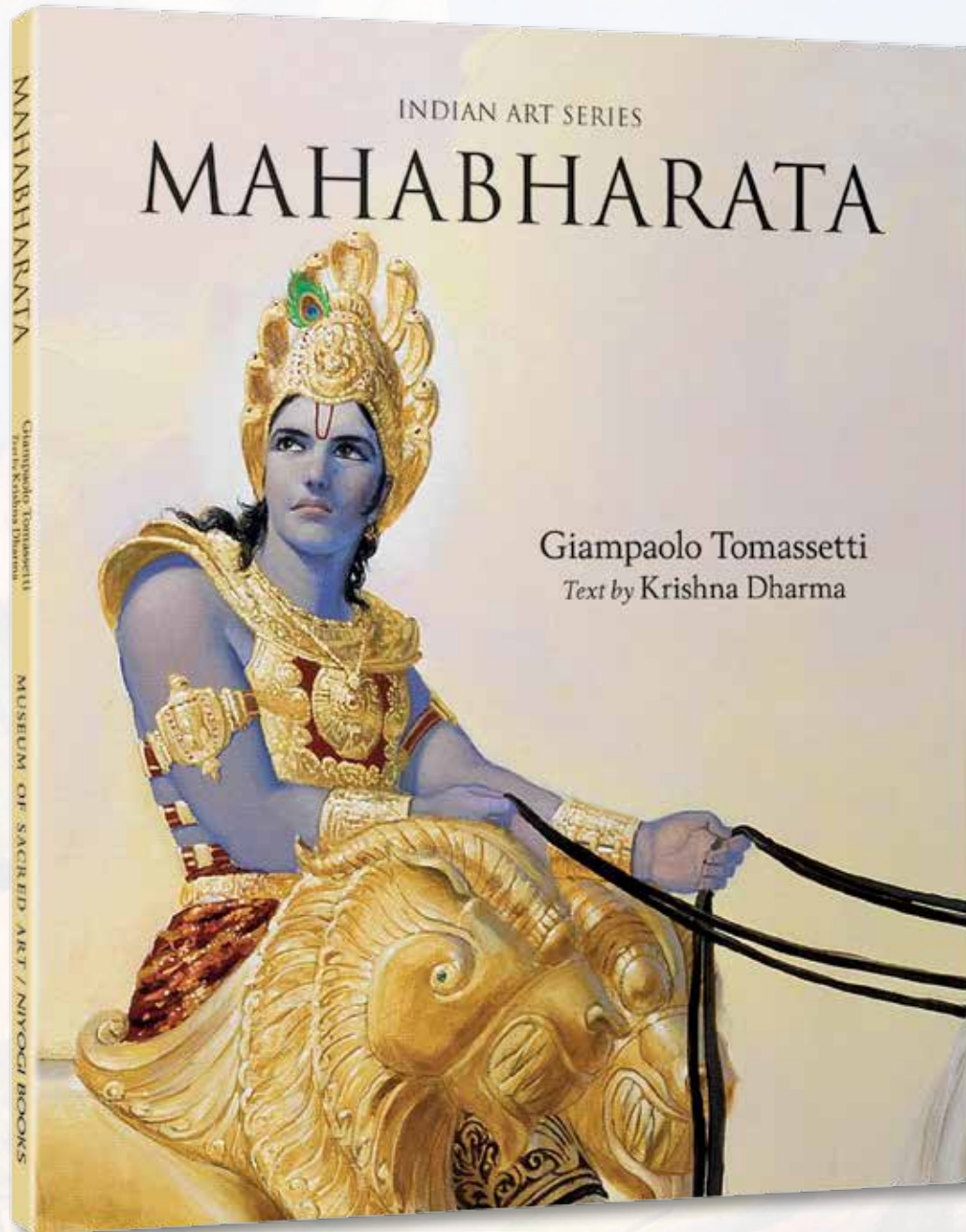


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INDIAN ART SERIES

# MAHABHARATA

Giampaolo Tomassetti

Text by Krishna Dharma

Size: 245 x 210mm,

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In this book the epic *Mahabharata*, eulogised and worshiped by devotees worldwide, takes centre stage in the artist's current creative repertoire. His paintings, mostly in large size and bold colours, engage with the phenomenal Sanskrit epic of ancient India. As the title suggests it is a *mahan* (great) narration about *bharatbaraga* (descendants of Bharat/India), inscribed millennia ago by rishi Vyāsadeva, around 400 BCE. Revered as a significant civilizational marker, the Mahabharata is the longest epic poem ever written. In its original, full form, it contains about 1.8 million words in over 100,000 *shlokas* (couplets) or 200,000 plus individual verse lines and long prose passages. Over the centuries, it has been revised and interpolated in attempts to unravel its historical or compositional layers and continues to be engagingly mysterious.

Lined with European and Italian Renaissance influences, together with Indian decorative elements and a spiritual ethos, the elaborately drawn and brightly coloured suite articulates the great heroic epic, which is essentially about dharma (moral law). It traverses the struggle for sovereignty between two groups of cousins: the Kauravas and the Pandavas. The intrigues, struggles, and morals underlined in the spiritual narrative are replayed in amazing dramatic imagery in this body of work by artist Giampaolo Tomassetti, also known as Jnananjana Dasa.

- Experience the story of Mahabharata unfold through the exquisite paintings of Italian artist Giampaolo Tomassetti or Jnananjana Dasa.
- The book provides comprehensive texts accompanying the paintings, describing the particular image captured in it, written by Krishna Dharma.
- With over 43 colour photographs and 9 illustrations, the book is a must buy for any art connoisseur.

**Giampaolo Tomassetti**, or **Jnananjana Dasa**, was born in Terni, Italy and began his artistic career by making copies and reproductions of old masters' works held in European museums.. From 1980 to 1987, he was a founding member of the International Vedic Art Academy, Italy. He worked on the Mahabharata project for the last twelve years.

**Krishna Dharma** lives in England and is the author of a number of English retellings of ancient Indian classics, including Mahabharata, Ramayana, and Panchatantra. He is also a regular guest broadcaster on the BBC's Pause For Thought.

