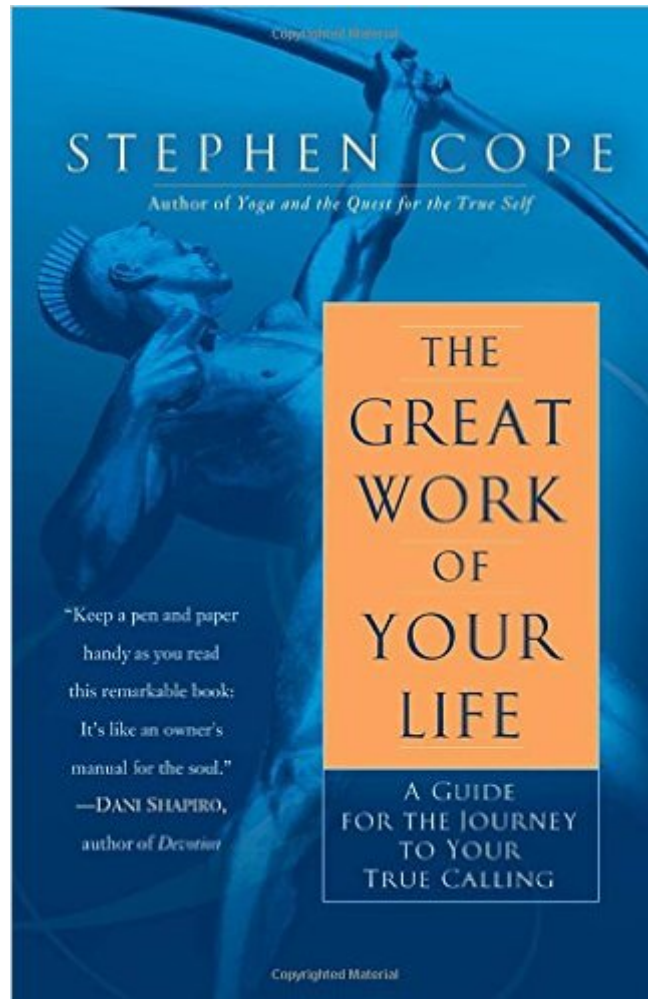


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# The Great Work Of Your Life: A Guide For The Journey To Your True Calling



## Synopsis

From the Senior Scholar-in-residence and Ambassador for the famed Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health comes an incisive and inspiring meditation on living the life you were born to live. In this fast-paced age, the often overwhelming realities of daily life may leave you feeling uncertain about how to realize your life's true purpose—what spiritual teachers call dharma. But yoga master Stephen Cope says that in order to have a fulfilling life you must, in fact, discover the deep purpose hidden at the very core of your self. In *The Great Work of Your Life*, Cope describes the process of unlocking the unique possibility harbored within every human soul. The secret, he asserts, can be found in the pages of a two-thousand-year-old spiritual classic called the *Bhagavad Gita*—an ancient allegory about the path to dharma, told through a timeless dialogue between the fabled archer, Arjuna, and his divine mentor, Krishna. Cope takes readers on a step-by-step tour of this revered tale, and in order to make it relevant to contemporary readers, he highlights well-known Western lives that embody its central principles—including such luminaries as Jane Goodall, whose life trajectory shows us the power of honoring The Gift; Walt Whitman, who listened for the call of the times; Susan B. Anthony, whose example demonstrates the power of focused energy; John Keats, who was able to let his desire give birth to aspiration; and Harriet Tubman, whose life was nothing if not a lesson in learning to walk by faith. This essential guide also includes everyday stories about following the path to dharma, which illustrate the astonishingly contemporary relevance and practicality of this classic yogic story. If you're feeling lost in your own life's journey, *The Great Work of Your Life* may provide you with answers to the questions you most urgently need addressed—and may help you to find and to embrace your true calling.

Praise for *The Great Work of Your Life*

- "Keep a pen and paper handy as you read this remarkable book: It's like an owner's manual for the soul." —Dani Shapiro, author of *Devotion*
- "A masterwork . . . You'll find inspiration in these pages. You'll gain a better appreciation of divine guidance and perhaps even understand how you might better hear it in your own life." —*Yoga Journal*
- "I am moved and inspired by this book, the clarity and beauty of the lives lived in it, and the timeless dharma it teaches." —Jack Kornfield, author of *A Path with Heart*
- "A rich source of contemplation and inspiration [that] encourages readers . . . to discover and fully pursue their inner self's calling." —*Publishers Weekly*
- "Fabulous . . . If you have ever wondered what your purpose is, this book is a great guide to help you on your path." —*YogaHara*

From the Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

It is sad that Stephen Cope's writing ability (which is excellent) so far exceeds his understanding of dharma and The Bhagavad Gita which seems to be none. I fear that his fine writing ability and lack of understanding will be the cause of needless suffering for many people. The original meaning of dharma is right or selfless action (taken without attachment to the outcome) while karma is selfish action (taken with attachment to the outcome). The Bhagavad Gita is, perhaps, the best source of how to bring joy and bliss into your life through the practice of dharma. Stephen Cope seems to be aware dharma is very difficult for Westerners (just as it is very difficult for Hindus) as being selfless is a most difficult practice. However, instead of being true to The Bhagavad Gita and describing the strategies for achieving dharma, selfless action, Mr. Cope, instead invents a new definition of dharma which is pursuing your passion (i.e. karma, the pursuit of self-serving transient pleasures), the exact opposite. He then pays lip service to serving the greater good, but true dharma starts with selfless actions at its core not as an apology for the pursuit of selfish transient pleasure. For example, Mr. Cope advises that a priest who is effective at helping his parishioners and who is sorely needed by his parishioners but is drawn to a pursuit of music, should abandon his parishioners and pursue his passion for music, a self serving transient pleasure. By the same logic a householder responsible for young children but with a desire to be a circus performer should abandon his family and kids to be a circus performer.

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