



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Shubham Arora



Kāmadeva, the god of desire.

## An Intellectual History of Pleasure in Sanskrit

Who needs a manual to experience sexual pleasure? Clearly, writers in premodern South Asia believed it was essential to define pleasure and list practices to guide readers on what to do—or what to avoid. I will walk you through a long trajectory of these authoritative writings on erotics in Sanskrit. Through a few examples, we will get a glimpse into why these writers theorized pleasure the way they did.

**Shubham Arora** is a PhD Candidate in Asian Studies at UBC. He researches and teaches topics related to South Asian ritual and myth, yogic traditions, sex and sexual ethics, and film.

January 16, 2025  
5:00–6:00pm PT

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