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On the Paryadhyāya portion of the Jaiminīya-Śrautasūtra

The Jaiminīya-Śrautasūtra (JŚS), as published by Dieuke Ga{a}stra in 1906, is much shorter than the other Śrautasūtras. The first 21 chapters describe the tasks of the chanter priests at the basic model of the Vedic Soma sacrifices, the agni.stoma. The five further chapters deal with the solo sāmans sung at the agnyādheya (22), the pravargya (23), and the parigāṇas (24-26). All this corresponds to the first fifth of the Sāmavedic Śrautasūtras of Lāṭyāyana (LŚS) and Drāhyāyaṇa (DŚS).

A voluminous commentary on the JŚS, written around 700 CE by the Kerala brahmin Bhavatrāta and completed by his pupil, nephew and son-in-law Jayanta, was published by Premnidhi Shastri in 1966. This excellent Vṛtti explains not only the text published by Ga{a}stra, called Sūtra in the commentary (in text manuscripts also Agni.sṭomasya sūtra), but also two lengthy and previously unknown texts likewise ascribed to Jaimini, called Kalpa and Paryadhyāya. The latter text has a slightly different name in the quote by Dhanvin (in his commentary on the DŚS 3,4,14): *tathā ca sūtrapariśe se jaimininoktam*. The actual texts of Jaimini's Kalpa and Paryadhyāya, however, are not included in the JŚS-Vṛtti, which cites the rules by mentioning just their two first and two last syllables.

In 1966, I could identify the missing sūtra text of the Kalpa and Paryadhyāya portions in a miscatalogued manuscript belonging to the Sarasvatī Maḥal Library of Thanjavur. A text called Prayoga-Vṛtti, by Candraśekhara Bhaṭṭārya, which had come to the library together with this text manuscript, cites at length both the Kalpa text and its commentary, and thus helps to restore partly the lost first ten leaves of the text manuscript. I announced this discovery and discussed these and some other ancillary texts related to the JŚS in an article published in 1968 and again in 1973, in a survey of the entire literature of the Jaiminīya śākhā.

With one single fragmentary manuscript of the basic text and with even the edition of the commentary based on a single manuscript, I wanted to make a thorough search for more manuscripts, in order to get a firm basis for a critical edition. The search was started in 1971, and from 1985 onwards it has been carried out systematically in collaboration with Masato Fujī. Our purpose has been to trace and document all manuscripts of Jaiminīya texts existing in public and private libraries. It was clear from the beginning that a satisfactory edition of the JŚS — and the Jaiminīya-Brāhmaṇa — was possible only with access to the then quite unknown (and still unpublished) Jaiminīya Uttaragāna. We succeeded in finding manuscripts of this extensive ancient text. I analyzed it along with Jaimini-Kalpa at the Vedic Workshop in Kyoto in 1999.

Our fairly comprehensive manuscript collection phase has now been completed, and we have entered the publication phase. Unfortunately no other manuscript of the Kalpa and Paryadhyāya was found, but there are now many new manuscripts of the JŚS-Vṛtti (though a number of them just copies). The present paper gives a foretaste of the forthcoming edition of the complete JŚS and its Vṛtti, an important addition to the corpus of surviving Vedic literature, by analyzing the contents of the Paryadhyāya and publishing an interesting short passage of it as a small sample.