

About Sanskrit Translations¹

Robert L. Peck

© 2008

Updated April 7th, 2024

Sanskrit translations suffer from two major problems. Firstly, many of the early translations were deliberately altered by the Western translators in order to diminish the reliance upon them by the Indians. Max Müller, one of the more famous Sanskrit scholars, openly bragged that his translations would help in uprooting the deep faith of the Indians.² Monier Monier-Williams stated that his authoritative *Sanskrit-to English-Dictionary* had been funded to express Christian teachings in Sanskrit for missionary work.

The second major problem is that the Western translators had neither knowledge of the inner forces and fluids being described nor how they were explained by allegorical gods. Because of the resulting effectiveness of the translations and the loss of the awareness of inner powers, the early Western translations are still considered to be authoritative and unfortunately still serve as the basis for most subsequent Sanskrit translations.

Nonetheless, Monier-Williams was quite scholarly, and his dictionary is essential in translating because he arranged it according to the roots of words rather than assumed meanings. Therefore, the actual meanings of many of the words that he shifted can be determined by viewing the roots of the words. In general, he shifted the meaning of any word (and even a few roots) that dealt with inner powers or processes to something external and as such were compatible with Christian concepts.

There are some severe time-consuming problems in obtaining a literal translation of the Sanskrit texts in that the original authors:

- 1) assumed the reader would understand what is referred to,
- 2) used many key words which have several seemingly unrelated interpretations,
- 3) constructed complex words out of shorter words, and
- 4) changed the sequence of individual letters and words in order to maintain rhyming and rhythm patterns.

A modern individual with a computer and a good knowledge of physiology and psychology will have far less trouble in translating the ancient philosophical texts than did people in the 19th century. This is because the philosophical texts of India are not historical literature, but are highly technical and contain what appear to be arcana to the politically correct, religious or uninitiated. This is, of course, also true for much of modern scientific writings which are arcane to the public. Modern governments are able to regulate information, drugs or methods that can strengthen individuals but the chief control of the ancients was in cautioning the readers of the technical documents to keep the contents secret.

Because of the current freedom and ease of publication, the world is much different today in terms of written documents. Let us therefore state that the secret of the ancients for increasing the inner powers of individuals is through an inner fluid called *ambrosia* by the Greeks and

1 See also Ch. 16 in R. Peck, Cassinari, L. & Gavlick, C. *Directing Life*. Lebanon, CT: Personal Development Center, 2006.

2 See p. 116 in Sarasvati, S. P. & Vidyalankar, S. *RgVeda Samhita* Vol. I. New Delhi, India: Shiksha Bharati Press, 1977.

amrita or *soma* by the Indians. The inner fluid is obtained by inner churning of the lower abdomen and then filtered by inner tensions and breathing.

The only word in the above paragraph which is currently objected to is the word “inner,” and it is this word that relates to the secret of the ancients as well as modern physiology and psychology. The ancient descriptions of the inner fluid, both in the Indian writings as well as the few Greek and Persian references that survived the major book burnings in the West, can be explained by modern endocrinology as well as the experiences obtained with the taking of drugs. The ancient writings, however, describe the generation of the inner fluid which is not pursued by modern medicine because of the preference for pharmaceutical pills to obtain some of the same effects.

The Sanskrit texts translated by the Personal Development Center contain the original Sanskrit words and the meanings selected from Monier-Williams’ dictionary to support our interpretation. To facilitate the reader’s ability to search further, the original Nagari letters of the Sanskrit are replaced with Veda Type Roman Letters which can be used directly with most of the computerized dictionaries. In some verses we include the popular translation for comparison.

(It should be noted that our translated documents were written for and about men and not for or about women although they are applicable to both. This can be confusing, since the early writings were concerned in part with the development in men of the same responses found in women (such as being recently found with the production of the hormone oxytocin).

Copyright 2024 by the *Personal Development Center LLC*. This text may be freely used for personal or scholarly purposes or mirrored on other web sites, provided this notice is left intact. Any use of this material for commercial purposes of any kind is strictly forbidden without the express permission of the *Personal Development Center* at P.O. Box 93, South Windham, Connecticut 06266. The author and/or publisher may be reached at: books.info@personaldevcenter.com