

An Analytical Study on the Role of the Woman in Kāma-Sūtra

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Abstract

Kāma-sūtra (the science of sensual gratification) that is the principle of acquisition of trivarga such as dharma (Ethical behaviour), artha (Acquisition of valuable things) and kāma (Sense gratification) was compiled between 1st - 6th A.D. by Vātsyāyana, a great sage. Man as well as woman has the unavoidable responsibility to maintain the satisfaction of mundane life. People will instinctively try to obtain sensual gratification through food and sex. In this stage the woman has invaluable role that will ultimately lead to the transcendental level of complete freedom and unconditional happiness. All damsels should learn art of sex with 64 arts and other scriptures in order to develop skills that will help to bring prosperity to their home as well as get independent income in case of widowhood or financial difficulties of the husband or his family. Wife has different roles such as mother, sister, friend, chief organizer, monitor and psychologist of the house. Woman has been given due right to stand against injustice. She has command in home. Wife is the accountable character who should maintain the harmony and peace and responsible to retain husband from unconventional behavior. Six kinds of lady teachers who are major in related fields guide damsels. Although people believe that the profession of the gaëikā is ignoble, according to the kāma-sūtra woman who engage in this profession has been honored even by the kings, wise and ministers. Princes, Princesses and daughters of ministers have learnt under the supervision of those respected and well versed women. They provide services as musicians, artists and dancers.

Key words: *Kāma, kāntā, patni, gaëikā*