

AN UNDERLYING DIVINATORY STRUCTURE COMMON TO BHARATA AND SEMONIDES

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I. Sources

A. *Semonides 7*, “On Women”: seventh century BCE Greek Poem in iambic metre by Semonides of Amorgos.

B. *Nāṭyaśāstra*: Sanskrit didactic poem on dramaturgy in Anuṣṭubh/ Śloke metre composed by Bharatamuni around the beginning of the Common Era.

C. *Gārgīyajyotiṣa*: Sanskrit didactic poem on astral science in verse composed/compiled by Garga around the beginning of the Common Era.

II. Comparison of the Greek and the Sanskrit Versions

A. Underlying omen syntactical structure: protasis and apodosis

B. Apodoses: Common list of five apodoses: monkey, donkey, sow, mare, and bitch

C. Protases:

General similarities:

1. the context of the man-woman relationship,
2. the use of animal similes,
3. the choice of the same five animals, and
4. the inclusion of both physical and psychological characteristics

III. Cultural and Historical Discussion

A. Common basis in folklore

B. Performance as common sympotic theme

Human Character Types in Three Sources

Nāṭyaśāstra	Gārgīyajyotiṣa	Semonides 7
god/goddess (deva)	deva	
demon/demoness (dāna)	dāna	
celestial musician (gandharva)	gandharva	
demon/demoness (rakṣas)	rākṣasa	
serpent (nāga)	pannaga	
bird (patatrin/ śākuna)	paḥṣin	
demon/demoness (piśāca)	piśāca	
spirit (yakṣa)	yakṣa	
man/woman (nara/ mānuṣa)	mānuṣa	
monkey (vānara)		πιθήκος
elephant (hastin)		
gazelle (mṛga)	mṛga	
fish (mīna/matsya)		
camel (uṣṭra)		
water creature (makara)		
donkey (khara)		ὄνος
sow (sūkara)		ὕς
mare (vājīn/haya)		ἵππος
buffalo (mahiṣa)		
goat (aja)		
bitch (śvan)		κύων
cow (gau)		
	fairy (vidyādhara)	
		fox (άλώπηξ)
		earth (γῆ)
		sea (θαλάσσα)
		weasel/ferret (γαλέη)
		bee (μελίσση)