

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Stuart Blackburn, Ph.D.

SUDRAKA

(4th CE)

Sudraka is the author of the earliest Indian play to survive, *The Little Clay Cart* (*Mrichchhakatika*). Two other plays are reliably attributed to him, but no textual record of them is extant. The only biographical information we have of him comes from the Prologue to *The Little Clay Cart*, which identifies him as a king who lived for more than 100 years and was a wise man, who mastered the ancient texts as well as the art of elephant training. We assume that he lived either before or at the same time as the other great names in classical Sanskrit literature (such as Kalidasa) because they refer to his play.