

On the vedic metre *virāj*-
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The indian discipline of chandas has been treated in Weber's *Indische Studien 8 Über die Metrik der Inder*. Following his work, I investigate the metre named *virāj*—a rare vedic metre that bears a name meaning *ruler* or *shining* (PW), the same name as the progeny of the primaeval *puruṣa* (ṚV 10.90.5) — what kind of metre indian theoreticians meant by *virāj*, and whether the *virāj* with such a metrical schema ever existed in ṛgveda.

When one investigates the definitions of this *virāj* in various works treating vedic meter, one finds that they are not unanimous even within the same literature. For example, Ṛkprātiśākhya, on which I mainly base my argument, holds 5 different definitions for *virāj* in total---namely, α) 4x10; β) 3x10; γ)3x11; δ) any metre short by two syllables of a certain principal metre; and ε) any 26-syllabled metre belonging to the aforesaid set of metres. I show how these seemingly contradicting definitions can be reconciled into an original 10-syllabled *virāj* of either 3 or 4 *pādas*, by consulting metric literatures such as in Nidānasūtra, Śāṅkhāyanaśrautasūtra, anukramaṇī, as well as evidences in ritual literature like Śatapathabrāhmaṇa.

However, close examination of the *virāj*-designated passages according to anukramaṇī reveals that the occurrences are mostly sporadic, a 10-syllabled line seldom succeeding another to form a stanza or a series of stanzas, most of which, in fact, when metrically restored, turn out to be either a uniform 3x11-*virāj* stanza or sporadic *vairāja* (10-syllabic) lines occurring among *traiṣṭubha* (11-syllabic) lines.

All this throws the *virāj*'s existence itself in doubt. Would it be, then, that *virāj* existed only in the fancy of theoreticians whose mind inclined toward not so much an analysis as an enumeration of diverse metres? Against this view, I point to the possibility that two marginal metres in ṚV, bearing the names *dvipadā virāj* and *virātssthānā* respectively, have played a role in theoretician's creating the notion of the 4x10-*virāj*, whereas 3x11-*virāj* occasionally interspersed with 10-syllabled line led to the notion of 3x10/3x11-*virāj*.