

Abstract
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USAGE OF UPANIṢADS IN THE VĀYAVĪYASAMHITĀ

Christèle BAROIS

The *Vāyavīyasamhitā* is the seventh *saṃhitā* of the standard edition of the *Śivapurāṇa*. As is frequent in purāṇic literature, this śaivite *saṃhitā* justifies its orthodoxy and authority by claiming to be equal to Veda or to be its essence (*vedasammīta*, *vedasāra*, etc.). Here and there, verses from Upaniṣads are inserted into the body of the text, sometimes with the final indication *iti śrutiḥ*, and sometimes without any indication. In this paper, I shall present certain devices that are used to draw verses of the following Upaniṣads into the Śaivite doctrine: *Taittirīya*, *Śvetāśvatara*, *Atharvaśikhā* and *Kena-Upaniṣad*, since these upaniṣadic insertions have not only been re-written to conform to the metrical frame of the epic *śloka*, but have been subtly altered to support the śaivite view of the *Vāyavīyasamhitā*.