

On the *Rig Veda* English Translation Project

Stephanie W. Jamison

The University of California, Los Angeles

Joel P. Brereton

The University of Texas at Austin

This presentation will report on the nearly completed English translation of the *Rig Veda* undertaken jointly some years ago by the two authors. The report will treat principles of translation, the format of the forthcoming translation, and observations about the text that have arisen from our work on the translation.

Among the general principles we will discuss are the treatment of ellipses, methods of grammatical and lexical interpretation, and the degree of latitude in translating a single word in multiple contexts. We will also consider the problem of reflecting the text's various rhetorical strategies in English. Among such strategies are the hymns' affective deployment of word order, their deliberate changes of style and tone, and their shifts in speech levels and lexical choices. Technical issues include supporting commentary on individual hymns, verses, and philological points, and the possibility of a website devoted to particular technical philological, linguistic, poetic, and interpretational issues. Finally, we will review issues concerning the character and style of the text and its composition that have affected our interpretation of the text.