

# Contents

Preface	vii
<i>Susan S. Wadley</i>	
1. Nala: The Life of a Story	1
<i>Velcheru Narayana Rao and David Shulman</i>	
2. The Story of Nala	13
<i>David Shulman and Velcheru Narayana Rao</i>	
3. An Indo-Persian Retelling of Nala and Damayanti	38
<i>Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam</i>	
4. Nal and Damayanti's Reversals of Fortune: Perspectives on When a Woman Should Know Better	82
<i>Lindsey Harlan</i>	
5. Damayanti's String: Epic Threads in Women's Ritual Stories	109
<i>Ann Grodzins Gold</i>	
6. Pandvani Heroines, Chhattisgarhi Daughters	130
<i>Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger</i>	
7. Raja Nal's <i>Purāna</i> and the Jat Kingdoms of Braj	155
<i>Susan S. Wadley</i>	
8. The Performative Context of Nala in Late Medieval Kerala	187
<i>Rich Freeman</i>	

9. Nala's Weakness and Damayanti's Powers: Jain Tellings of the Great Love Story <i>M. Whitney Kelting</i>	242
10. Leaving Damayanti Again (and Again): Jain Retellings of the Nala Story <i>Phyllis Granoff</i>	265
11. Nala Unhinged: Pukalentippulavar's <i>Nalavenpa</i> <i>David Shulman</i>	283
<i>References</i>	316
<i>Index</i>	333