

Elizabeth Tucker

The Oriental Institute
The University of Oxford,
Oxford OX1 2LE
UK

Paper Title

'PS 11.5: the *Dákṣiṇā*-cow, *the adhijarāyu*-, and the linguistic history of the Vedic word *jarāyu*-'

Abstract

The paper will discuss PS 11.5, a fourteen verse poem celebrating the gift of a fertile cow which brings benefits to the giver both in this world and in heaven. Its theme is similar to that of two other recently edited *Paippalāda* compositions, PS 5.31 (Lubotsky 2002) and PS 6.10 (Griffiths 2009), but almost all the verses of PS 11.5 are peculiar to the *Paippalāda* and several present problems. In particular its key term *adhijarāyu*- is not attested elsewhere in Vedic literature. The investigation of *adhijarāyu*- will involve a reexamination of the linguistic history of RV, AV *jarāyu*-'after-birth, chorion, sloughed off snake-skin, etc.', in which, it will be argued, two originally distinct words have coalesced.

Overall PS 11.5 illustrates how new editions, translations and commentaries for different *kāṇḍas* of the *Paippalādasamhitā* are yielding material which helps to elucidate its obscurer poems, and how these in turn can add new details to our knowledge of very early Indian beliefs and rituals.