

## Recent Religion - March 2021

**Southeast Asia Head Office**  
Blk 231, Bain Street  
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex  
Singapore 180231  
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204  
Fax : +65-6883-2144  
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**South Asia Head Office**  
8/123, Third Street,  
Tatabad, Coimbatore â€ 641012  
India  
Tel : +91-422-2499030/2495780  
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Veneration to the Elders: Sivakotyacarya`s Vaddaradhane / D.A.Shankar (Ed.);  
R.V.S Sundaram; Shubhachandra; H.S.Komalesha(Translators)  
Manohar Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi. 2020  
hb; 224p.; 23cm  
Includes Bibliography, Index of Personal Names, Place Names  
9789390035328  
\$ 30.00 / HB  
500 gm.

Sivakō]tyācārya`s Va]d]dārādhane (Veneration to the Elders) is the earliest extant prose work in Kannada language written by Śivakō\_tyācārya during 940 ce. This classical text reflects the oral tradition of narrating stories of legendary religious ascetics based on the gāhās which were taken from Bhagavati Ārādhana. This is a peculiar but commendable way of present-ing stories of the senior and respectable ascetics combining oral and written styles of narration. Thus, Va]d]dārādhane stands as an excellent example for an ancient classical text, fit for linguistic and cultural study. Each story in this collection, is wonderful in its own way. Generally, religious stories do not evoke interest but present a series of dull events. However, this text is full of incidents depicting human values, ways of wicked people, self-imposed vows, violence and non-violence and human life with all types of experiences. Another distinguishing feature of Va]d]dārādhane is that there is not a whiff of intolerance towards other religions or faiths or sects and this is most remarkable when we recall that most of our early writings indulge in belittling doctrines of faiths other than their own. This positive attitude, in a sense, makesthisreligioustextabsolutelyliberalandalmostsecular. Va]d]dārādhane is now rendered into contemporary English by a team of writersandlinguists.

About the Author

R.V.S. Sundaram was Professor and Director of the Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies at the University of Mysore. He was also a visiting professorattheUniversityofPennsylvania,USA.

Shubhachandra, a reputed Kannada scholar, was Chairman of the DepartmentofJainologyandPrakritattheUniversityofMysore.

H.S. Komalesha is Associate Professor of English in the Department of HumanitiesandSocialSciencesatIITKharagpur.

D.A. Shankar, a poet, playwright and translator, was Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Mysore, and is a recipient of many prestigious awards.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=754728>

Wars and War-Tactics in Ancient India : With Special Reference to the Vedas,  
Epics, Puranas and Niti Works / Uma Prasad Thapliyal

Manohar Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi. 2021

hb; 269p.; 23cm  
Includes Bibliography, Index  
9789390035632  
\$ 34.00 / HB  
600 gm.

Beginning with the Harappan age, Indian history is crowded with wars fought on its land. These wars led to the birth and decline of many a kingdoms and empires. As armies and weapons were basic instruments of war, various tactics related to their use also came to be perfected over the centuries.

This work is prefaced by a general survey of the wars fought in ancient India, whose accounts are available, to serve as a backdrop to the study. The rise and fall of the kingdoms covered in this study provide substantial evidence of wars fought in ancient India.

With time new strategies of war such as circle theory, six means, four measures, etc., came to be developed. Advanced modes of combat were devised and new methods related to the use of various weapons were perfected. But far more important were the strategical and tactical concepts perfected by the Indians over the centuries. The Mahābhārata and works like the Arthaśāstra, the Kāmandakīy Nītiśāra and the Sukranīti contain graphic descriptions of war tactics as these evolved over the centuries.

It is hoped that this study will inspire researchers to delve deeper into this little explored field of study.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=754739>

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Bhakti and Yoga : A Discourse in Seventeenth-Century Codices / Monika Horstmann

Primus Books, Delhi. 2021

hb; xxiv, 266p.; map;

Includes Bibliography, General Index, Index of Authors and Texts Named in Chapter 2.

9789390232833

\$ 25.00 / HB

650 gm.

The religious order named Dadupanth, which originated in Rajasthan, produced a wealth of manuscripts from about 1600 onwards. From the beginning of this manuscript culture, huge codices were produced representing a chorus of voices, and reflecting the decisions made by the compilers or copyists regarding the validity of texts or entire traditions. These codices also served as the study manuals and homiletic tools of the compilers and copyists, all of them sadhus, who were more often than not also the users of these books. The discourse generated by them represents the intellectual and religious cosmos of their makers. In these codices, bhakti texts and the vernacular works of yogis are transmitted simultaneously, along with works representing a broader Vaishnava tradition, thereby documenting the dialogue of bhakti and yoga and how commonalities and boundaries between the two were negotiated.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=754956>

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The King's Three Bodies : Essays on Kingship and Ritual / Burkhard Schnepel

Manohar Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi. 2021

hb; 336p.; 23cm

9788194991250

\$ 42.50 / HB

700 gm.

This collection of essays deals with the rituals of kingship and royalty in India, Africa and Europe from the social anthropological and ethno-historical points of view. It discusses the dialectical entanglements of rituals conducted for and by kings (including, 'little kings' and 'jungle kings') with the wider social, political, cultural, historical, religious and economic contexts in which they were embedded. Part I begins with a triangular comparison of kingship among the Shilluks of East Africa, the Gajapatis of eastern India and kings in Renaissance France. The essay entitled the 'King's Three Bodies' makes use of Ernst H. Kantorowicz's classical study, *The King's Two Bodies* in medieval political theology and extends it, not only in terms of the numbers of bodies that are found to be significant, but also theo-retically. Another significant essay in this part looks at the unexpected but significant theoretical impact of social anthropological studies of acephalous, segmentary lineage societies in Africa on Indian historiography. The second part of this volume consists of three chapters dealing with the royal patronage of tribal and Hindu goddesses in Eastern India, while the third part presents studies on sleeping (and dreaming) kings and on the power of dead kings, a discussion of A.M. Hocart's dictum that the first kings must have been dead kings.

About the Author

Burkhard Schnepel is Professor of Social Anthropology at the Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany. His main theoretical and thematic interests are political rituals in India, especially in Orissa, and the history of the Indian Ocean world, especially Mauritius. Among his more recent books are *Connectivity in Motion: Small Islands in the Indian Ocean World* (Palgrave 2018, co-edited with E.A. Alpers) and *Travelling Past: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World* (Brill 2019, co-edited with Tansen Sen).

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=754719>

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Somasiddhanta: Critically edited text, transliteration, notes and explanation in English / Somenath Chatterjee, Pratapanand Jha

National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi. 2021

hb; ix; 177p; 25cm

Includes Bibliography

9789380829807

\$ 14.00 / HB

640 gm.

This edited text 'Somasiddhanta' contemporary with modern Suryasiddhanta consists of three thousand and thirty five verses. The text is presented in the form of a dialogue between Candra and Saunaka. It follows Suryasiddhanta and according to S.B. Dikshit, modern Pancashiddhantika replaces Paitamahāsiddhanta and Pulisāsiddhanta with Somāsiddhanta and Brahmasiddhanta of Sakalyasamhita. In ten chapters, the text explains contemporary astronomical observation.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749865>

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Samskaraprayogaratna : an Atharvanic Prayoga on Pre-natal and Infancy Rites / Julieta Rotaru, S.S.Bahulkar

Dev Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi. 2021

hb; 412p; 27cm

Includes Bibliography, Index

9789387496569

\$ 63.00 / HB

1100 gm.

In comparison with the "three canonical Vedas" which have many ritual works, Atharvaveda Saunaka has only two sūtras, the Kauśikasūtra and the Vaitānasūtra, and a small number of texts of a commentary type. The Samskaraprayogaratna, here edited and translated for the first time, represents an effort of referring to a superior ritual tradition, in the ever quest of the Atharvavedins of creating their own tradition and of making it accepted. In the introduction, passages of the respective rites from the Kauśikasūtra, Dārila and Keśava and the two unpublished paddhatis (Ātharvaiya Paddhati and Daśakarmāi) are translated, most of them for the first time.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749866>

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The Beautifully Indian Hindu Mind / Harsha V Dehejia

D.K.Printworld (P) Ltd., New Delhi. 2020

hb; 287p; Colour ill.; 24cm.

9788124610404

\$ 87.50 / HB

1750 gm.

"It is through the Indian aesthetic mind and its concepts of the beautiful that the Indian civilization can be best understood, for in that mind are pages of history and voices of the past, in it will be heard the sounds of our dancers and in it will be seen the colours of our fabrics, it is a mind which treasures the aroma of the earth for in it we shall find terra cotta figures that will whisper stories of times gone by. In that ancient mind silent stones will speak of sthapatis who not only built temples but also havelis, in that very mind rivers will whisper of saints who meditated on its banks and also of mountains which will beckon us to caves where truth was discovered, in that pristine mind stars will talk to us of astronomers who counted them, in that radiant mind we will meet scribes who created beautiful manuscripts and painters who immortalised our gathas and kathas through their kalam. This book is a journey into that charmed and beautiful mind from which has arisen concepts and ideas, forms and textures, words and music, movement and stillness. The book is lavishly illustrated and is a visual delight."

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