



# Engaged Emancipation: Mind, Morals, and Make-Believe in the Moksopaya (Yogavasistha)

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In the *Mok?op?ya* (also known as the *Yogav?si??ha*), an eleventh-century Sanskrit poetic text, the great Vedic philosopher Vasi??ha counsels his young protege Lord R?ma about the ways of the world through sixty-four stories designed to bring R?ma from ignorance to wisdom. Much beloved, this work reflects the philosophy of Kashmir ?ivism. Precisely because all worldly pursuits are dreamlike and fiction-like, the human soul must first come to an experience of non-dualistic, mind-only metaphysics, and after attaining this wisdom, promote moral activism. *Engaged Emancipation* is a wide-ranging consideration of this work and the philosophical and spiritual questions it addresses by philosophers, Sanskritists, and scholars of religion, literature, and science. Contributors allow readers to walk with R?ma as his melancholy and angst transform into connectivity, peace, and spiritual equipoise.

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#### **About the Author**

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Arindam Chakrabarti is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i at M?noa. His books include *Mah?bh?rata Now: Narration, Aesthetics, Ethics* (coedited with Sibaji Bandyopadhyay).

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