Preface

रसोऽहमप्सु कौन्तेय प्रभास्मि शशिसूर्ययोः ।
प्रणवः सर्ववेदेषु शब्दः खे पौरुषं नृषु ।। ७८ ।।

पुण्यो गन्धः पृथिव्यां च तेजश्चास्मि विभावसौ ।
जीवनं सर्वभूतेषु तपश्चास्मि तपस्विषु ।। ७९ ।।

Bhagavad-Gīta 7.8/7.9

The German version of this book was published by me in 2019. In 2020 I translated the book into English and then in 2021 Jared S. Klein wrote a review of the German version. After reading the review I felt so bad and ashamed that I did not touch the English version for almost three years.

I had put in my best effort to produce a user-friendly modern workbook on historical phonology, the third in a row (after publishing the same on Latin and Greek), using the same format in order to make it really easy for the learner to get aquainted with historical phonology in an easy and playful way. The books are designed for beginners in the first semester at universities or self-learners. That was my intention.

It is not about the errors I made in my book. I can gladly accept all the linguistic corrections which were presented in Mr Klein's review. But it's the sound that makes the music, as we say in German. The style of language in which the review was written is so arrogant that I can hardly describe it. Mr Klein used the following words: infelicities, embarrassing, blatant error, sloppiness, absence of concentration, less than stellar command, inexcusable, outrageous footnote…. And he was perfectly right when he said that I do not have „full command" of the Sanskrit data. I really do not have that.

I took a few Sanskrit courses because of my deep yearning for spirituality which was indeed saturated after finding the beauty and deep wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita. I travelled to India and met spiritual people. Therefore, I do not really feel guilty for not having read one specific linguistic article from 1993 from a specific person about which fact Mr Klein was so „outraged" that I had not cited it. The arrogant style of his review can also be seen in the use of phrases like „éclat de nouveauté" or „caveat lector" which I had to google to understand them.

Unfortunately, in some cases an increase in intellectuality is accompanied with a decrease in empathy and humanity. We should treat people in this world with respect and modesty. Mr Klein's review took away all the motivation I had to continue my hobby which was designed to help students not having to use dusty undidactic material like me during my time at the university from 2000–2005.

So, dear professors, learned scholars, educated high-level people, who „know-it-all", this book is not really for you but for students and learners. But of course, feel free to use it with respect and modesty. You can now start searching for the mistakes I made in order to increase your publication list. But please, don't be too kleinlich. Thank you!

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