

# Sūrya

India, Uttar Pradesh, 7th century  
Yellow sandstone

Gift of The Christensen Fund, 2001  
(10705.1)

Sūrya, the Indian sun god, holds a blue lotus in each hand. As the source of light, warmth, life, and knowledge, he is one of the chief deities of the Vedas, a group of ancient texts sacred in Hinduism. A close look at his feet reveals he is wearing boots rather than appearing barefoot as the other Indian gods do. These boots are a remainder of early Iranian influence for the sun god's imagery. In this sculpture, he is depicted with his consorts and two seated male attendants.