly speak out about the primacy of spirit and to call into question many of the

assumptions Western scientists make about the world, most of which go unchallenged in our culture. Larry Dossey, M.D., Author of *Space, Time and Medicine, Beyond Illness and Recovering the Soul*.

“Ravi Ravindra’s treatment of the theme is to say the least about it, brilliant. Almost every page contains statements which cannot be rephrased. It almost appears that they are self formulated, not created by the author, though of course it is the author with his first rate scholarship, profundity and unusual spiritual sensitivity who deserves all the praise for the creation of so significant a work as ‘Science and the Sacred.’... RR’s theme is expressed forcefully, convincingly and yet with great beauty.”—Prof. L. R. Ganesan in *Mountain Path*, 2002.

It may be of interest to note that having looked at some of the articles later collected in *Science and Sacred*, and in particular “Perception in Yoga and in Physics” published in *Re-Vision, Jour. of Knowledge and Consciousness* in 1980, Ken Wilber, who has since then gone on to great fame, wrote to me in a letter in 1980, “You are the only writer of significance with whom I am in substantial agreement.”

Centered Self Without Being Self-Centered: Remembering Krishnamurti

“I was particularly moved by its scope, its insight, and intimacy of this. I think you say things about K that are very true but not generally understood. I also think you go a long way to dispel some of the inevitable mythology that accrues, in time, to any teacher, mentor, or charismatic ‘religious’ figure. This is especially important as regards Krishnamurti. I realize how much there is in it and how truly wonderful it is.” Alan Kishbaugh, the Executive Director of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America in 2002.

“This book may be one of the shortest I read this year... but it is sure to be one of the most memorable since Ravi cuts to the centre of the spiritual path. Perhaps the pivotal point is when Ravi remarks that a bridge cannot be built from here to There and asks if it can be built from There to here. In other words, the divided and fragmented rational mind cannot reach a unitive understanding but it can be permeated or infused by it from another level. The book is a real gem for the serious seeker.” -- Reviewed by David Lorimer in *Scientific and Medical Network Reviews*.

Pilgrim Without Boundaries

Received a designation of ‘Book of Distinction’ from the Templeton Press.

"The entire interreligious dialogue community would do well to take *Pilgrim Without Boundaries* to heart. Future generations of pilgrims, following Ravindra's lead, must think and write and speak from a new set of givens, no longer simply from the monumentally encrusted identities of the great world religions (though we will ever be in their debt) but also from the new, yet no less profound, inner realities resulting from their genuinely cross-cultural and cross-traditional lives and spiritual quests." --Philip Novak, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Dominican University in San Rafael, California;

author of *The World's Wisdom*, and co-author with Huston Smith of *Buddhism: A Concise Introduction*.

The Spiritual Roots of Yoga

“To this subject Ravi Ravindra brings a lifetime of enquiry and an unusually wide range of experience... Yet what impresses in these essays is not the considerable learning nor the influences which come into play, but the fresh and original quality of thought and the way in which this is combined with a profound understanding of the traditional knowledge of Hindu India.... will provide richly rewarding reading for all those interested in the thought of India or in the mysteries of the psyche. The essays it brings together are clearly the fruit of long and sincere personal enquiry, and achieve the remarkable feat of being at one and the same time fully in accord with traditional Hindu thought and of speaking to the present-day world in a language it can readily understand.”
.—*Temenos Academy Review* by Stephen Cross, author of *The Way of Hinduism*.

“Whenever I meet Prof. Ravindra I am reminded of J. Krishnamurti whom I taught yoga for many years. Having known Prof. Ravindra for a long time I admire his honest spiritual quest. He is indeed a true sadhaka... such a rare and true sanyasi. Enjoy his spiritual journey. He not only practices yoga but communicates it so well. I recommend this book to all serious students of yoga.”—TKV Desikachar, Founder Director of the Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai, India, author of *The Heart of Yoga: Developing a Personal Practice*.

"Throughout the book, it is clear that its author is not merely an armchair researcher but an engaged *sadhaka*, or practitioner, who can look back upon many years of personal spiritual struggle. His own yogic journey was significantly influenced by the teachings of Krishna in the *Bhagavad-Gita*, the method of Jiddu Krishnamurti (with whom he was befriended), and the Gurdjieff Work. His essays on Krishnamurti and the Gurdjieff Work are among the most compelling in the book. The thoughtful reader will find much in this work that is not only informative and practically instructive but also inspiring." -Georg Feuerstein, author of *Yoga, the Art of Ecstasy* and many other books.

The Wisdom of Patañjali's Yoga Sutras

"Professor Ravi Ravindra writes with the authority and clarity of a spiritual master. Whether writing about Christianity, Buddhism or the teaching of Krishnamurti, he brings deep insight. Now he has clearly and admirably presented the *Yoga Sutras*. It will raise many questions for thoughtful readers. Highly recommended." --TKV Desikachar, author of *The Heart of Yoga*.

“Ravindra draws on his wide reading in multiple traditions to illuminate the often cryptic sutras. Far from an exercise in multiculturalism, however, the work that results feels intimate, seemingly aimed at leading us into the depth of a practice that might otherwise remain closed to us.... In Ravindra’s capable hands, seekers of all traditions can discover why Patanjali’s *Yoga Sutras* are a perennial source of eternal truth. They may also enrich

their understanding of their own and other traditions along the way.”—Review in *Parabola*, Fall 2009.

“*The Wisdom of Patanjali’s Yoga Sutras: A New Translation and Guide* by Ravi Ravindra is yet another exposition on Patanjali’s yoga sutras and one that merits not only being reread but reread more than once. I absolutely was blown away by the scholarship of Ravindra who draws on his own broad ranging spiritual knowledge, sprinkling his book with quotes from a variety of spiritual paths including Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism... Read through once, this book is an invitation for more and read only once I can’t imagine any open minded reader wouldn’t be moved to change. Read more than once, no doubt the effects of what Ravindra shares would ripple endlessly, carrying the reader further and further each and every time. It is not often I come across a book with this much potency and I’ll eagerly read anything else Ravi Ravindra has written.”—*Satia’s Journal*, September 24, 2010.

“This new edition of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras will surely become a classic, and establishes Ravi Ravindra as a translator and editor of the stature of Radhakrishnan, a number of whose editions I have on my shelves.... This is a book for contemplative reading, for savouring a few pages at a time, since it deals with the most profound aspects of human consciousness inherent in the human condition in every generation.” -- Reviewed by David Lorimer in *Scientific and Medical Network Review*.

“The book's highlights can be found in the concluding self-reflections, made to further your understanding of the text and its use as a guide on the yogic path. Ravindra is eclectic, expanding on his reflections with quotes from the likes of J. Krishnamurti and poet William Blake. Ravindra's style is quite readable, his commentaries on the individual sutras are always provocative and insightful, and his exercises offer juicy questions to chew on for years to come.”—*Yoga Journal*.

“This is a book I can truly recommend. You won’t need any other book for your spiritual development.” -- Elleke van Kraalingen in *Paradigm Explorer* 2017/3 , p. 49.

The Pilgrim Soul: A Path to the Sacred Transcending World Religions

"The entire interreligious dialogue community would do well to take *The Pilgrim Soul* to heart. Following Ravindra's lead, future generations of pilgrims must think and write and speak from a new set of inner realities resulting from their genuinely cross-cultural lives and spiritual quests."

—Philip Novak, author of *The World's Wisdom* and coauthor of *Buddhism: A Concise Introduction*

"This book points to a world beyond all religions, beyond thoughts, beyond space and time, beyond the measurable: the world of the sacred, of the eternal, and of Truth beyond all concepts. For the true seeker, this book will have a value beyond words."

—P. Krishna, Krishnamurti Foundation India, Rajghat Fort, Varanasi, India

“This is a wise book of living wisdom, the fruit of many years of reading and spiritual practice, which will speak to the condition of the pilgrim reader.”

—David Lorimer in *Network Review* of Scientific and Medical Network

The Bhagavad Gita: A Guide to Navigating the Battle of Life

Pre-publication comments:

“This is a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita that is in a class of its own. Without labouring it, the background story from the Mahabharata and its characters come alive, even while the focus remains on the Gita. Almost no commentary on this ancient scripture emphasizes an historical battle but rather, all take pains to point to it as a metaphor for the battle within. However none so superbly take us within, to the very place of the battle raging within each one of us, as Ravi Ravindra's does. In so doing he truly makes alive the promise of Krishna in Chapter Six that, Yoga is breaking the bond with suffering.” - Swami Ambikananda Saraswati, Author, Founder of Traditional Yoga Association, UK.

“First, I must thank you so very much, with gratitude beyond expressing in words, for the privilege it has been to read—yes, and re-read—your translation of and commentary on *The Bhagavad Gita*. It has been a wonderful experience and I have gained new understandings, new insights into the meaning of that remarkable text... Well, in brief, your work is not “just another” commentary or translation; it speaks so splendidly (yes, with a radiant splendor) to the heart-mind or the mind-heart of the student: you have surely “listened” so well to Krishna that the words fairly sing (after all, it is a “song”) in one’s being, touching both heart and mind! I particularly appreciated too the several footnotes that opened up the fullness of meaning of so many of the Sanskrit words in the original text. Yours is a work to be lived with, to be turned to again and again, as it speaks to the core of one’s being. “ —Joy Mills, ex President of the Theosophical Society in America, and Vice-President of the International Theosophical Society.

"This engaging new rendition of one of the world's most venerated works opens up many of its dimensions that have usually been hidden. Ravindra's version brought me closer to the actual experience behind the meaning of the text than any other translations that I've read." --Richard Smoley, author of *The Dice Game of Shiva: How Consciousness Creates the Universe*.

Publication Reviews

“One of the hallmarks of Ravi’s translation and commentary is the width of his erudition. He quotes liberally and extensively from East and West as well as from sages like Plotinus and the Cloud of Unknowing. He sees self-transformation as the sole purpose of all spiritual disciplines, and remarks that all spiritual teachings in India, unlike the biblical ones, are insight oriented, in other words involving *jnana* or what we in the West would call *gnosis*. It is significant that the Gnostic Gospels have made a comeback as this element was largely excluded from the canonical texts. I think he is right in saying that

Krishna, as opposed to Christ, is primarily a teacher rather than saviour, although this is also the view of Gnostics, who spend time on opening the eyes of the spirit.

“Beyond gnosis, though, is perhaps the state of unknowing referred to by Ravi: ‘an open mind is passionately searching and always unknowing.... True religious mind is silent, free of fear and self-importance, innocent, open, and vulnerable, full of wisdom but unknowing, willing and able to be surprised.’ (p. 122) As the mystery deepens, ‘it is known but there is no one who knows it.’ Ravi distinguishes scientific from spiritual mysteries, which he regards as unsolvable: ‘they call for a radical transformation of our whole being, including the mind, so that we may come to a different level of the mind.’ (p. 204) Here, the mystery can be lived and dissolved as action, knowledge, meditation and love support each other in an ever finer and finer quality of being of the searcher (p. 251).” –David Lorimer in *Paradigm Explorer*

“The true value of this book is its syncretic nature. Insights from the Christian tradition... Ravindra’s commentary on the Gita connects us to the inner realities of the human condition and the possibilities therein.... Through this insightful interpretation, the Bhagavad Gita becomes available for those who seek to tread the ancient path to the Real.” –*Parabola*, summer 2018.