

Emotions in Indian Thought-Systems

The stereotypical image of the Indian holy man, or the Buddha, detached from the world and unencumbered by emotional states, encourages the impression that Indian spirituality has no place for emotion. While acknowledging the disparagement of emotion in certain schools of thought, the book draws attention to the range of Indian traditions — from philosophy to aesthetics to tantra — that value it profoundly and look upon emotions as offering pragmatic processes for moral, aesthetic and spiritual development. The subtle understandings of emotional life outlined in these essays will be useful not only to those interested in Indian thought as such, but to those concerned with emotional intelligence in cross-cultural thinking.

— **Kathleen Higgins**, University of Texas

The book presents an excellent array of scholarly essays to be read by South Asian specialists. Indeed, they offer Western (and Indian) researchers and laypersons myriad pointers within dharma traditions that enrich the much-popularised concept of ‘enlightenment-as-sheer-presence’ with an emotional (rasa) infusion of auspicious longings, conative-affective truths, transformable feeling-states, spiritually matured erotic passion and ranges of personal ‘intensity’. Thus, the volume continues the Foucauldian critique of the current scientia sexualis psychologies with their terminal maturity of the ‘well-adjusted, desiring-ego’, while also presenting glimpses of alternative ‘paths of emotional profundity’.

— **Stuart Sovatsky**, Princeton University

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