

HARC0227: Indian Painting
Preparation for Week 08

FOR TUESDAY, 3/31: Please read this (or any other respectable) synopsis of the *Ramayana*, compiled by an academic colleague: <http://home.wlu.edu/~lubint/texts/Ramayana.pdf>. Then look over the Miller analysis of the political, aesthetic and artistic dynamics that pervade the visual renderings of this epic tale. Do not get spooked by all the names and foreign terminology! Try to keep the main themes (*dharma* [duty], human relationships in the midst of a higher divine cause, and the triumph of good over evil) in view.

Then, turn your attention to Rama's *avatar*-brother Krishna, and the poetry of the *Gita Govinda*. What a contrast!! I will show slides in class that exemplify these contrasts.

We will talk about these tales, and discuss the ways in which they are pictorialized, and the ways in which emotional moods are meant to be expressed through *rasas* and the *ragamalas* (see your textbooks for preliminary explanations).

FOR THURSDAY, 4/02: please read Dehejia's discussion of narrative strategies in the Jagat Singh *Ramayana*. You may want to consult the Losty article for a more politically-driven analysis of the battle scenes. Next, visit the British Library website on this manuscript: <http://www.bl.uk/ramayana>. Be sure to explore all the interactive features! Choose one scene not fully discussed by Dehejia and Losty and apply Dehejia's analysis to a short descriptive analysis of your chosen scene.