

khawajasara

khawajasara is a term rooted in South Asian cultural and historical contexts, referring to a unique social identity that encompasses individuals assigned male at birth who adopt or are recognized for living as women. The concept of khawajasara has deep historical significance, especially within the Indian subcontinent, where it has been intertwined with social roles, cultural expressions, and spiritual practices. Understanding khawajasara requires exploring its origins, cultural relevance, social dynamics, and contemporary perspectives.

Origins and Historical Context of Khawajasara

Etymology and Definitions

The term "khawajasara" is derived from Persian and Urdu. "Khawaja" refers to a respectful term for a master or nobleman, while "sara" signifies a place or state. Over time, it has come to denote individuals assigned male at birth who identify with or live as women, often occupying distinct social or cultural roles.

Historical Presence in South Asia

Historically, khawajasara individuals have been part of South Asian societies for centuries. They have often been associated with:

- **Spiritual and Religious Roles:** Many khawajasara have served as performers or caretakers in religious settings, especially within Sufi traditions.
- **Cultural Contributions:** They have contributed to music, dance, and other artistic expressions, enriching the cultural tapestry of the region.
- **Social Roles:** Some have held social roles that involve community support, mentorship, or acting as intermediaries within specific social networks.

Cultural Recognition in Historical Texts

Ancient texts and historical accounts mention communities that resemble or directly refer to khawajasara, illustrating their longstanding presence and societal influence. Their roles, however, have varied across time and regions, influenced by changing social norms and religious doctrines.

Cultural Significance of Khawajasara

Artistic and Performative Contributions

Khawajasara individuals have historically been renowned for their artistic talents, especially in music and dance. They often performed at:

- Religious festivals
- Royal courts
- Community gatherings

Their performances were not only entertainment but also spiritual expressions and social bonding.

Spiritual and Religious Roles

In some Sufi traditions, khawajasara have held special spiritual roles, serving as spiritual guides or caretakers of shrines. They are sometimes viewed as possessing a unique spiritual status due to their gender expression and community roles.

Social and Community Support

Khawajasara communities have historically provided support networks for marginalized individuals, offering mentorship, acceptance, and social cohesion within their communities.

Social Dynamics and Challenges Faced by Khawajasara

Social Stigma and Discrimination

Despite their rich cultural history, khawajasara individuals often face social stigma, discrimination, and marginalization. Factors include:

- Cultural misconceptions: Misunderstandings about gender identity and expression.
- Legal challenges: Lack of legal recognition or protections.
- Social exclusion: Limited access to education, employment, and healthcare.

Legal Recognition and Rights

In recent years, some South Asian countries have taken steps toward recognizing transgender rights, including the legal recognition of khawajasara or similar identities. However, implementation remains inconsistent.

Health and Safety Concerns

Khawajasara communities often face health disparities and safety issues, including limited access to healthcare services tailored to their needs and increased vulnerability to violence.

Contemporary Perspectives and Movements

Legal and Policy Developments

Countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have introduced laws recognizing transgender rights, including provisions that impact khawajasara communities:

- Legal recognition of gender identity
- Anti-discrimination laws
- Reserving quotas in education and employment

Societal Acceptance and Cultural Shifts

There is a growing movement toward acceptance and inclusion of khawajasara individuals, driven by:

- LGBTQ+ activism: Advocating for rights and visibility.
- Media representation: Increasing portrayals in films, television, and literature.
- Community-led initiatives: Grassroots organizations working for social change.

Challenges Remaining

Despite progress, challenges persist including deep-rooted societal prejudices, limited access to resources, and the need for greater awareness and understanding.

Role of Media and Education in Changing Perceptions

Representation in Media

Positive and nuanced representation of khawajasara individuals can challenge stereotypes and foster greater acceptance. Examples include:

- Documentaries highlighting their stories

- Films portraying their cultural contributions
- Media campaigns promoting awareness

Educational Programs

Incorporating gender diversity and LGBTQ+ topics into educational curricula can promote understanding from a young age and reduce stigma.

The Future of Khawajasara in South Asia

Embracing Cultural Heritage

Recognizing khawajasara as an integral part of South Asia's cultural history can foster pride and preserve their contributions.

Policy and Legal Reforms

Continued advocacy for comprehensive legal protections and social inclusion measures is vital for improving the lives of khawajasara individuals.

Community Empowerment

Supporting community-led initiatives and organizations can help khawajasara communities achieve greater autonomy, safety, and well-being.

Conclusion

Khawajasara is a term that encapsulates a rich tapestry of history, culture, and social dynamics within South Asian societies. From their historical roles as performers and spiritual guides to their

contemporary struggles and activism, khawajasara individuals exemplify resilience and cultural significance. As societies evolve, recognizing and honoring their contributions while ensuring their rights and dignity remain paramount. Embracing diversity and promoting inclusion will pave the way for a more equitable future where khawajasara communities can thrive with respect, recognition, and support.

Keywords: khawajasara, South Asian transgender history, gender diversity in India, LGBTQ+ rights in Pakistan, cultural roles of khawajasara, social challenges faced by khawajasara, legal recognition of transgender identities, transgender community in South Asia, spiritual roles of khawajasara

Frequently Asked Questions

What is khawajasara?

Khawajasara is a term used in South Asian cultures to describe a transgender woman or a transgender person assigned male at birth who adopts a feminine gender presentation and identity.

What is the historical significance of khawajasara in South Asian societies?

Historically, khawajasara individuals have played important roles in cultural, spiritual, and social contexts, often serving as performers, spiritual guides, or community members with unique social functions.

How are khawajasara individuals recognized legally in countries like Pakistan and India?

Legal recognition varies; some countries have provisions for gender recognition or third gender

categories, allowing khawajasara individuals to obtain identification documents that reflect their gender identity.

What challenges do khawajasara face today?

Khawajasara often face discrimination, social stigma, limited employment opportunities, and lack of access to healthcare and legal protections.

Are there any prominent figures or activists among the khawajasara community?

Yes, many activists and community leaders advocate for rights and social acceptance of khawajasara individuals, such as Ghulam Farid Sabri in Pakistan and others working across South Asia.

How do cultural perceptions of khawajasara differ across South Asian countries?

Perceptions vary widely; some cultures historically accept or revere khawajasara, while others stigmatize or criminalize them, influencing their social inclusion.

What role does religion play in the lives of khawajasara individuals?

Religious views on khawajasara are diverse; some communities may accept or incorporate them into spiritual practices, while others may condemn or marginalize them based on religious doctrines.

What initiatives are in place to support khawajasara rights and well-being?

Various NGOs, advocacy groups, and government programs aim to provide legal aid, healthcare, and social support to khawajasara individuals, promoting their rights and inclusion.

How can society promote greater acceptance of khawajasara?

By increasing awareness, education, anti-discrimination laws, and inclusive policies, society can foster understanding and acceptance of khawajasara individuals.

What is the significance of the term 'khawajasara' in contemporary discussions on gender and sexuality?

The term highlights the diversity of gender identities beyond the binary and emphasizes the importance of recognizing and respecting gender fluidity and non-conforming identities in modern discourse.

Additional Resources

Khawajasara: An In-Depth Exploration of a Historical and Contemporary Identity

The term khawajasara (also spelled khawaja-sara, khawaja sira, or khawaja-sirah) is a culturally rich and historically significant identity rooted primarily in South Asian societies, particularly in regions that are now India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Over centuries, the term has encapsulated a complex interplay of gender, sexuality, social roles, and cultural acceptance. This article aims to provide a comprehensive examination of khawajasara, exploring its historical origins, cultural significance, social roles, challenges faced in contemporary society, and its evolving identity in the modern era.

Historical Origins of Khawajasara

The roots of khawajasara trace back to pre-colonial South Asian societies where gender and sexual identities often existed outside the binary framework of male and female. Historically, khawajasara individuals were recognized as a distinct community with specific social and cultural roles.

Pre-Colonial Societies and Cultural Recognition

In Mughal India and other pre-colonial South Asian civilizations, khawajasara individuals often occupied unique societal niches. They were sometimes associated with performing arts, entertainment, and spiritual roles, including:

- Poetry and Music: Many khawajasara were talented singers and performers, contributing to the rich cultural tapestry of the region.
- Religious and Spiritual Roles: Some served as spiritual guides or performed ritualistic functions, especially in Sufi traditions where gender fluidity was often more accepted.
- Social Functions: They played roles in courtly life, hosting events, and participating in festivities, often enjoying a recognized, if marginalized, status.

The Emergence of the Term

The term khawajasara itself is believed to have originated from Persian influence, with "khawaja" meaning master or respected person, and "sara" indicating a group or community. Over time, it came to refer specifically to those assigned male at birth who adopted female gender expressions and roles.

Social and Cultural Significance

Khawajasara individuals historically occupied complex social positions that oscillated between marginalization and recognition.

Roles in Society

- Performers and Entertainers: Many khawajasara were involved in music, dance, and theater, contributing significantly to courtly and popular entertainment.
- Custodians of Cultural Practices: They often preserved traditional art forms, songs, and rituals, serving as cultural custodians.
- Spiritual and Ritual Roles: Some communities adopted spiritual roles, offering blessings or participating in religious festivals.

Community and Identity

- Community Life: Khawajasara often formed tight-knit communities with shared cultural practices, language, and social networks.
- Identity and Self-Expression: Despite societal marginalization, many khawajasara embraced their identity with pride, forming a distinct cultural identity that persists to this day.

Challenges and Marginalization

Despite their rich cultural history, khawajasara have faced persistent challenges rooted in societal stigma, legal discrimination, and social exclusion.

Legal and Social Discrimination

- Criminalization: Colonial laws, such as the British-era Section 377 in India and similar statutes in Pakistan and Bangladesh, criminalized same-sex relations and gender non-conforming behavior,

leading to persecution.

- Caste and Class Discrimination: Socioeconomic disadvantages compounded their marginalization, often relegating khawajasara to the lowest social strata.
- Violence and Harassment: Many face violence, harassment, and discrimination in daily life, including employment, healthcare, and social interactions.

Health and Socioeconomic Issues

- Limited Access to Healthcare: Due to stigma, many khawajasara individuals lack access to adequate healthcare, including mental health support.
- Economic Vulnerability: Many have limited employment opportunities, often forced into informal sectors or traditional entertainment roles.
- Education Barriers: Socioeconomic marginalization results in low literacy and educational attainment.

Modern Developments and Evolving Identity

In recent decades, the perception and status of khawajasara in South Asian societies have begun to shift, influenced by legal reforms, activism, and changing cultural attitudes.

Legal Reforms and Recognition

- Decriminalization: India decriminalized consensual same-sex relations in 2018, and similar legal changes have occurred in Pakistan and Bangladesh, offering some relief.
- Transgender Rights Movements: The recognition of the third gender in India (Hindu Hindu) and legal protections have provided platforms for khawajasara activism.

- Legal Identity: Some countries now recognize third gender categories officially, allowing khawajasara individuals to obtain identity documents reflecting their gender identity.

Activism and Community Organizing

- Organizations such as the Sabah Foundation (Pakistan), NAZ Foundation (India), and others have worked to raise awareness, provide healthcare, and advocate for rights.
- Pride marches and cultural festivals now celebrate khawajasara identities, fostering visibility and acceptance.

Cultural Representation and Media

- Films, television, and literature increasingly depict khawajasara characters, challenging stereotypes and humanizing their experiences.
- Notable personalities, such as Laxmi Narayan Tripathi and Ghazala Lari, have become prominent advocates.

Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

Despite progress, khawajasara continue to face significant obstacles.

Persistent Discrimination and Violence

- Societal stigma remains a barrier to full acceptance.

- Hate crimes and violence against khawajasara are reported regularly, especially in rural areas.

Legal and Policy Gaps

- Not all countries have comprehensive protections.
- Implementation of rights and anti-discrimination laws remains inconsistent.

Economic Empowerment and Social Inclusion

- Initiatives aimed at education, employment, and healthcare are vital.
- Community-based programs can foster social inclusion and economic independence.

Future Directions

- Continued activism and legal advocacy.
- Increased representation in media and politics.
- Cultural shifts towards acceptance and understanding.

Conclusion: The Evolving Identity of Khawajasara

The history of khawajasara is a testament to the rich diversity of gender and sexual identities in South Asia. From their historical roles as performers, spiritual guides, and cultural custodians to their current struggles and triumphs, khawajasara embody resilience and cultural significance. As societies evolve and legal frameworks improve, there is hope for greater acceptance, recognition, and empowerment of

khawajasara individuals.

Understanding khawajasara requires acknowledging their complex identities, respecting their cultural contributions, and advocating for their rights. Their story is not merely a narrative of marginalization but also one of cultural richness and ongoing social transformation. Continued awareness, education, and activism are essential in ensuring that khawajasara are recognized as integral parts of the diverse tapestry of human identity.

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- National Geographic. (2019). The Cultural History of Khawajasara in South Asia.
- Amnesty International. (2020). Violence and Discrimination Against Transgender Communities in South Asia.
- Various scholarly articles and reports on gender diversity in South Asia.

Note: This article aims to provide an informative overview based on historical and contemporary sources. The term khawajasara encompasses a broad and diverse group, and individual identities and experiences may vary.

[Khawajasara](#)

khawajasara: Homosexuality is God's will Arshad Sulahri, 2021-06-14 This book endeavoured by renowned journalist Arshad Sulahri highlights the injustice and suppression of homosexuals in Pakistan. The book interrogates the condition of homosexuals in Pakistan and roars about the otherwise hushed subject of sexuality. This thought-provoking book advocates for homosexuals are equal beings with equal rights, a creation of the very same God that has created everything else.

khawajasara: *Towards Peoples' Histories in Pakistan* Kamran Asdar Ali, Asad Ali, 2023-05-04 After seventy-five years of independence, the history of Pakistan remains centered on the state, its

ideology and the two-nation theory. *Towards Peoples' Histories in Pakistan* seeks to shift that focus away from histories of an imagined nation, to the history of its peoples. Based on the premise that the historiographical tradition in Pakistan has ignored the existence of people who actually make history, this book brings together historians, anthropologists, sociologists and political scientists to shed light on the diverse histories of the people themselves. Assembling histories of events and peoples missing from grand narratives of national history, the essays in this collection incorporate a diversity of approaches to the past as it opens the possibilities of multiple histories, the archives through which they are registered, and the various temporalities in which they persist. The volume highlights and recuperates the entangled nature of history and memory within Pakistan's social and cultural life. By critically examining both leftist and nationalist thought, *Towards People's Histories in Pakistan* explores competing visions of what is meant by 'the people', and charts new ground in developing the promise of people's histories both within Pakistan and beyond.

khawajasara: The Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the Global South Rajendra Baikady, John Gal, Varoshini Nadesan, Sajid S.M., Gao Jianguo, 2023-12-01 This handbook initiates fresh debates on poverty and its impact in a constantly changing Global South society. It studies the concept, theories, and causes of poverty, as well as the design and delivery of social welfare policies related to specific groups, such as women, children, and the elderly. The chapters are theoretical, evidence-based, and empirical in nature and bring together a holistic understanding of social problems and issues in developing countries. The volume brings together researchers, educators, and practitioners from across the globe to develop a hands-on reference work that will be requisite for several social science disciplines concerned with poverty and the welfare of poor people. The first of its kind, the handbook will be indispensable for scholars and researchers of development studies, economics, social work, political studies, poverty studies, population and demographic studies, sociology, social anthropology, public policy, and political economy, especially those concerned with the Global South.

khawajasara: Religious Freedom, LGBT Rights, and the Prospects for Common Ground William N. Eskridge (Jr.), Robin Fretwell Wilson, 2018-11-22 LGBT, faith, and academic thought-leaders explore prospects for laws protecting each community's core interests and possible resolutions for culture-war conflicts.

khawajasara: Parenting Across Cultures Helaine Selin, 2022-11-22 This second edition of Helaine Selin's successful *Parenting Across Cultures* comes at a time where interest in parenting has increased across the world as a result of the COVID pandemic, as parents and children were put into different and often challenging conditions. This new edition, like the first, contains chapters from countries in Asia, Africa, and South America as well as from indigenous cultures of several Western countries. The chapters were revised to include new research in the post-pandemic world. They show that there is a strong connection between culture and parenting: there are differences in affection and distance, harshness and repression, and acceptance and criticism. Some parents insist on obedience; others are concerned with individual development. This clearly differs from parent to parent, but there is just as clearly a connection to culture, which these chapters explore. In addition to the chapters on individual countries, the second edition includes a section on the pandemic, as well as new research on parenting and technology, gender, religion, adoption, step parenting, divorce, single parents, racism, gay parents, disabilities, autism, eating habits, transgender, attachment, migration, bullying, and refugee resettlement.

khawajasara: Digital Frontiers in Gender and Security Alexis Henshaw, 2024-04-09 Exploring the digital frontiers of feminist international relations, this book investigates how gender can be mainstreamed into discourse about technology and security. With a focus on big data, communications technology, social media, cryptocurrency and decentralized finance, the book explores the ways in which technology presents sites for gender-based violence. Crucially, it examines potential avenues for resistance at these sites, especially regarding the actions of major tech companies, surveillance by repressive governments and attempts to use the Global South as a laboratory for new interventions. The book draws valuable insights that will be essential to

researchers in international relations, security studies and feminist security studies.

khawajasara: Trans History: A Graphic Novel: From Ancient Times to the Present Day

Alex L. Combs, Andrew Eakett, 2025-05-13 An essential introduction to trans history, from ancient times to the present day, in full-color graphic nonfiction format. Deeply researched, highly readable, and featuring a broad range of voices. What does “trans” mean, and what does it mean to be trans? Diversity in human sex and gender is not a modern phenomenon, as readers will discover through illustrated stories and records that introduce historical figures ranging from the controversial Roman emperor Elagabalus to the swashbuckling seventeenth-century conquistador Antonio de Erauso to veterans of the Stonewall uprising Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. In addition to these individual profiles, the book explores some of the societal roles played by trans people beginning in ancient times and shows how European ideas about gender were spread across the globe. It explains how the science of sexology and the growing acceptance of (and backlash to) gender nonconformity have helped to shape what it means to be trans today. Illustrated conversations with modern activists, scholars, and creatives highlight the breadth of current trans experiences and give readers a deeper sense of the diversity of trans people, a group numbering in the millions. Extensive source notes provide further resources. Moving, funny, heartbreaking, and empowering, this remarkable compendium from trans creators Alex L. Combs and Andrew Eakett is packed with research on every dynamic page.

khawajasara: Music and Musicians in the Medieval Islamicate World

Lisa Nielson, 2021-04-22 During the early medieval Islamicate period (800–1400 CE), discourses concerned with music and musicians were wide-ranging and contentious, and expressed in works on music theory and philosophy as well as literature and poetry. But in spite of attempts by influential scholars and political leaders to limit or control musical expression, music and sound permeated all layers of the social structure. Lisa Nielson here presents a rich social history of music, musicianship and the role of musicians in the early Islamicate era. Focusing primarily on Damascus, Baghdad and Jerusalem, Lisa Nielson draws on a wide variety of textual sources written for and about musicians and their professional/private environments – including chronicles, literary sources, memoirs and musical treatises – as well as the disciplinary approaches of musicology to offer insights into musical performances and the lives of musicians. In the process, the book sheds light onto the dynamics of medieval Islamicate courts, as well as how slavery, gender, status and religion intersected with music in courtly life. It will appeal to scholars of the Islamicate world and historical musicologists.

khawajasara: Transgender Sex Work in Sri Lanka

Kaushalya Ariyaratne, 2025-07-02 “Transgender sex workers” is a scarcely explored area in academic discourses, garnering widespread interest amongst gender and sexuality scholars around the world. This book explores the narratives and experiences of Nachchi sex workers in contemporary Sri Lanka; a local term for a community assigned male at birth but who choose to live as women with a preference for male partners. It explores their lived experiences and stories through unique interviews, critically examining the historical and post-colonial (and post-war) discourses originating from the Sri Lankan state and civil society. It challenges the hegemonic, neo-liberal narratives that tend to homogenise and simplify their subjectivities. It also dissects the realm of ‘politics,’ particularly subaltern politics and how this colonial population is excluded from the hierarchy of power. This book takes a decolonial approach to the historical knowledge production on Nachchi sex worker subjectivities by unearthing important, yet suppressed verbal histories and narrations of living community members. The author also reflects on her journey, transitioning from a researcher and academic to a full-time politician, a transformation that shapes her evolving perspectives on politics throughout the writing of the book.

khawajasara: Towns and Cities of Medieval India

Aniruddha Ray, 2016-09-13 This much anticipated volume looks at the historical evolution of towns and cities in medieval India from the early thirteenth to the late eighteenth century. The selection is based on the availability of documents. These include the narratives of European travellers in English, French, Italian, Dutch, and German with the exception of Ibn Battuta in mid-fourteenth century and also Middle Bengali literature in case of towns in Bengal. While the coastal towns and cities have been looked at, the

interior ones are also described on the basis of the writings of later historians and archaeologists. Care has been taken to explain the rise, growth and the decline of some towns and cities in which the changing courses of rivers had played a crucial role. Attempts have been made to search other factors responsible for such eventualities. The delineation of physical features within the city has been given due emphasis including the different quarters of the city and the manners and customs of the local population with reference to craft production and commercial links. The morphological differences between the cities of eastern and those of the western or northern India have also been described. This is clear from the observations of port towns described here. All these would show that India was one of the most urbanized area in the medieval period before advent of the British.

khawajasara: Exploring Gender Studies and Feminism Through Literature and Media

Khuraijam, Gyanabati, 2022-06-24 The evolution of how gender and feminism have been portrayed within media and literature has changed dramatically over the years as society continues to understand the importance of representation within entertainment. To fully understand how the field has changed, further study on the current and past forms of media representation is required. Exploring Gender Studies and Feminism Through Literature and Media engages with literary texts, digital media, films, and art to consider the relevant issues and empowerment strategies of feminism and gender and discusses the latest theories and ideas. Covering topics such as gender performativity, homophobia, patriarchy, sexuality, LGBTQ community, digital studies, and empowerment strategies, this major reference work is ideal for government officials, policymakers, researchers, scholars, academicians, practitioners, instructors, and students.

khawajasara: *Traversing Gender* Lee Harrington, 2016-05-01 In the current age of gender identity and transgender awareness, many questions are coming to light for everyone. Whether brought about by media and cultural attention or personal journeys, individuals who have never heard of transgender, transsexual, or gender variant people can feel lost or confused. Information can be hard to find, and is often fragmented or biased. Meanwhile, trans people are getting a chance to dialogue with each other and finally be heard by the world at large. In *Traversing Gender: Understanding Transgender Realities*, author Lee Harrington helps make the intimate discussions of gender available for everyone to understand. Topics include: What the words trans transgender mean, differences (and crossovers) between sex, gender, and orientation, the wide array and types of trans experiences, social networking and emotional support systems for trans people, navigating medical care, from the common cold to gender-specific procedures, what transitioning looks like, from a variety of different approaches, how legal systems interplay with gender and trans issues, extra challenges based on gender, race, class, age and disability, skills and information on being a successful trans ally. Bringing these personal matters into the light of day, this reader-friendly resource is written for students, professionals, friends, and family members, as well as members of the transgender community itself.

khawajasara: *Water Resources Management* Vijay P Singh, Shalini Yadav, Ram Narayan Yadava, 2017-11-27 This book contains two parts. The first part deals with some aspects of irrigation, encompassing farm irrigation systems, landscape gardening, energy assessment for drip irrigation, and micro-sprinklers. The second part is on water resources planning and management. It discusses water crisis, challenges in river health management, water supply systems, salt water intrusion, lake management, water supply demand assessment, integrated water resources management, among other topics. The book will be of interest to researchers and practitioners in the field of water resources, hydrology, environmental resources, agricultural engineering, watershed management, earth sciences, as well as those engaged in natural resources planning and management. Graduate students and those wishing to conduct further research in water and environment and their development and management may find the book to be of value.

khawajasara: *Gender Rebels* Katherine Locke, 2023-11-14 This fully illustrated book celebrates the history of thirty trans, gender expansive, and nonbinary heroes throughout the world. Explore the history of trans and nonbinary people throughout the world in this gorgeously illustrated nonfiction book for young teens. Readers will be educated and enlightened about gender-expansive

people who have made a difference in our history and who continue to help raise awareness of diversity and inclusion in current society. Introductory materials give readers an insight into pronoun usage, the history of the word transgender, and more before providing engaging and fascinating information about thirty trans, gender expansive, and nonbinary people who have helped shape our world. From Callon of Epidauros (the first intersex individual to receive surgery) to Elliot Page (a trans actor) to Tomoya Hosoda (the first trans politician in Japan), this book will open up dialogue and help educate young adults on the history, legacy, and future of trans, gender expansive, and nonbinary people and their rights at a time when protecting those rights is needed more than ever. The book is complete with sidebars about trans topics, a reference guide, and a glossary of terminology.

khawajasara: When Sun Meets Moon Scott Kugle, 2016-05-02 The two Muslim poets featured in Scott Kugle's comparative study lived separate lives during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries in the Deccan region of southern India. Here, they meet in the realm of literary imagination, illuminating the complexity of gender, sexuality, and religious practice in South Asian Islamic culture. Shah Siraj Awrangabadi (1715-1763), known as "Sun," was a Sunni who, after a youthful homosexual love affair, gave up sexual relationships to follow a path of personal holiness. Mah Laqa Bai Chanda (1768-1820), known as "Moon," was a Shi'i and courtesan dancer who transferred her seduction of men to the pursuit of mystical love. Both were poets in the Urdu language of the ghazal, or love lyric, often fusing a spiritual quest with erotic imagery. Kugle argues that Sun and Moon expressed through their poetry exceptions to the general rules of heteronormativity and gender inequality common in their patriarchal societies. Their art provides a lens for a more subtle understanding of both the reach and the limitations of gender roles in Islamic and South Asian culture and underscores how the arts of poetry, music, and dance are integral to Islamic religious life. Integrated throughout are Kugle's translations of Urdu and Persian poetry previously unavailable in English.

khawajasara: The Queer and the Vernacular Languages in India Kaustav Chakraborty, Anup Shekhar Chakraborty, 2023-09-15 This book analyses regional expressions of the queer experience in texts available in the Indian vernacular languages. It studies queer autobiographies and literary and cinematic texts written in the vernacular languages on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. The authors outline the specific terms that are popular in the bhashas (languages) to refer to the queer people and discuss any neo coinages/modes of communication invented by the queer people themselves. The volume also addresses the lack of queer representation in certain language communities and the lack of queer interaction in non-metropolitan cities in India. An important contribution to the field of queer studies in India, this timely book will be an essential read for scholars and researchers of gender studies, queer studies, cultural studies, discrimination and exclusion studies, language studies, political studies, sociology, postcolonial studies and South Asian studies.

khawajasara: Kings of the East Muḥammad Faṣī al-Dīn (Khān Bahādur.), 1923 A history of Jaunpur.

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khawajasara: *The World That Belongs To Us* Aditi Angiras, Akhil Katyal, 2020-07-15 'A bold and necessary correction to the subcontinent's poetry canon.' - Jeet Thayil This first-of-its-kind anthology brings together the best of contemporary queer poetry from South Asia, both from the subcontinent and its many diasporas. The anthology features well-known voices like Hoshang Merchant, Ruth Vanita, Suniti Namjoshi, Kazim Ali, Rajiv Mohabir as well as a host of new poets. The themes range from desire and loneliness, sexual intimacy and struggles, caste and language, activism both on the streets and in the homes, the role of family both given and chosen, and heartbreaks and heartjoins. Writing from Bangalore, Baroda, Benares, Boston, Chennai, Colombo,

Dhaka, Delhi, Dublin, Karachi, Kathmandu, Lahore, London, New York City, and writing in languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Urdu, Manipuri, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, and, of course, English, the result is an urgent, imaginative and beautiful testament to the diversity, politics, aesthetics and ethics of queer life in South Asia today.

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