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**CORPUS IURIS SANSCRITICUM
ET FONTES IURIS ASIAE MERIDIANAE ET CENTRALIS**

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MEDHĀTITHI'S
GRAMMATICAL NOTES ON
THE *MĀNAVADHARMAŚĀSTRA*
HOW TECHNICALITIES CAN SHED LIGHT
ON ANCIENT INDIAN LAW

Alessandro Giudice and Tiziana Pontillo

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Acknowledgements

This volume, the eleventh in the series, is the final publication by the AIT-Asia Institute Torino. The series and the associated project *Corpus Iuris Sanscriticum et Fontes Iuris Asiae Meridianae et Centralis* were founded in 1987 by the distinguished Indologist Professor Oscar Botto and have been directed by the AIT-Asia Institute Torino until 12 September 2025. On this date, the series and project were entrusted to the University of Cagliari, and specifically, they now fall under the Department of Literature, Languages and Cultural Heritage, which also generously contributed to the printing of this volume. From the twelfth volume onwards, the series will continue to be published by UNICApres, under the direction of Tiziana Pontillo and Alessandro Giudice, who are also the authors of this volume.

This work examines the grammatically focused commentarial passages of Medhātithi's *Manubhāṣya* on the *Mānavadharmasāstra* to determine the criteria guiding the selection of words interpreted in such a highly technical manner and the grammatical rules underlying these explanations. Among the commentators on Dharmaśāstra texts, Medhātithi stands out for the number and sharpness of his grammatical discussions. Building on his perspective, the authors explore how closely the language of the *Mānavadharmasāstra* follows Pāṇini's rules and how the grammatical tradition shapes the argumentative structure of the *Manubhāṣya*. My heartfelt thanks go to the Union Académique Internationale and to the Unione Accademica Nazionale for their patronage and support of Project No. 43 (*Corpus Iuris Sanscriticum et Fontes Iuris Asiae Meridianae et Centralis*). I am grateful to the members of the Scientific Committee of the CIS, Nalini Balbir, Domenico Francavilla, Axel Michaels, and Patrick Olivelle, for their competent and valuable advice. I must remember with particular gratitude Satya Vrat Shastri and Pierre Sylvain Filliozat, recently deceased. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Vice President of the AIT, Saverio Sani, to the treasurer, Franco Omegna, and the collaborators, Victor Agostini, Gabriella Olivero and Stefano Turina, for their skilled and generous collaboration.

Irma Piovano
President of the Committee AIT-Asia Institute Torino

Preface

The idea for this study emerged four years ago during one of the editions of the Summer Schools on Pāṇini's Sanskrit Grammar organised by the University of Cagliari and the University of Pisa in September 2021, when the teachers were Maria Piera Candotti, Malhar Kulkarni and Tiziana Pontillo. More specifically, its origins lie in a lecture by Tiziana Pontillo on the use of Vyākaraṇa in Sanskrit commentaries, devoted particularly to the Kāvya genre, which became a source of inspiration for Alessandro Giudice. He noted a related, frequent use of Vyākaraṇa annotations by the Dharmaśāstra author Medhātithi in his *Manubhāṣya*, which prompted him to gather all the relevant Vyākaraṇa-oriented passages. From the end of the following year, after Alessandro Giudice had commenced his doctoral studies at the University of Cagliari, he and Tiziana Pontillo began sharing the project of translating and studying all the collected passages, which gradually developed what is now Chapter 2. Three years later, with the addition of an introduction, an analysis of the selected passages, and several other sections, this has now evolved into the present volume.

The book is the result of a joint work entirely discussed and shared by both authors. However, for academic requirements, Alessandro Giudice is responsible for Sections 1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3, 3.2.2, 3.2.4.1, 3.2.4.2, 3.2.4.3.1, 3.2.7, 3.3, 3.4, the *Preliminary note* and Nos. 1-56, 113-168 of Chapter 2, and Chapters 5-8, while Tiziana Pontillo is responsible for Sections 1.2.2, 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.2.4.3, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, Nos. 57-112, 169-223 of Chapter 2, Chapter 4, and *General index*. Unless explicitly stated, all English translations of Vedic and Sanskrit texts are by the authors. Translations by other scholars have been included here solely for the purpose of comparison. In all cases, the reproduced excerpts of Vedic and Sanskrit texts have been adjusted to align with the orthographic conventions of this work, including the application of *sandhi* rules.

We should like to express our heartfelt thanks to Maria Piera Candotti, Elisa Freschi, Davide Mocci and Malhar Kulkarni for their valuable input in discussions on several points of this volume or its preliminary steps. We would like to acknowledge our debt to David Brick, Victor D'Avella and Monika Nowakowska for their thorough peer-review of the draft of this volume: their insightful comments and corrections have significantly enhanced the quality of the final product. We are immensely grateful to Irma Piovano, President of the

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