



KENNETH G. ZYSK

is an Emeritus Professor of Indology and Indian Science at the University of Copenhagen and a student of ancient Indian language and culture. He has written extensively on the history of science and medicine in ancient India and the transmission of knowledge between India and other cultures in antiquity. He is the founder of the Centre for the Study of Indian Science, currently under the auspices of the Zysk Indic Manuscript Collection at the University of Copenhagen and is founding member of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine, which awarded the Basham Medal in 2024.

This scholarly work examines the history and practice of animal omen divination in South Asia, comparing it to similar traditions in Mesopotamia and classical antiquity. It provides critical editions and translations of relevant texts, including chapters from the *Gārgīyajyotiṣa*, *Śārdūla-karṇāvadāna*, and the *Br̥hatsaṃhitā*, focusing on the interpretation of bird calls and behaviour. The study incorporates ornithological and natural historical information to enhance the understanding of the omens and their regional origins. Furthermore, it explores the evolution of omen literature and the transmission of knowledge across cultures and time periods, highlighting the enduring significance of sound and direction in divination practices.

K. G. ZYSK  
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