Brahmapurāna, transliteration : Documentation and comments

(version 5. 5. 1994)

The text transliterated is taken from the following two (printed) editions of the Brahmapurāna:


1.1. Transliteration

Diacritical marks:

Punctuation marks are used to code diacritics. All diacritics are typed in front of the letter to which they belong (which imitates the traditional "layout" of typewriters where accents etc. are placed on dead keys and need to be typed before the character is typed).

. = subscript dot (e.g. k.rta.h)
; = superscript dot (e.g. a;nga)
? = tilde (superscript) (e.g. praj?n-a)
- = superscript hyphen (macron) (e.g. -atm-a)
/ = aigu (superscript) (e.g. /s-astra)

Where, as in this introductory document or in comments to variant readings within the text, the use of punctuation marks in their proper function has to alternate with their function as diacritical marks, their use as punctuation marks is distinguished by a following blank (or other signs of punctuation including parentheses) or by doubling where a blank is not possible (e.g. in abbreviations). Thus, the dots in ".r.si" are diacritics, but the dot after ".r.si." is a full stop. Similarly, since no blank can be inserted after a hyphen, the actual hyphen is written by doubling it ("--"). (In footnotes in the file BRPAL exclamation mark is doubled when used as punctuation mark.)

The quarter of a verse (p-ada) is marked by a | (vertical bar). This bar (danda) is not followed by a blank before verse quarters 2 and 4 (b and d) in anu.s.tubh metre (/sloka). After quarter 2 and 4 a new line begins.

Longer metres (longer than the /sloka, that is) are typed in such a way that each p-ada gets a different line.

Lacunae are indicated by using the letter x one time per missing ak.sara; the x--es are put in pointed parentheses (e.g. <xxx> for a lacuna of three syllables).

The full reference (part, chapter and verse) is given at the end of the verse to which it refers. (While transliterating the full reference needs to be typed only for the first verse of each chapter.)

For ed. VePr, which is divided in two parts, the first segment of the reference includes the number for the book or part according to the formula:
The beginning of references is marked by double bar and the end is marked by a single bar. Always after a reference a new line begins.

1.2. Sandhi

The "principle of transliteration" has been that the input format should reproduce the letters of the printed text as closely as possible, i.e. that one types what one sees. However, to what is printed (in Devanāgarī) markers are added (in the transliteration) to mark sandhi changes.

A sandhi change is defined with regard to the "pausa form" of a word, i.e. the form a word would take at the end of a line or out of context (vigraha). Note that this pausa form need not be identical with the stem which would be entered in a dictionary.

Thus, consonants which have undergone a sandhi change in the text are marked by *. Similarly, final vowels which have changed due to sandhi are marked by * (e.g. -as-id* r-aja nalo* n-ama).

In case of vowel sandhi the above-mentioned principle of transliteration suffers an exception: Vowel sandhi is dissolved and marked (e.g. na*asti, ca*eva). Similarly, avagraha is reconstituted, the originally omitted initial "a" being marked as sandhi vowel (e.g. devo* api).

In some special cases the marking of sandhi has to be extended to include some disambiguating information:

- to half-vowels which substitute for a long vowel the diacritic for "long vowel" (-) is added (e.g. devy-* api)
- if final --a in sandhi does not stand for --a.h (with visarga), then the original vowel which has been substituted by the --a is added (e.g. lokae* eva, where "loka eva" is printed, which is the sandhi form for "loke eva").

In case of "double sandhi" the sandhi is marked by double ** (or double **, e.g. sa**eva in case of "saiva" instead of "sa eva").

1.3. Separation of compounds

Separation of compounds is marked by inserting + between the members of a compound (e.g. brahma+pur-a.na). In case of sandhi, the + functions also as sandhi--marker, i.e. no additional sandhi--marker is added (e.g. tapo+vane, mah-a+-atmana.h).

Where compounds are too long we have used "+ @+" to mark the artificial blank.

Separation of compounds is restricted to nominal compounds (including upapada--compounds like ura+ga, go+p-i) and does not include grammatical analysis. For details, special cases etc. see the introduction to Sanskrit Indices and Text of the Brahmapur-a.na, Wiesbaden 1987, pp. xvi--xvii, by P. Schreiner and R. Söhnen.

1.4. Variant readings
The beginning of the passage for which a variant exists is marked by opening parenthesis. In deciding about the extension of the text thus marked, the changes generated for the text format had to be taken into consideration. This meant that occasionally words which are identical in the base text and in the variant are included in the parentheses. The beginning of the variant is marked by a siglum, i.e. by a single capital letter. Sigla are separated by a comma (no blank). There is no blank between the siglum and the variant. If there are several variants for the same passage of the base text, they are listed sequentially. The variant (or the last variant if there is more than one) is closed by the closing parenthesis. The blank before the next word is considered to belong to the variant and is put inside the parentheses. The continuation of the base text follows without intermediate blank.

Schematic pattern:

(... A... )...
(... A,B... )...
(... A... B... )...

1.5. Interpolations

Interpolations are treated as "variants without base text", i.e. siglum follows immediately upon the opening parenthesis. The siglum is repeated before the closing parenthesis which marks the end of the interpolation. This allows for the input of variants within interpolations which are attested in more than one source. Long interpolations may be entered as a sequence of separate interpolations (e.g. verse by verse).

1.6. Omissions

Passages from the base text which are omitted in any of the variant texts are marked by double parentheses plus siglum enclosing the omitted passage (which may also be individual words).

Schematic patterns:

((S... S))
... ((S... S))...

1.7. Editorial additions

Annotations, remarks etc. by the editor of the transliteration are enclosed in square brackets. Annotations by the editor(s) of the edition which served as source of the transliteration (e.g. conjectures, markers for lacunae etc.) which are part of the printed edition are enclosed in pointed parentheses.

1.8. Colophones
Colophones which are part of the printed edition are enclosed by triple square brackets.

1.9. Typography

Where explicit coding was necessary, the conventions used are those of the TUSTEP program "Formatiere".

2. Processing

The input and processing of the transliterated text has been done with TUSTEP, the Tuebingen System of Text--Processing Programs. The TUSTEP format includes a reference number in front of every record; this machine reference has been calculated in such a way that it agrees with the textual reference. In the ASCII--format of the input file (BRPAL, i.e. Brahmapur-a.na, ed. ASS, with variant readings (German "Lesarten", thus the "L") this machine reference is inserted in pointed parentheses at the beginning of each line. Some of the tools for textual analysis which were produced from the input format have been published:


The following indexes are included in the publication:

- KWIC--index (from modified input format)
- P-ada--index (from modified text format)
- wordforms (from pausa format)
- reverse index of wordforms (from pausa format)

All indexes are sorted according to the Devan-agar-i alphabet and include frequencies (absolute and relative) and formatting commands for the output. The content of the file and the input conventions have not been changed or corrected since publication.