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The Zoroastrian Law  
to Expel the Demons:  
Wīdēwdād 10-15

Critical Edition, Translation and Glossary  
of the Avestan and Pahlavi Texts

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## Preface

Many years have elapsed since WESTERGAARD (1852–1854) and GELDNER (1886–1896) edited the Avestan text of the *Wīdēwdād* and JAMASP (1907) did the same for its Pahlavi version. Since then, scholars of Iranian Studies and other related disciplines have been waiting for a revised and new edition of these texts, which has become particularly necessary after the recent discovery of new manuscripts of the Avestan and the Pahlavi *Wīdēwdād*. Also the research on them during the last decades has dramatically changed our knowledge about their written transmission and their role in the Zoroastrian ceremonies, and has also enhanced the importance of this largely forgotten text for the study of Zoroastrianism in ancient and medieval times.

By the present monograph, which only includes the Avestan and Pahlavi texts of the *Wīdēwdād* 10–15, I aim to partially fill this gap in the research. Nevertheless, I do not pretend it to be considered the definitive edition of the Pahlavi *Wīdēwdād*, but just a contribution to its better understanding. More research on this text is still needed, and it will be certainly continued by some of the best scholars in our field, either soon or in the future.

This publication is the result of more than 10 years' work on the Avestan and Pahlavi *Wīdēwdād* in different projects at the University of Salamanca, the Freie Universität of Berlin and the University of Copenhagen. It joins together a revised version of my PhD dissertation “*Vīdēvdād* 10–12: Critical Edition, Translation and Commentary of their Avestan and Pahlavi Texts”, directed by ALBERTO CANTERA, and the main conclusions of my research in the project “Tierrecht und Strafen im ‚Gesetz zur Abwehr der Dämonen‘ (*Vidēvdād*), Kapitel 13–15. Kritische Edition des Avesta- und Pahlavitextes auf der Grundlage neuentdeckter Handschriften mit Transliteration, Transkription, Übersetzung, Kommentar und Glossar” (“Animal Rights and Punishments in the ‘Law to Expel the Demons’ (*Vidēvdād*) Chapters 13–15. Critical Edition of the Avestan and Pahlavi Texts on the basis of the recently discovered manuscripts, with Transliteration, Transcription, Translation, Commentary and Glossary”), directed by MARIA MACUCH and ALBERTO CANTERA and financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

The list of friends and colleagues I would like to thank for their tireless encouragement until this work in progress turned into a published book would be very long. The first of them is ALBERTO CANTERA, who opened to me the field of Iranian Studies, instilled in me his interest on the *Wīdēwdād*, and shared with me his large expertise on this and other Avestan and Pahlavi texts during

my stay at the University of Salamanca. I also want to thank ANA AGUD, member of the Indo-Iranian research group at the same university, for her many advices and help to improve my work, especially in its earlier stages. I would also like to thank the Trustess of The First Dastur Meherjirana Library (Navsari, India), the Trustees of the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute (Mumbai), the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (Poona, India), and the curators of the Oriental Sections of the Bombay University Library (Mumbai), Det Kongelige Bibliotek (Copenhagen), the British Library (London), the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Paris), the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich) and the Columbia University Library (New York) for kindly allowing me to collate the manuscripts preserved at their collections and to get digital copies of most of them, without which this edition could have never been undertaken. Finally, I owe special thanks to MARIA MACUCH for having welcomed me so warmly at the Institut für Iranistik in Berlin, for having enriched this publication with her suggestions and comments, and for having offered to me the honour of publishing it in the prestigious Series Iranica, which she directs.

I would not have been able to write a single page of this book without the constant support of my family, without which I would have certainly given up long ago. There will never be enough words on any page to express my deep gratitude and love to them.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL ANDRÉS-TOLEDO