

kamasutra book who wrote

kamasutra book who wrote: An In-Depth Exploration of Its Origins and Authorship

The Kamasutra is often regarded as one of the most influential texts on love, sexuality, and human relationships in history. Its reputation transcends cultures and centuries, making it a timeless guide for understanding intimacy and emotional connections. But many people wonder about the origins of this ancient text—most notably, who wrote the Kamasutra? In this comprehensive article, we delve into the history, authorship, and the cultural significance of this iconic work.

The Origins of the Kamasutra

Historical Background

The Kamasutra is believed to have been composed between the 3rd and 5th centuries CE in ancient India. It is a Sanskrit text attributed to the sage Vatsyayana, who is often credited with compiling and authoring the work. The text is part of a larger body of Indian literature known as Kama Shastra, which encompasses the science of love, desire, and pleasure.

Cultural Context

During the period when the Kamasutra was written, Indian society was rich in philosophical and spiritual traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. However, unlike many spiritual texts focused solely on enlightenment or moral codes, the Kamasutra explored the human experience of love and intimacy as an essential part of life.

Who Wrote the Kamasutra?

Vatsyayana: The Author and Sage

The name most closely associated with the Kamasutra is Vatsyayana, a philosopher and scholar believed to have lived during the Gupta period or possibly earlier. While some scholars debate whether Vatsyayana was a real individual or a symbolic figure representing a tradition of oral and written transmission, the name has become synonymous with the authorship of the text.

Key Points About Vatsyayana:

- **Historical Identity:** Vatsyayana is thought to have been a learned scholar, possibly a priest, or a courtier well-versed in texts related to love and social conduct.
- **Literary Role:** He is credited with compiling and organizing existing

knowledge about love, social relationships, and sexual practices into a systematic treatise.

- Philosophical Perspective: The Kamasutra reflects a pragmatic approach to love, emphasizing pleasure, companionship, and emotional fulfillment alongside moral considerations.

Other Contributors and Influences

While Vatsyayana is widely regarded as the main author, the Kamasutra likely drew upon earlier traditions and texts, including:

- Oral storytelling and folk practices
- Earlier Indian scriptures and manuals on conduct
- Philosophical discourses on desire and relationships

The compilation of these ideas into a cohesive work suggests that the Kamasutra was a collective effort over generations, with Vatsyayana serving as the primary compiler or author.

Structure and Content of the Kamasutra

Overview of the Text

The Kamasutra comprises seven sections, with a total of around 36 chapters, covering a broad spectrum of topics related to love and social life. Its structure reflects a holistic understanding of human relationships, from courtship to marriage, and beyond.

Main Sections of the Kamasutra

1. General Principles of Love and Life
2. Amorous Advances and Courtship
3. Acquisition of a Wife
4. Duties and Responsibilities of a Wife
5. Other Types of Women
6. Engagements and Extramarital Affairs
7. The Means of Securing Happiness and Prosperity

Key Topics Covered

- Techniques of seduction and intimacy
- Social and behavioral norms
- Role of desire and emotional connection
- Ethical considerations and social etiquette
- Marriage customs and relationships
- Extramarital relationships and flirtation
- The importance of companionship and friendship

The Influence and Legacy of the Kamasutra

Cultural Impact

The Kamasutra has influenced art, literature, and popular culture worldwide. Its candid discussion of sexuality challenged Victorian-era prudishness and opened conversations about human intimacy.

Modern Interpretations

Today, the Kamasutra is often associated with erotic positions, but its original intent was much broader—covering emotional intimacy, social conduct, and personal fulfillment.

Academic and Literary Significance

Scholars study the Kamasutra not only as a manual of sexual techniques but also as an important historical document that reveals the social fabric of ancient India.

Why Is the Question of Who Wrote the Kamasutra Important?

Understanding who authored the Kamasutra helps contextualize its teachings and appreciate its cultural significance. It also sheds light on the intellectual environment of ancient India and the evolution of human sexuality discourse.

Summary of Key Points:

- The Kamasutra was authored by Vatsyayana, a sage and scholar.
- It was composed between the 3rd and 5th centuries CE.
- The work is a compilation of existing traditions, philosophies, and social norms related to love and pleasure.
- Vatsyayana's role was as both author and compiler, synthesizing diverse ideas into a comprehensive treatise.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Kamasutra and Its Author

1. Is Vatsyayana a real person?

Scholars believe Vatsyayana was a real individual, though some debate exists about his precise identity. He is traditionally seen as a sage and philosopher who compiled the Kamasutra.

2. Are there other authors of similar texts?

Yes, numerous other texts on love and sexuality exist in Indian literature, but Vatsyayana's Kamasutra remains the most famous and influential.

3. How did the Kamasutra influence modern culture?

It inspired countless works of art, literature, and film, and remains a symbol of sexual freedom and exploration.

Conclusion

The Kamasutra stands as a testament to the sophistication of ancient Indian thought on love, desire, and social relationships. While Vatsyayana is widely recognized as its author, the work reflects a collective cultural heritage that values human intimacy as an essential part of life. Its enduring legacy continues to influence modern perspectives on sexuality and relationships, making the question of "who wrote the Kamasutra" a fascinating window into a rich historical and cultural tradition.

By understanding the origins and authorship of the Kamasutra, readers can better appreciate its significance and the timeless insights it offers into human intimacy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of the Kamasutra book?

The Kamasutra was written by the ancient Indian sage Vatsyayana.

When was the Kamasutra book written?

The Kamasutra is believed to have been composed between the 3rd and 5th centuries CE.

Is the author of the Kamasutra known by name?

Yes, the author is traditionally identified as Vatsyayana, although little is known about his life.

What is the significance of Vatsyayana in relation to the Kamasutra?

Vatsyayana is regarded as the author and compiler of the Kamasutra, which is a classical Sanskrit text on love, relationships, and sexuality.

Are there multiple authors of the Kamasutra?

No, the Kamasutra is attributed to a single author, Vatsyayana, although it may have been influenced by earlier texts.

Has the authorship of the Kamasutra been debated among scholars?

While Vatsyayana is widely credited, some scholars suggest it may have been a collaborative effort or compiled from earlier sources.

Does the Kamasutra have different authors in various editions?

No, the core authorship is attributed to Vatsyayana; different editions may include commentaries or translations by various scholars.

Why is Vatsyayana considered the author of the Kamasutra today?

Because historical records and traditional attribution associate Vatsyayana with the text, establishing him as its author.

Additional Resources

Kamasutra Book Who Wrote: An In-Depth Exploration of Its Origins, Authors, and Cultural Significance

The Kamasutra book who wrote question has intrigued many readers, scholars, and enthusiasts over centuries. As one of the most renowned texts on love, sexuality, and human relationships, understanding its authorship offers valuable insights into its historical context and cultural significance. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the origins of the Kamasutra, delve into the identity of its author(s), examine the historical background, and analyze how the text has influenced perceptions of sexuality across cultures.

Introduction to the Kamasutra: A Classic of Erotic Literature

The Kamasutra is an ancient Indian Sanskrit text attributed to Vatsyayana, a philosopher and scholar believed to have lived sometime between the 3rd and 6th centuries CE. Widely regarded as one of the earliest and most comprehensive treatises on love, desire, and human intimacy, the Kamasutra extends beyond mere sexual positions to encompass advice on relationships, social life, and personal conduct.

While many associate the Kamasutra predominantly with its famous sexual positions, it is fundamentally a manual for leading a fulfilling and harmonious life in the context of love and desire. Its influence has transcended Indian borders, shaping perceptions of sexuality worldwide.

Who Wrote the Kamasutra? Exploring Its Authorship

The Traditional Attribution to Vatsyayana

The most widely accepted view is that the Kamasutra was composed by Vatsyayana, an ancient Indian scholar and philosopher. Vatsyayana is credited with compiling and organizing existing knowledge and philosophies about love and sensuality into a systematic treatise. His authorship is generally accepted based on the text's internal references, historical records, and scholarly consensus.

The Life and Background of Vatsyayana

Very little is known about Vatsyayana's personal life. Historical records do not provide detailed biographical information, and much of what is known is derived from the text itself and secondary sources. It is believed that Vatsyayana was a learned man, well-versed in various fields including philosophy, literature, and social sciences.

Some scholars suggest that Vatsyayana was part of a broader tradition of ascetic or scholarly communities that studied and documented human desire. His goal was to compile a guide that balanced spiritual discipline with worldly pleasures, reflecting the Indian concept of Kama as one of the essential life pursuits.

Multiple Contributors or Collated Texts?

While Vatsyayana is credited as the sole author, some researchers propose that the Kamasutra might be a compilation of teachings from various authors over generations. The text contains references to earlier works and ideas, suggesting that it may have been edited or expanded over time.

Furthermore, the Kamasutra exists in different versions and translations, which sometimes include additional commentary, interpretations, or adaptations. This variability indicates a collaborative evolution of the text rather than a singular authorship.

Historical Context of the Kamasutra

The Cultural and Philosophical Setting

Composed during a period marked by rich cultural developments in India, the

Kamasutra reflects a society that emphasized the balance between spiritual pursuits and worldly pleasures. The text aligns with the Indian philosophical framework of Purusharthas, which include Dharma (duty), Artha (wealth), Kama (desire), and Moksha (liberation).

The Kamasutra specifically focuses on Kama—the pursuit of pleasure—while acknowledging the importance of social order and moral conduct.

The Manuscripts and Translations

The original Sanskrit manuscripts of the Kamasutra have survived through centuries, with notable translations into many languages, including English, French, and German. Each translation and commentary provides additional perspectives, sometimes reflecting the cultural attitudes of the translator's time.

The most famous English translation was by Sir Richard Burton in the 19th century, which brought the work to Western audiences but also generated controversy due to its explicit content.

Key Sections and Themes of the Kamasutra

While the focus of popular discourse often centers on sexual positions, the Kamasutra encompasses a broad range of topics:

- Introduction to Love and Relationships
- Types of Lovers and Social Interactions
- Courtship Rituals and Marriage
- Sexual Techniques and Positions
- Roles and Responsibilities in Relationships
- The Art of Seduction and Flirtation
- Hygiene, Clothing, and Aesthetics
- The Role of Women and Men in Society
- Ethical and Moral Aspects of Desire

Impact and Legacy of the Kamasutra

Cultural Significance

The Kamasutra has played a pivotal role in shaping attitudes towards sexuality in India and beyond. Its emphasis on mutual pleasure, consent, and emotional connection was revolutionary for its time.

In modern times, it has inspired countless adaptations, artistic works, and scholarly studies, cementing its place as a cornerstone of erotic literature.

Controversies and Misinterpretations

Throughout history, the Kamasutra has often been misinterpreted as solely a manual of sexual positions. However, scholars emphasize its broader philosophical and social insights. Its explicit content has led to censorship and moral debates, especially in conservative societies.

Influence on Western Perceptions

The work's introduction to Western audiences in the 19th century sparked fascination and curiosity about Indian sexuality and culture. It challenged Victorian prudishness and opened discussions on human intimacy and pleasure.

Conclusion: The Enduring Mystery of the Kamasutra's Authorship

In summary, the Kamasutra book who wrote question points primarily to Vatsyayana, an esteemed philosopher and scholar of ancient India. While definitive biographical details remain scarce, the attribution to Vatsyayana is supported by textual evidence and historical tradition. Nonetheless, the work itself appears to be a culmination of centuries of oral and written knowledge, possibly incorporating contributions from multiple authors or schools of thought.

Understanding the authorship of the Kamasutra enriches our appreciation of its depth, cultural roots, and enduring influence. It stands not merely as a manual on sexual positions but as a comprehensive guide to human relationships—balancing desire, morality, and social harmony.

References and Further Reading

- "The Kamasutra of Vatsyayana," translated by Sir Richard Burton
- "Kamasutra: Extended Edition," by Vatsyayana, translated by Wendy Doniger
- "The Art of Love: The History and Practice of Erotic Art," by David M. Luebbert
- Scholarly articles on Indian philosophy and sexual ethics
- Documentaries and courses on ancient Indian literature and culture

Embark on your exploration of the Kamasutra's rich history and profound insights into human intimacy—an enduring testament to the complexity and beauty of love and desire across ages.

[Kamasutra Book Who Wrote](#)

kamasutra book who wrote: *The Kama Sutra (ANNOTATED)* Mallanaga Vātsyāyana,

2020-02-22 This is a great eBook. This is the Summarized Version of the Original Book. We had added almost 48000 words in our long summary and about 7400 words in our short summary of the book. the brief description is written as follows: -Kamasutra is the oldest surviving Hindu text on erotic love. It is a sutra-genre text with terse aphoristic verses that have survived into the modern era with different bhasya (exposition and commentaries). The text is a mix of prose and anustubh-meter poetry verses. The text acknowledges the Hindu concept of Purusharthas, and lists desire, sexuality, and emotional fulfillment as one of the proper goals of life. Its chapters discuss methods for courtship, training in the arts to be socially engaging, finding a partner, flirting, maintaining power in a married life, when and how to commit adultery, sexual positions, and other topics. The majority of the book is about the philosophy and theory of love, what triggers desire, what sustains it, and how and when it is good or bad. The text is one of many Indian texts on Kama Shastra. It is a much-translated work in Indian and non-Indian languages. The Kamasutra has influenced many secondary texts that followed after the 4th-century CE, as well as the Indian arts as exemplified by the pervasive presence Kama-related reliefs and sculpture in old Hindu temples. Of these, the Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh is a UNESCO world heritage site. Among the surviving temples in north India, one in Rajasthan sculpts all the major chapters and sexual positions to illustrate the Kamasutra. According to Wendy Doniger, the Kamasutra became one of the most pirated books in English language soon after it was published in 1883 by Richard Burton. This first European edition by Burton does not faithfully reflect much in the Kamasutra because he revised the collaborative translation by Bhagavanlal Indrajit and Shivaram Parashuram Bhide with Forster Arbuthnot to suit 19th-century Victorian tastes. Vatsyayana Mallanaga is its widely accepted author because his name is embedded in the colophon verse, but little is known about him. Vatsyayana states that he wrote the text after much meditation. In the preface, Vatsyayana acknowledges that he is distilling many ancient texts, but these have not survived. He cites the work of others he calls teachers and scholars, and the longer texts by Auddalaki, Babhravya, Dattaka, Suvarnanabha, Ghotakamukha, Gonardiya, Gonikaputra, Charayana, and Kuchumara. Vatsyayana's Kamasutra is mentioned and some verses quoted in the Brihatsamhita of Varahamihira, as well as the poems of Kalidasa. This suggests he lived before the 5th-century CE. Human relationships, sex and emotional fulfillment are a significant part of the post-Vedic Sanskrit literature such as the major Hindu epics: the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. The ancient Indian view has been, states Johann Meyer, that love and sex are a delightful necessity. Though she is reserved and selective, a woman stands in very great need of surata (amorous or sexual pleasure), and the woman has a far stronger erotic disposition, her delight in the sexual act is greater than a man's

kamasutra book who wrote: The Kamasutra Vatsyayana Vatsyayana, James Zimmerhoff, 2017-07-19 In the literature of all countries there will be found a certain number of works treating especially of love. Everywhere the subject is dealt with differently, and from various points of view. In the present publication it is proposed to give a complete translation of what is considered the standard work on love in Sanscrit literature, and which is called the 'Vatsyayana Kama Sutra, ' or Aphorisms on Love, by Vatsyayana. While the introduction will bear with the evidence concerning the date of the writing, and the commentaries written upon it, the chapters following the introduction will give a translation of the work itself. It is, however, advisable to furnish here a brief analysis of works of the same nature, prepared by authors who lived and wrote years after Vatsya had passed away, but who still considered him as a great authority, and always quoted him as the chief guide to Hindoo erotic literature. Besides the treatise of Vatsyayana the following works on the same subject are procurable in India: - The Ratirahasya, or secrets of love. The Panchasakya, or the five arrows. The Smara Pradipa, or the light of love. The Ratimanjari, or the garland of love. The Rasmanjari, or the sprout of love. The Anunga Runga, or the stage of love; also called Kamaledhiplava, or a boat in the ocean of love. The author of the 'Secrets of Love' (No. 1) was a poet named Kukko. He composed his work to please one Venudutta, who was perhaps a king. When writing his own name at the end of each chapter he calls himself Siddha patiya pandita, i.e., an ingenious man among learned men. The work was translated into Hindi years ago, and in this the

author's name was written as Koka. And as the same name crept into all the translations into other languages in India, the book became generally known, and the subject was popularly called Koka Shastra, or doctrines of Koka, which is identical with the Kama Shastra, or doctrines of love, and the words Koka Shastra and Kama Shastra are used indiscriminately. The work contains nearly eight hundred verses, and is divided into ten chapters, which are called called Pachivedas. Some of the things treated of in this work are not to be found in the Vatsyayana, such as the four classes of women, viz., the Padmini, Chitrini, Shankini and Hastini, as also the enumeration of the days and hours on which the women of the different classes become subject to love. The author adds that he wrote these things from the opinions of Gonikaputra and Nandikeshwara, both of whom are mentioned by Vatsyayana, but their works are not now extant. It is difficult to give any approximate idea as to the year in which the work was composed. It is only to be presumed that it was written after that of Vatsyayana, and previous to the other works on this subject that are still extant. Vatsyayana gives the names of ten authors on the subject, all of whose works he had consulted, but none of which are extant, and does not mention this one. This would tend to show that Kukkoka wrote after Vatsya, otherwise Vatsya would assuredly have mentioned him as an author in this branch of literature along with the others. The author of the 'Five Arrows' (No. 2 in the list) was one Jyotirisha. He is called the chief ornament of poets, the treasure of the sixty-four arts, and the best teacher of the rules of music. He says that he composed the work after reflecting on the aphorisms of love as revealed by the gods, and studying the opinions of Gonikaputra, Muladeva, Babhravya, Ramtideva, Nundikeshwara and Kshemandra. It is impossible to say whether he had perused all the works of these authors, or had only heard about them; anyhow, none of them appear to be in existence now. This work contains nearly six hundred verses, and is divided into five chapters, called Sayakas or Arrows. The author of the 'Light of Love' (No. 3) was the poet Gunakara, the son of Vechapati. The work contains four hundred verses, and gives only a short account of the doctrin

kamasutra book who wrote: *Kama Sutra* Sandhya Mulchandani, 2014-12-10 The Kama Sutra is a two thousand year old mystical treatise on sexuality - read and revered for generations. This first ever collector's edition takes a contemporary look at the perennial classic and pairs the ancient text with vibrantly colored and richly detailed illustrations. Rare miniatures, gouache and tantric paintings are published here for the first time. The gold edged book comes in a hand made box made of pure silk. The lavish packaging and sumptuous production of the book makes it a remarkable keepsake.

kamasutra book who wrote: The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana Vatsyayana, 2021-08-29 The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana Vatsyayana - The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana by Richard Francis Burton is an edition of the ancient Indian text on sexuality and emotional needs. Vatsayana was an ancient Indian philosopher who lived during the second or third century. Although it is often thought of as a sex manual, it is much more, with guides on living well, the nature of love, and finding a partner. Indeed, Vatsyayana says himself: 'This work is not to be used merely as an instrument for satisfying our desires'. Burton did not in fact translate the Kama Sutra - it was translated by the Indian scholar Bhagwan Lal Indraji. It was edited by Burton to suit prevailing British attitudes to sex, but was still banned in England and the United States until 1962. Other criticisms levelled at Burton's translation is that instead of using English words for the sex organs, he uses the words 'lingam' and 'yoni', despite those words not appearing in the original work. This was seen as an attempt to distance them and make them 'other', rather than about English people's sexual organs. He also removes the agency of women, and where in the original, women's words are direct quotes, in the Burton translation, women's words are removed and put into the passive state (i.e., A woman saying 'Stop!' becomes 'She continually utters words expressive of prohibition'). Despite all this, it has been such an influential translation that even modern editions in the Hindi language are re-translations of the Burton version. The Kama Sutra is an ancient Indian Hindu text widely considered to be the standard work on human sexual behavior in Sanskrit literature written by Vaatsyayana. A portion of the work consists of practical advice on sexual intercourse. It is largely in prose, with many inserted anustubh poetry verses. Kama which is one of the four goals of Hindu life, means desire including sexual

desire the latter being the subject of the textbook, and sutra literally means a thread or line that holds things together, and more metaphorically refers to an aphorism (or line, rule, formula), or a collection of such aphorisms in the form of a manual. Contrary to popular perception, especially in the western world, Kama sutra is not exclusively a sex manual; it presents itself as a guide to a virtuous and gracious living that discusses the nature of love, family life and other aspects pertaining to pleasure oriented faculties of human life.

kamasutra book who wrote: Kama Sutra Vatsyayana, Richard Francis Burton, 2022-01-04 Man should study the Kama Sutra and the arts and sciences subordinate thereto, in addition to the study of the arts and sciences contained in Dharma and Artha. Even young maids should study this Kama Sutra along with its arts and sciences before marriage, and after it they should continue to do so with the consent of their husbands. Kama Sutra is an ancient Indian text widely considered to be the standard work on human sexual behavior in Sanskrit literature written by Vātsyāyana. A portion of the work consists of practical advice on sexual intercourse. Contrary to popular perception, especially in the western world, Kama sutra is not exclusively a sex manual; it presents itself as a guide to a virtuous and gracious living that discusses the nature of love, family life and other aspects pertaining to pleasure oriented faculties of human life. Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890) was a British explorer, geographer, translator and diplomat. Burton's best-known achievements include a well-documented journey to Mecca, in disguise; an unexpurgated translation of One Thousand and One Nights (commonly called The Arabian Nights in English); the publication of the Kama Sutra in English and an expedition with J. H. Spake to discover the source of Nile. TABLE OF CONTENTS Book Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana Biography Life of Sir Richard Burton by Thomas Wright Romance of Isabel Lady Burton: The Story of Her Life (Vol.1&2)

kamasutra book who wrote: The Kama Sutra Vatsyayana, 2017-09-03 Sir Richard F. Burton's translation of The Kama Sutra remains one of the best English interpretations of this early Indian treatise on politics, social customs, love, and intimacy. Its crisp style set a new standard for Sanskrit translation. The Kama Sutra stands uniquely as a work of psychology, sociology, Hindu dogma, and sexology. It has been a celebrated classic of Indian literature for 1,700 years and a window for the West into the culture and mysticism of the East. This Modern Library Paperback Classic reprints the authoritative text of Sir Richard F. Burton's 1883 translation.

kamasutra book who wrote: The Complete Kama Sutra , 1994-01-01 This definitive volume is the first modern translation of Vatsyayana's Kama Sutra to include two essential commentaries: the Jayamangala of Yashodhara and the modern Hindi commentary by Devadatta Shastri. Alain Danilou spent four years comparing versions of the Kama Sutra in Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, and English, drawing on his intimate experience of India, to preserve the full explicitness of the original. I wanted to demystify India, he writes, to show that a period of great civilization, of high culture, is forcibly a period of great liberty.

kamasutra book who wrote: The Book of Love James McConnachie, 2008-05-27 An engaging, enlightening biography of the ancient Hindu manuscript that became the world's most famous sex manual The Kamasutra is one of the world's best-known yet least-understood texts, its title instantly familiar but its actual contents widely misconstrued. In the popular imagination, it is a work of practical pornography, a how-to guide of absurdly acrobatic sexual techniques. Yet the book began its long life in third-century India as something quite different: a seven-volume vision of an ideal life of urbane sophistication, offering advice on matters from friendship to household decoration. Over the ensuing centuries, the Kamasutra was first celebrated, then neglected, and very nearly lost—until an outrageous adventurer introduced it to the West and earned literary immortality. In lively and lucid prose, James McConnachie provides a rare, intimate look at the exquisite civilization that produced this cultural cornerstone. He details the quest of famed explorer Richard F. Burton, who—along with his clandestine coterie of libertines and iconoclasts—unleashed the Kamasutra on English society as a deliberate slap at Victorian prudishness and paternalism. And he describes how the Kamasutra was driven underground into the hands of pirate pornographers, until the end of the Lady Chatterley obscenity ban thrust it once more into contentious daylight. The

first work to tell the full story of the Kamasutra, *The Book of Love* explores how a remarkable way of looking at the world came to be cradled between book covers—and survived.

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kamasutra book who wrote: The Book of Love James McConnachie, 2008-05-27 An engaging, enlightening biography of the ancient Hindu manuscript that became the world's most famous sex manual *The Kamasutra* is one of the world's best-known yet least-understood texts, its title instantly familiar but its actual contents widely misconstrued. In the popular imagination, it is a work of practical pornography, a how-to guide of absurdly acrobatic sexual techniques. Yet the book began its long life in third-century India as something quite different: a seven-volume vision of an ideal life of urbane sophistication, offering advice on matters from friendship to household decoration. Over the ensuing centuries, the Kamasutra was first celebrated, then neglected, and very nearly lost—until an outrageous adventurer introduced it to the West and earned literary immortality. In lively and lucid prose, James McConnachie provides a rare, intimate look at the exquisite civilization that produced this cultural cornerstone. He details the quest of famed explorer Richard F. Burton, who—along with his clandestine coterie of libertines and iconoclasts—unleashed the Kamasutra on English society as a deliberate slap at Victorian prudishness and paternalism. And he describes how the Kamasutra was driven underground into the hands of pirate pornographers, until the end of the Lady Chatterley obscenity ban thrust it once more into contentious daylight. The first work to tell the full story of the Kamasutra, *The Book of Love* explores how a remarkable way of looking at the world came to be cradled between book covers—and survived.

kamasutra book who wrote: Kama Sutra Vatsyayana., 2017-02-15 In the literature of all countries there will be found a certain number of works treating especially of love. Everywhere the subject is dealt with differently, and from various points of view. In the present publication it is proposed to give a complete translation of what is considered the standard work on love in Sanscrit literature, and which is called the 'Vatsyayana Kama Sutra', or Aphorisms on Love, by Vatsyayana. While the introduction will deal with the evidence concerning the date of the writing, and the commentaries written upon it, the chapters following the introduction will give a translation of the work itself. It is, however, advisable to furnish here a brief analysis of works of the same nature, prepared by authors who lived and wrote years after Vatsyayana had passed away, but who still considered him as the great authority, and always quoted him as the chief guide to Hindoo erotic literature. Besides the treatise of Vatsyayana the following works on the same subject are procurable in India: *The Ratirahasya*, or secrets of love *The Panchasakya*, or the five arrows *The Smara Pradipa*, or the light of love *The Ratimanjari*, or the garland of love *The Rasmanjari*, or the sprout of love *The Anunga Runga*, or the stage of love also called *Kamaledhiplava*, or a boat in the ocean of love. The author of the 'Secrets of Love' was a poet named Kukkoka. He composed his work to please one Venudutta, who was perhaps a king. When writing his own name at the end of each chapter he calls himself 'Siddha patiya pandita', i.e. an ingenious man among learned men. The work was translated into Hindi years ago, and in this the author's name was written as Koka. And as the same name crept into all the translations into other languages in India, the book became generally known, and the subject was popularly called Koka Shastra, or doctrines of Koka, which is identical with the Kama Shastra, or doctrines of love, and the words Koka Shastra and Kama Shastra are used indiscriminately. The work contains nearly eight hundred verses, and is divided into ten chapters, which are called Pachivedas. Some of the things treated of in this work are not to be found in the Vatsyayana, such as the four classes of women, the Padmini, Chitrini, Shankini and Hastini, as also the enumeration of the days and hours on which the women of the different classes become subject to love, The author adds that he wrote these things from the opinions of Gonikaputra and

Nandikeshwara, both of whom are mentioned by Vatsyayana, but their works are not now extant. It is difficult to give any approximate idea as to the year in which the work was composed. It is only to be presumed that it was written after that of Vatsyayana, and previous to the other works on this subject that are still extant. Vatsyayana gives the names of ten authors on the subject, all of whose works he had consulted, but none of which are extant, and does not mention this one. This would tend to show that Kukkoka wrote after Vatsya, otherwise Vatsya would assuredly have mentioned him as an author in this branch of literature along with the others.

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