



# Nala *and* Damayanti

A Great Series of Paintings of an Old Indian Romance

B.N. Goswamy

Foreword

Karan Singh

£50 HB  
264 pages

NEW TITLE  
September 2015  
978-93-83098-89-7

**NIYOGI  
BOOKS**  
www.niyogibooksindia.com

# Nala *and* Damayanti

A Great Series of Paintings of an Old Indian Romance

by B.N. Goswamy  
Foreword Karan Singh

ART

£50 HB

ISBN: 978-93-83098-89-7

BIC: AFC 1FKA

Size: 293 mm x 230 mm

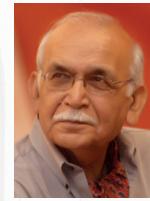
264 pp, 150 gsm art paper (matt)

171 illustration, all colour

Hard bound with dust jacket

Three things come magically together in this remarkable series of paintings: a great text, a delectable old romance, and the work of one of the most talented families of painters known to Indian art. The text is the 12th century *Naishadhacharita* of Sriharsha, one of the last great kavyas of Sanskrit literature. The story, told with the utmost delicacy, centers around the intense love that grew – mutual sights heard of, but yet unseen – between King Nala and Princess Damayanti; and the painter family that produced this exquisitely painted series came from the small principality of Guler in the ‘Pahari’ hills: today’s Himachal Pradesh.

The intent of the painter/s was to cover the story in close to 110 paintings, but for reasons unknown, the work was interrupted: only 47 paintings could be completed – all of them now in the collection of the Amar Mahal Museum and Library at Jammu, and here published – the remaining having survived only in the form of highly finished drawings. But none of this interferes in the slightest with the magic that the paintings weave.



B.N. Goswamy, a distinguished art historian, is Professor Emeritus of Art History at the Panjab University, Chandigarh. He has been the recipient of many honours, including the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship, the Rietberg Award for Outstanding Research in Art History, the Padma Shri (1998) and the Padma Bhushan (2008) from the President of India. Professor Goswamy has taught, as Visiting Professor, at several universities across the world. Among his many publications are: *Pahari Masters: Court Painters of Northern India*, *The Word is Sacred*; *Sacred is The Word: The Indian Manuscript*.

- These remarkable paintings covered in this book tell the story of the intense love between King Nala and Princess Damayanti from one of the last great kavyas of Sanskrit literature
- The volume highlights the work of one of the most talented families of painters known to Indian art coming from a small principality of Guler in today’s Himachal Pradesh
- Out of 110 paintings and with the work interrupted for reasons unknown, 47 completed paintings are published here – the remaining having survived only in the form of highly finished drawings.

