



Poems on Life and Love in Ancient India: Hala's Sattasai (SUNY series in Hindu Studies)

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The oldest surviving anthology of lyric poems from India, the Sattasai presents the many aspects of love and provides a realistic counterpart to the K?mas?tra.

An elegant translation of the Sattasa? (or Seven Hundred), India's earliest collection of lyric poetry, Poems on Life and Love in Ancient India deals with love in its many aspects. Mostly narrated by women, the poems reveal the world of local Indian village life sometime between the third and fifth centuries. The Sattasa? offers a more realistic counterpart to that notorious theoretical treatise on love the K?mas?tra, which presents a cosmopolitan and calculating milieu. Translators Peter Khoroché and Herman Tieken introduce the main features of the work in its own language and time. For modern readers, these short, self-contained poems are a treat: the sentiments they depict remain affecting and contemporary while providing a window into a world long past.

"These self-contained couplets are as sexy as they are tender; they are lively and playful, melancholy and haunting, often very funny, and continually startling." — Lee Siegel, author of *Love in a Dead Language*

Peter Khoroché is a former lecturer in Sanskrit at the University of London and has previously translated ?rya ??ra's J?takam?l?.

Herman Tieken is Assistant Professor of Sanskrit and Tamil at the Kern Institute, University of Leiden, in the Netherlands. He has translated several Tamil, Sanskrit, and Prakrit texts into Dutch, including the Sattasa? and, most recently, the K?mas?tra.

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