

**HINDU ART, ITS
HUMANISM AND
MODERNISM: AN
INTRODUCTORY ESSAY**

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Hindu Art, Its Humanism and Modernism: An Introductory Essay by Benoy Kumar Sarkar

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BENOY KUMAR SARKAR

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HINDU ART:
ITS HUMANISM AND MODERNISM

An introductory essay

by

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CALIFORNIA

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TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

PREFACE

"THE Giottos of Hindu art," I wrote in an article on "Oriental Culture in Modern Pedagogics" in *School and Society* (April 14, 1917), "would be well known 'great masters' to the students of early Renaissance painting, and the post-impressionists and futurists of Eur-America would be found to have as their comrades in new ventures and experiments the Hindu painters of the modern nationalist school."

Such was the message also of my talks at the Pen and Brush Club, Columbia University, the Civic Club, and other institutions in the United States, the outcome of which is this little book. Parts of it have appeared in the *Journal of Race Development*, and in the *Modern Review* (Calcutta).

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HINDU ART

ITS HUMANISM AND MOD- ERNISM

SECTION I

ART-CRITICISM IN SHAKOONTALA

IN Kalidasa's play, *Shakoontala* (fifth century A. C.), we have among the *dramatis personae* Anasuya, a damsel of the hermitage, who is skilled in painting. Besides, a considerable portion of Act VI, Sc. ii is a study in art criticism. It introduces us to some of the themes of the Hindu painters, their methods of execution, and the æsthetic taste of the spectators.

King Doosyanta has through inadvertence dismissed his wife Shakoont-