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63

WAYNE HOWARD

THE DECIPHERMENT  
OF THE SĀMAVEDIC NOTATION  
OF THE JAIMINĪYAS

With a foreword by Asko Parpola

*YAJÑĀYAJÑĀ / tī ra /  
HOI VO GNĀYĀ EHIYĀ / ta tā kā kha ṇā ru /  
GIRĀGĪRĀ CĀ DĀKṢASĀI / kāc lyā ca cā śa ru /  
PRAPRĀ VAYAM AMRTAÑ JĀTAVEDĀSAM /  
thyac cā ka tyī kha ṇa rū / PRIYAM MITRĀN  
NĀ SĀMSIṢĀM EHIYĀ AU HO ḲĀ /  
cā ki kī khū plā ru //*

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Wayne Howard  
The decipherment of the Sāmavedic notation of the Jaiminīyas

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## FOREWORD

The study of the Veda, and the Sāmaveda in particular, has entered a wholly new phase with the important and thorough work of Dr Wayne Howard. From time to time, Vedic chants and recitations have been tape-recorded by scholars, broadcasting companies, and others. Some of this material has even been recorded on gramophone records. But little progress was made in its scientific study until Dr Howard entered the field. He is the first well-trained musicologist to have chosen the Sāmaveda as his area of specialization.

Wayne Howard started his research career in 1970-71 with systematic fieldwork in various parts of India, collecting a sizeable tape archive of oral traditions representing different Vedic schools and different styles of singing and reciting. After meticulously transcribing large portions of this material into musical notation, Howard produced his epoch-making doctoral thesis, Sāmavedic Chant (xxv + 572 pp., New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1977). This fundamental study has since been supplemented by a number of important articles, especially on the unexpressed chant of the Jaiminīya Sāmaveda, and, quite recently, by a monograph on the Veda Recitation in Vārāṇasī (xi, 401 pp., Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1986).

In the present book, Dr Howard has methodically attacked one of the biggest challenges of Sāmavedic research, the problem posed by the musical notation of the Jaiminīya Sāmaveda. Not only is he the best-qualified scholar to solve this problem, but also the new material at his disposal has made it possible for Dr Howard to approach the problem with an attitude of confidence that offers a striking contrast to the despair of earlier generations. This is a rather technical study which requires the reader to be acquainted with Howard's own introduction to the field, his above-mentioned Sāmavedic Chant.

For the undersigned, it is most gratifying to see Dr Howard's book published in Helsinki, where we have a long tradition in the study of the Sāmaveda which goes back to the very beginning of

this century. In 1904, Dr J.N. Reuter, then Reader and later Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Helsinki, published the first volume of his discontinued critical edition of the Drāhyāyaṇa-Śrautasūtra, a ritual handbook belonging to the Rāṇāyanīya school of Sāmaveda. For more than two decades, I have continued the line of study initiated by my distinguished predecessor (or rather by his teacher, Professor Otto Donner, who as early as 1870 published a study of the Vedic ancestor worship). Since 1971 I have also carried out field research on the traditions of the Jaiminīya Sāmaveda in South India. Within the framework of an ongoing research project financed by the Academy of Finland, it has been possible to build up a sizable archive of video and audio tapes as well as photographs of Jaiminīya rituals and Jaiminīya manuscripts. (For a more detailed account of this "Field Research on Sāma-Vedic Traditions in South India", see University Circle, The Newsletter of the University of Helsinki, Vol. IV, No. 2, May 16, 1985, pp. 6-10.)

Ever since 1971, when we met in Madras, it has been my pleasure to keep in contact with Dr Wayne Howard. It is my sincere hope that in the not-too-distant future we shall be able to collaborate on the critical edition of the entire song corpus of the Jaiminīya Sāmaveda. This decipherment is a most important step towards the realisation of that goal, and I am glad that both Dr Howard and the Finnish Oriental Society have agreed to my proposal that the work be published in *Studia Orientalia*, the series in which the publication of the prospective edition of the Jaiminīya Gānas is planned.

Helsinki, November 26, 1986

Asko Parpola

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