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DECLARATION

I, Aparna Dhar, bearing Registration Number Ph.D/1807/2012
Dated- 11.04.2012, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled
**“A Dichotomic interpretation of the sacrifices of Rājasūya, Vājapeya and
Aśvamedha: Their Ritualistic and Monarchial Strata with reference to the
Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa”** is the record of original and independent research
work done by me. I also declare that it has not been submitted previously in
part or in full to this University or any other University or Institution for the
award of any degree or diploma.

Place: Silchar

Date-

(Aparna Dhar)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the completion of a project of long duration there is a diastolic ease which is the right time for thanks giving. It has its customary feature of an academy culture, at the same time it is bound to weigh in worth beyond bare formalities.

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(Aparna Dhar)

PREFACE

The dissertation entitled ‘A dichotomic interpretation of the sacrifices of Rājasūya, Vājapeya and Aśvamedha: their ritualistic and monarchical strata with reference to the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa’ attempts to take up a study of the sacrifices mentioned in the title to search the monarchical elevation of the sacrifices veiled under the ritualistic performances as found in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa of the Vājasaneyī Saṃhitā. The Brāhmaṇa texts chiefly enlighten us with the course of ritualistic activities. The Brāhmaṇas are the oldest source from which a comprehensive description of all the sacrificial ceremonies can be obtained. The most important and voluminous Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa is attached to Śukla Yajurveda of Mādhyandina recension, where we get detail information of all forms of sacrifices. The objective of the research work is to find out the ritualistic and monarchical importance (dichotomic strata) of the Rājasūya, Vājapeya and the Aśvamedha sacrifice.

This dissertation paper is prepared with a survey of the Vedic texts-the Ṛgveda, the Yajurveda, the Sāmaveda, the Atharvaveda, the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, the Gopatha Brāhmaṇa, the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, the Tāṇḍya Mahā Brāhmaṇa, the Śāṅkhyāyaṇa Brāhmaṇa and the Śrauta Sūtras of different Vedas. The Śatapatha

Brāhmaṇa ed. by Maitreyee Deshpande, New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Delhi-2008, remained the main source of transliteration.

The present work is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is an introductory chapter, where a discussion is made on the importance of the Veda, Brāhmaṇa, its division and subdivision and so on. In the second chapter a general survey is prepared on the sacrifices of the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa. Various sacrificial matters and the importance of sacrifice are also discussed in this chapter. The third chapter deals with the special position and significance of the sacrifices having political importance. The subject matter of the fourth chapter is the major sacrifices of the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa -Rājasūya, Vājapeya and Aśvamedha and its relation to monarchy in Ancient time. In the fifth chapter, the minor sacrifices of the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa (Puruṣamedha, Sarvamedha, Agnicayana, Cāturmāsya and Sautrāmaṇī) are discussed with its royal significance. The sixth chapter is on the dichotomic interpretation of the major and minor sacrifices of the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa. Finally, the thesis resumes to its concluding observation that the political genesis of ancient India was impregnated in these sacrifices. A derivative interpretation of the details of the rituals of these sacrifices had a dichotomic approach which contributed a lot in bringing up in to shape or come in to existence of monarchy in ancient India.

SCHEME OF TRANSLITERATION

VOWELS

अ = A	ऋ = R̄
आ = Ā	ए = E
इ = I	ऌ = Ai
ई = Ī	ऎ = O
उ = U	औ = Au
ऊ = Ū	

CONSONENTS

क = K	त = T	ष = Ś
ख = Kh	थ = Th	स = S
ग = G	द = D	ह = H
घ = Gh	ध = Dh	क्ष = Kś
ङ = ṅ	न = N	Anusvāra [·] = Ṃ
च = C	प = P	Visarga [ː] = Ḥ
छ = Ch	फ = Ph	त्र = Tra
ज = J	ब = B	ज्ञ = Jñ
झ = Jh	भ = Bh	Avagraha (s) = O'
ञ = Ñ	म = M	
ट = Ṭ	य = Y	
ठ = Ṭh	र = R	
ड = Ḍ	ल = L	
ढ = Ḍh	व = V	
ण = Ṇ	श = Ś	

ABBREVIATIONS

Atharva Veda	A. V.
Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra	Āpa.Śr.Sū.
Aitareya Brāhmaṇa	Ait.Brā .
Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra	Āśv.Śr.Sū.
Āpastamba Yajña Paribhāsā Sūtra	Āp.Yajñ.P.Sū.
Bṛhadāraṇyakopaniṣat	Bṛhad.Ār.Up.
Baudhāyaṇa Śrauta Sūtra	Baudh.Śr.Sū.
Chāndogya Upaniṣat	Chāndy.Up.
Gautama Dharma Sūtra	Gau.Dh.Sū.
Gopatha Brāhmaṇa	Gop.Brā.
Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa	Jai.Brā.
Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra	Kāty.Śr.Sū.
Manu Saṃhitā	Manu.Saṃ.
Nirukta	Nir.
Pūrva Mimāṃsā Sūtra	Pūr.Miṃ.Sū.
Ṛgveda	Ṛ. V.
Religion and Philosophy of the Veda and Upanishads	RPVU.
Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa	Śat.Brā.
Śāṅkhyāyaṇa Brāhmaṇa	Śāṅkh.Brā.
Sama Veda	S.V
Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa	Taitt.Brā.
Taittirīya Saṃhitā	Taitt.Saṃ.
Tāṇḍya Brāhmaṇa	Tāṇḍy.Brā.

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