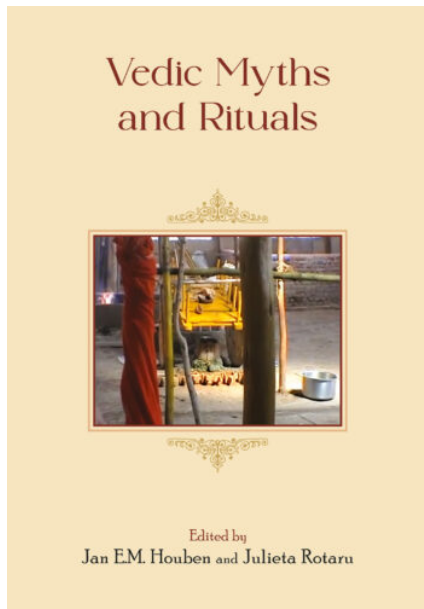


Vedic Myths and Rituals



Author: Jan E.M. Houben
and Julieta Rotaru

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About the Book

Vedic Myths and Rituals, edited by Jan E.M. Houben and Julieta Rotaru, explores the intricate relationship between Vedic myths and Vedic rituals. The book delves into the symbolic and practical dimensions of Vedic traditions, offering fresh insights into ancient Indian religious practices. The essays in this volume address both problems of the textual sources of the most ancient myths and rituals, and reflections on different models of theorizing the Vedic myths and rituals. The volume presents a rich tapestry of topics, ranging from the study of myths and their employment in rituals, as seen in the story of the horse of Pedu and its connection to snake poison remedies, to the formal structures of Vedic rituals like the Svi??ak?t that is an important part of numerous Vedic rituals such as the Agni??oma. The book also examines the role of myths in understanding rituals such as the Saumik? D?k??, the consecration for the Soma sacrifice, and questions the authenticity of female puberty rituals in ancient Vedic and Indian culture. In an exploration of the significance of commendations in the Atharvavedic tradition from ancient Kau?ikas?tra to current practices of the Odisha Paippal?din scholars, ritualistic performances of entrusting individuals to divine protection through symbolic acts and prayers are highlighted. Additionally, it provides interpretations of lesser-known rituals, such as the bride with the yoke in the Kau?ikas?tra, and explores interplay of word, style, and myth in the operation of Vedic rituals including medicinal magic.

This volume is a valuable resource for scholars and students of Vedic studies, offering a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the deep connections between myth, ritual, and symbolism in ancient Indian culture. Through detailed analyses and innovative interpretations, the contributors shed light on the enduring significance of Vedic traditions in shaping religious and cultural practices.

About the Author

Jan Houben is Professor (Director of Studies) in the chair “Sources and History of the Sanskrit Tradition” at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris Sciences et Lettres. A specialist in Sanskrit, Vedic studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, he studied and lectured at several international universities, visited Vedic schools, libraries in India, where he delved into traditions of Vedic culture, studying rare manuscripts and deciphering ancient rituals. He is author of many books and numerous scientific articles.

Julieta Rotaru is a philologist specializing in the Kauṣikasūtra. During her formative years, she studied Sanskrit at Delhi University and Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, under ICCR scholarships, working with Prof. S.S. Bahulkar. Currently teaching Sanskrit and Romani language at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris, she serves as co-Editor-in-Chief of “Romani Studies” (Liverpool University Press) and General Secretary of the Gypsy Lore Society, contributing to both Vedic and Romani studies.

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Second Floor, Prakashdeep 22, Delhi Medical
Association Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi – 110 002

Phone No : [+91-11-4357-2647](tel:+911143572647)

Email ID : info@devbooks.co.in

Website : devbooks.co.in