

Michael Witzel

Katha Aranyaka

Critical Edition with a Translation into German and an Introduction

Dating to the first half of the first millennium BCE, the *Katha Aranyaka* is a ritualistic and speculative text that deals with a dangerous Vedic ritual that provides its sponsor with a new body after death. In a new, never-before-published critical edition, Michael Witzel, using available manuscripts and, primarily, a color facsimile of a restored five-hundred-year-old Kashmiri birch bark manuscript preserved at Tübingen since 1895, presents this work which transitions the Vedic ritual into the philosophy of the Upanishads. The text is preceded by an extensive introduction in English dealing with Vedic ritualism and followed by a German translation as well as detailed variant readings and a verse index.

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39,50 €

36,92 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Nicht mehr lieferbar

Artikelnummer: 9780674018068

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-674-01806-8

Verlag: The Department of Sanskrit
and Indian Studies

Erscheinungstermin: 27.09.2005

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2005

Serie: Harvard Oriental Series

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 752 g

Seiten: 330

Format (B x H): 186 x 261 mm

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Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG

Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)

12.09.2026 | 20:30 Uhr

