

On an Auspicious Day at Dawn...

Studies in Tulu Culture and Oral Literature

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Heidrun Brückner

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Preface

The papers assembled in the present volume were written between 1986 and 2000. Six of them were published in journals and omnibus volumes between 1987 and 2001. I thank the editors and publishers for permission to reprint these articles. Two more papers, the first and the fifth one, were first presented at conferences in 1986 and 1993 respectively, and are published here for the first time. A synopsis of my 1995 German language monograph on Tulu *pāḍḍanas* and their ritual context has also been included.

The first article, “Basel Mission and Tulu Culture in Nineteenth Century South Kanara” is a revised version of a paper first read in a “National Seminar on the Ritualistic Theatre of Coastal Karnataka”, Udupi, Feb. 22-26, 1986. Extracts of the original paper were printed in “Kulturgespräch”, Udupi 1986. The paper was later extended and revised as a German article (with illustrations) published in 1993 in a volume on Hermann Gundert (Brückner 1993c).

The second article, “Bhūta-Worship in Coastal Karnāṭaka: An oral Tulu myth and festival ritual of Jumādi” first appeared in the Indological Journal *Studien zur Indologie und Iranistik*, Vol. 13/14 (1987), 17-37 (=Felicitation volume for Wilhelm Rau on the occasion of his 65th birthday).

The next paper, “‘Dhūmāvati-Bhūta’: An Oral Tulu-Text Collected in the Nineteenth Century. Edition, Translation, and Analysis” was authored jointly with the late Narasimha Poti; it too was published in *Studien zur Indologie und Iranistik*, Vol. 16, 1992, 13-63.

“Kannalāye: The Place of a Tulu Pāḍḍana among Interrelated Oral Traditions” first appeared in: Brückner, Heidrun, Aditya Malik and Lothar Lutze (eds.), *Flags of Fame. Studies in South Asian Folk Culture*. Delhi: Manohar, 1993, 283–334 (= South Asian Studies XXVII).

“Gender and Genre. Subgenre Distinctions in Tulu *pāḍḍanas*” is a hitherto unpublished paper. It was read at the “First International Conference-Seminar on Dravidian Studies” conducted by Dieter Kapp at the Geno-House Stuttgart, May 17-18, 1993 as part of the “Dr. Hermann Gundert Conference” organised by Albrecht Frenz. The paper is included here along with an English translation of a Tulu *pāḍḍana*.

The sixth article, “Divinity, Violence, Wedding and Gender in some South Indian Cults”, was a 1994 conference paper published in the proceedings of the conference in 1996. (Michaels, Axel, Cornelia Vogelsanger and Annette Wilke, eds., *Wild Goddesses in India and Nepal*. Proceedings of an International

Symposium in Berne and Zurich, Nov. 1994. Bern: Peter Lang, 1996, 437–448. (=Studia Religiosa Helvetica 2).

“Narrated and Dramatized Death in Tulu Culture”, first appeared in: Elisabeth Schoembucher and Claus Peter Zoller (eds.), *Ways of Dying. Death and its Meanings in South Asia*. Delhi: Manohar, 1999, 249–275. It is a much extended and thoroughly reworked version of a paper first presented at a Heidelberg South Asia Institute Interregional Seminar on Death in 1993.

The eighth article “Fluid Canons and Shared Charisma: On Success and Failure of Ritual Performance in a South Indian Oral Tradition”, was written for a volume in honour of Heinrich von Stietencron, edited by Vasudha Dalmia, Angelika Malinar and Martin Christof, *Charisma and Canon: Essays on the Religious History of the Indian Subcontinent*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001, 313–327.

The present volume ends with a brief synopsis of the author’s 1995 monograph *Fürstliche Feste. Texte und Rituale der Tulu-Volksreligion an der Westküste Südindiens*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1995. (=Neuindische Studien 12). (*Princely Festivals. Texts and Rituals of Tulu Folk Religion on the West-coast of Southern India*).

References for all the papers have been taken together and placed at the end of the book.

Some of the articles as well as the references have been slightly revised and updated. My thanks are due to Dr. Matthias Ahlborn, Würzburg, for preparing the manuscript. I also thank my colleagues in the field of Tulu Studies who have encouraged me to publish the present volume.

Würzburg, November 2008

Heidrun Brückner