

OFFENBARUNGSGESCHICHTE ALS TEXT. 'Religionshermeneutische Bemerkungen Zum Phanomen in Hinduistischer Tradition'. By GERHARD OBERHAMMER. Institute for Indology, University of Vienna. Occasional Papers 5. Agents Gerold & Co., Vienna; Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1994. Pages 109.

This learned work on Hindu traditions of religions heremeneutics by Professor Oberhammer deals with some problems in the Āgama texts—*Mṛgendrāgama* (1.1.1-29), *Paramasamhitā* (1.1.1.-69), *Jayākhyasamhitā* (1.1.1-79, II.1-30), *Pādmāsamhitā* (1.1.1-116, 1.2.1-21) and Kaunḍinya's *Pañcārtha bhāṣya*. German translation of the texts is given as Appendix. The Vedā-s are considered *apauruṣeya* and infallible, hence transcendental; hermeneutic method has to be used; but the Āgama-s, though authoritative, are not considered *apauruṣeya*. The Mimāṃsā hermeneutic approach towards Vedic texts cannot be applied to the Āgama-s in the same way. Even the texts are not as fixed as that of the Veda. *Pāthāntara*, *adhikapāṭha* etc. can be seen in the Āgama texts. The problems that confront the Āgama exigets are more complex than those that the Vedic interpreters have to face.

'Pranaṣṭapāṭhavākyānām kṛtvā vastuvicāraṇam
tajiñnaiḥ saha prayatnād vai hyāgamam saṃskaroti yaḥ'.

The problem of transmission of the texts from teacher to student without interruption is discussed. This is an interesting and scholarly work.

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