

SACHI

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

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is Honored to Present

George Hammond

Chairman of the Board of Humanities West

In An Intriguing Discussion on
Reincarnation and Indo-Greek exchange

**Becoming Rational About
Reincarnation: The Upanishads,
the Pythagoreans & the Gita**

Sunday
March 17, 2024
2:00 PM



Pythagoras from a 17th-century engraving in
Thomas Stanley's 'History of Philosophy', 1655



A 19th-century illustrated Sanskrit manuscript from the Bhagavad Gita, composed c. 400 BCE – 200 BCE. Manuscript dated 1824, the British Library collection, Public Domain Illustration depicts a part of verse 20 and verse 21 from the opening chapter of the Bhagavad Gita on the topic of Arjuna's distress.

Palo Alto Art Center

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Palo Alto, CA. 94306

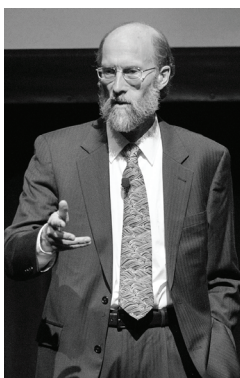
RSVP: info@sachi.org

Free and Open to the Public

traditions supporting it, the 21st century has become inundated with Near Death Experiences and reliable evidence from children's memories about their last lifetimes, opening up very different perspectives on who we really are. The most important question, though, is whether we will keep becoming more rational about our lives or continue to fantasize instead.

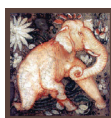
Vague ideas about what happens, if anything, after we die have always circulated within every human civilization. Some were particularly vague, such as, that the afterlife was simply a world of shadows and despair. But the traditions of yoga in ancient India, and the spiritual experiences generated by different forms of meditation, led to enough shared knowledge to inspire the philosophical ruminations recorded in the Upanishads. Then a mathematician in ancient Greece, totally out of context in that culture, began to analyze those possibilities rationally, exposing European cultures to Pythagorean concepts about reincarnation.

That focus on philosophical rationality returned to India when Vyasa wrote the Bhagavad Gita, in which Arjuna remains rationally unconvinced in spite of the many fascinating explanations given by Krishna. And now, with those ancient



George Hammond

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