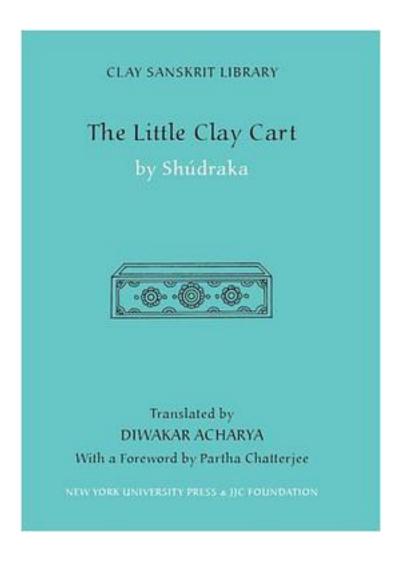
## The Little Clay Cart



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著者:Shudraka

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"The Little Clay Cart" is, for Sanskrit theatre, atypically romantic, funny, and thrilling.

This most human of Sanskrit plays is Shakespearian in its skilful drawing of characters and in the plot's direct clarity. One of the earliest Sanskrit dramas, "Little Clay Cart" was created in South India, perhaps in the seventh century CE. Set in the city of Ujjain, so secular and universal is the story that it can be situated in any society, and it has, including in Bollywood film and by the BBC. Charu-datta, a bankrupt married merchant, is extramaritally involved with a wealthy courtesan, Vasanta-sena. The king's vile brother-in-law, unable to win Vasanta-sena's love, strangles her, and accuses Charu-datta. The court decides the case hastily, condemning Charu-datta to death. Fortunately, our heroine rises from the dead to save her beloved, and all applaud their love. At this climax, the regime changes, and the rebel-turned-king makes Charu-datta lord of an adjacent city.

作者介绍:
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梵语戏剧的必读篇目,结构整饬,严格落实《舞论》中规定的情节发展五步骤和五元素。表面上是在写爱情,但是作者对此着墨甚少;放在古印度的语境中来看,人情是表面,底下潜藏着命运、责任、人生无常和人与自然关系的暗流。

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评论

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