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THE INDIAN THEOGONY

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
INDIAN MYTHOLOGY
FROM THE *VEDAS*
TO THE *PURĀṆAS*

BY
SUKUMARI BHATTACHARJI



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*To the memory of my
father*

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PREFACE

THE present book is the result of ten years' work on the subject of the historical development of Indian mythology and its connection with parallel mythologies elsewhere, on which no satisfactory work exists in English. It was submitted as a doctoral thesis in 1964 in an earlier and different form. In 1966 Clare Hall, Cambridge offered me a Visiting Fellowship for the academic year 1966–7, thus making it possible for me to bring the material up to date. For the most part the book was prepared in India, where books on non-Indian mythologies and related subjects are comparatively few and difficult to procure. This naturally was a hindrance which was partly removed by my stay in Cambridge and I am thankful to Clare Hall for the generous offer of this opportunity. The Syndics of the Cambridge University Press kindly took an interest in the work and offered to publish it. In preparing the book for the Press I had Dr F. R. Allchin's unstinted cooperation and assistance. I can never be sufficiently grateful for the patience and thoroughness with which he went through the entire work and for his many valuable suggestions. I had long and frequent discussions with him at Churchill College which were invariably pleasant and profitable for me.

At the end of September 1967 I returned to India to my teaching post at Jadavpur University, Calcutta. Technical problems of all sorts cropped up when editorial work on the book began in the Press. Since I was no longer at Cambridge to deal with them a prolonged correspondence ensued with those who looked after the publication of the book. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to them; but for their patience the book would never have been published.

In the early stages of the work my teacher Dr Suniti Kumar Chatterji (National Professor of Humanities) helped me greatly by lending me books from his vast collection—books which are otherwise difficult to obtain here. I also learned much from discussions on allied subjects which I had with him from time to time. Dr Radhagovinda Basak encouraged me frequently when I despaired of ever finishing the work; the example of this venerable scholar was itself an inspiration. I am thankful to Prof. Giuseppe Tucci, one of the examiners of my thesis, for his extremely valuable suggestions for preparing the book for publication.

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A work of this kind must naturally be based on the researches of scholars of social anthropology and Indology and of my colleagues in the field, Indian and foreign. The merit of the book, if any, is largely theirs; for the errors which must be many, I am solely responsible.

SUKUMARI BHATTACHARJI

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ABBREVIATIONS

PRIMARY SOURCES

<i>AA</i>	<i>Aitareya Āraṇyaka</i>
<i>AB</i>	<i>Aitareya Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>ĀDS</i>	<i>Āśvalāyana Dharma Sūtra</i>
<i>ĀGS</i>	<i>Āśvalāyana Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>Āp.DS</i>	<i>Āpastamba Dharma Sūtra</i>
<i>Āp.GS</i>	<i>Āpastamba Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>Āp.ŚS</i>	<i>Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra</i>
<i>ĀŚS</i>	<i>Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra</i>
<i>AU</i>	<i>Aitareya Upaniṣad</i>
<i>AV</i>	<i>Atharva Veda</i>
<i>BĀU</i>	<i>Brhad Āraṇyaka Upaniṣad</i>
<i>BGS</i>	<i>Baudhāyana Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>Bh.G</i>	<i>Bhagavad Gītā</i>
<i>Bh.P</i>	<i>Bhaviṣya Purāṇa</i>
<i>CB</i>	<i>Chāndogya Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>CU</i>	<i>Chāndogya Upaniṣad</i>
<i>GB</i>	<i>Gopatha Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>GBU</i>	<i>Gopatha Brāhmaṇa Uttarahāga</i>
<i>GGs</i>	<i>Gobhila Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>HGS</i>	<i>Hiraṇyakeśin Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>HV</i>	<i>Harivaṃśa</i>
<i>IU</i>	<i>Īśa Upaniṣad</i>
<i>JB</i>	<i>Āimīnīya (Upaniṣad) Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>ĀUB</i>	
<i>ĀU</i>	<i>Āimīnīya Upaniṣad</i>
<i>KB</i>	<i>Kauṣītaki (Upaniṣad) Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>KUB</i>	
<i>KU</i>	<i>Kena Upaniṣad</i>
<i>KP</i>	<i>Kūrma Purāṇa</i>
<i>KŚS</i>	<i>Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra</i>
<i>KYV</i>	<i>Kṛṣṇa (Black) Yajurveda</i>
<i>Mait. U</i>	<i>Maitrāyaṇī Upaniṣad</i>
<i>Matsya P</i>	<i>Matsya Purāṇa</i>
<i>Mbh.</i>	<i>Mahābhārata</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā</i>
<i>MU</i>	<i>Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad</i>
<i>NP</i>	<i>Nīlamata Purāṇa</i>
<i>PGS</i>	<i>Pāraskara Gṛhya Sūtra</i>
<i>Rām.</i>	<i>Rāmāyaṇa</i>
<i>RV</i>	<i>Ṛgveda</i>
<i>ŚB</i>	<i>Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa</i>

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ŚGS</i>	<i>Śāṅkhāyana Grhya Sūtra</i>
<i>ŚSS</i>	<i>Śāṅkhayana Śrauta Sūtra</i>
<i>SV</i>	<i>Sāmaveda</i>
<i>Śvet. U</i>	<i>Śvetasvatara Upaniṣad</i>
<i>ŚYV</i>	<i>Śukla (white) Yajurveda</i>
<i>TĀ</i>	<i>Taittirīya Āraṇyaka</i>
<i>TB</i>	<i>Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa</i>
<i>TMB</i>	<i>Tāṇḍya Mahābrāhmaṇa</i>
<i>TS</i>	<i>Taittirīya Saṃhitā</i>
<i>TU</i>	<i>Taittirīya Upaniṣad</i>
<i>VS</i>	<i>Vājasaneyī Saṃhitā (of the ŚYV)</i>
<i>Vāyu P</i>	<i>Vāyu Purāṇa</i>
<i>Viṣṇu P</i>	<i>Viṣṇu Purāṇa</i>
<i>YV</i>	<i>Yajurveda</i>

GENERAL

<i>ABORI</i>	<i>Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute</i>
<i>ERE</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics</i>
<i>HOS</i>	Harvard Oriental Series
<i>IC</i>	<i>Indian Culture</i>
<i>IE</i>	Indo-European
<i>IHQ</i>	<i>Indian Historical Quarterly</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JCOI</i>	<i>Journal of the Cama Oriental Institute</i>
<i>JGIS</i>	<i>Journal of the Greater India Society</i>
<i>JRAS</i>	<i>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</i>
<i>NIA</i>	<i>New Indian Antiquary</i>
<i>SBE</i>	Sacred Books of the East