

# Mokṣopāya Reading Seminar · Marburg 6.–10.8.2018

## मोक्षोपायपारायणसभा



## The Text

The *Mokṣopāya*, previously printed as the ill-redacted *Yogavāsiṣṭha*, is a fascinating text and has been highly popular throughout India, often in abridged versions. Originally written in Kashmir around 950 A.D. in ca. 30000 verses it consists of a dialogue between two characters from the *Rāmāyaṇa*, namely Vasiṣṭha and Rāma. On the background of a highly illusionistic philosophy, according to which nothing in this world really exists, it tells a fantastic tale that—with a blend of philosophy, poetry, and Indian story-telling at its best—cannot fail to take hold of the reader. With this it was hoped an intuitive knowledge of the liberating truth about this universe—that it is nothing but the expanse of one's consciousness (*cidvyoman*) itself—would dawn on the reader. At least this is how the text was used in India for a millenium.

In the summer reading course our goal is more modest. We shall take the newly pub-



lished text of the critical edition, which is more satisfying and certainly more fun to read than the printed *Yogavāsiṣṭha*, and read through one episode from the last book of the work, called *Nirvāṇaprakaraṇa*, in which an encounter between Vasiṣṭha and the raven Bhusuṇḍa is related. In the story we hear that this raven, having mastered the art of *prāṇāyāma*, is not only liberated, but also

regularly survives the dissolution of the universe at the end of a *kalpa*. The topic of the conversation is Yoga, the name under which the text understands breath techniques, which are recommended for those aspiring to *siddhis*, and those who cannot directly reach *jñāna*.

## Sources

SUSANNE KRAUSE-STINNER, PETER STEPHAN: *Anonymus Casmiriensis. Mokṣopāya – Textedition, Teil 5. Das Sechste Buch: Nirvāṇaprakaraṇa. 1. Teil: Kapitel 1–119 Kritische Edition*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2018.

ROLAND STEINER: *Anonymus Casmiriensis. Mokṣopāya - Übersetzung, Teil 5. Das Sechste Buch: Das Buch über das Nirvāṇa 1. Teil: Kapitel 1–119. Übersetzung*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2018.

## The Seminar

The summer seminar takes place at the university of Marburg, in the lecture room of the institute of Indology. Organisation is minimal, and there are no fees. Marburg can be reached by train in one hour from Frankfurt, and since the town is very small, everything can be reached by foot. Only if your accomodation is in the outside villages, public transport may be a problem, especially in the evenings.

The seminar starts on Monday, 6th of August, at 2pm. We shall conclude the session Friday around midday to allow for easier travelling. As in the last seminar we can go to the University Mensa for lunches and meet informally in one of the many bars in Marburg in the evening.

Since we will be reading large amounts of Sanskrit text, the main prerequisite is an advanced reading skill in Sanskrit, so the seminar is typically intended for M.A. or Ph.D. students of Classical Indology. Once we have our group together, we will organize the details of the reading program. The idea is that each participants will prepare a part of the text and present his or her translation in the sessions as the basis for further discussions.

The seminar will be held in English to make it more accessible to students from outside, and one interesting aspect of this format is that here students of Sanskrit can meet with European colleagues.

1. Application: Please send an e-mail to [hanneder@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:hanneder@staff.uni-marburg.de).
2. Accomodation: Marburg is small, but touristically interesting, especially in summer. It is therefore wise to search for accomodation as soon as possible.

### Interesting Links

The University: <https://www.uni-marburg.de/en/studying/life-at-umr>

The Institute: [https://www.uni-marburg.de/fb10/iksl/indologie/index\\_html-en?set\\_language=en](https://www.uni-marburg.de/fb10/iksl/indologie/index_html-en?set_language=en)

Introductory Reading:

<https://www.uni-marburg.de/fb10/iksl/indologie/fachgebiet/mitarbeiter/hanneder/downloads/downloads-monographien/jh-m5-studies.pdf>

*Jürgen Hanneder*

**ॐ श्रीगणेशाय नमः ॥ अथ मे ॥ ॐ श्रीगालीकि रुवाच ॥** ॐ उपधांति प्रकरणादनंतरमिदं शृणु ॥ त्वं  
 निर्वोणप्रकरणं ताते निर्वोणकरियत ॥ कथयतेवमुहामवचनं मुनिनायक ॥ अचलोक रसेमो नं स्थितेभ  
 जङ्गमारके ॥ मुनिवागथेनिहिनमनस्पत्तेतनक्रिये ॥ राजलोकेगतस्येदं चित्रार्पित इव स्थिते ॥ वसिष्ठव  
 चसामर्थे चिचारयति सादरम् ॥ लसदेगुलिभंगे च मुनिमार्थे स्फुरद्भुवि ॥ विस्मया लोको ज्ञास्योत्कृष्टज्ञ  
 यनालिनि ॥ पुरंधिवर्गे प्रग्रीवतरुमंज्जरितां गते ॥ विवासरचतर्भागे देपो दिनकरे स्थिते ॥ श्रुतज्ञानतया  
 सौम्ये किंचिच्च ममुपेयधि ॥ अत्रणायेव मरुतिमंदारमपुरामोददायिनि ॥ पुष्पर  
 चयगतास्येदं तापे श्रोतमिवास्थिते ॥ ए विश्वमार्थमिवादीक्षेनभः पांथेषुशीत  
 लितात्मनि ॥ शोसतीचशसंसास्यदिन लोरेषुवधृष्टताम् ॥ शुष्यत्तरससंशेषा  
 केषु लीलापक्षिषु सारवम् ॥ भोजनार्थे वधूलोकसुपथस्वनारतम् ॥ भ्रमद्भ्रमरपदोत्थवाताधृतेरजस्य  
 लम् ॥ कौसुमेपरिविश्रान्ते चामरेषु क्षिपत्सम् ॥ रश्मिषु प्रग्रहोन्मुक्तकाया जालभयादिच ॥ गवात्तादिशि  
 बोद्धीयप्रविष्टेषु गृहांतरम् ॥ आसीद्दिनचतर्भागसत्तावेदनतरः ॥ भेरीपणवशं खानोदि ज्जुखाशरको  
 धुनिः ॥ तेन तत्तारमण्याश्वचौतयानमायये ॥ मोनं जलदनादेन माघूर इव निःस्रनः ॥ बुद्धमेत्त्वपत्ताली

