



The Loom of Time: A Selection of His Plays and Poems (Penguin Classics)

Kalidasa

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Kalidasa is the major poet and dramatist of classical Sanskrit literature - a many-sided talent of extraordinary scope and exquisite language. His great poem, *Meghadutam (The Cloud Messenger)*, tells of a divine being, punished for failing in his sacred duties with a years' separation from his beloved. A work of subtle emotional nuances, it is a haunting depiction of longing and separation. The play *Sakuntala* describes the troubled love between a Lady of Nature and King Duhsanta. This beautiful blend of romance and comedy, transports its audience into an enchanted world in which mortals mingle with gods. And Kalidasa's poem *Rtusamharam (The Gathering of the Seasons)* is an exuberant observation of the sheer variety of the natural world, as it teems with the energies of the great god Siva.

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