

Céline Redard, Juanjo Ferrer-Losilla, Hamid Moein,
Philippe Swennen (éds). *Aux sources des liturgies
indo-iraniennes*

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Céline Redard, Juanjo Ferrer-Losilla, Hamid Moein, Philippe Swennen (éds). *Aux sources des liturgies indo-iraniennes*. Liège : Presses Universitaires de Liège, 2020, 406 p. (Collection Religions 10)

- 1 This collection of fifteen articles from a 2016 University of Liège conference sets the reconfigured understanding of the Avestan texts as fundamentally liturgical texts, achieved in the last few decades, in the context of Indo-Iranian ritual—seeking conceptual commonalities between the Avestan materials and the much more voluminous and more thoroughly studied Vedic ritual texts. The results are stimulating but somewhat undercut by several factors: the contributions are heavily weighted towards Avestan, and they often (mis)represent Vedic ritual to match the current neo-ritual model of the Avestan texts, especially of the so-called Long Liturgy. In particular, from the Vedic point of view, the functional disconnect between the ritual employment of the older (Rig)vedic hymns and their decontextualization, fragmentation, and repurposing in the later Vedic śrauta ritual is fundamentally different from the current scholarly understanding of the Avestan Long Liturgy as displaying organic growth via Younger Avestan texts from the core of Old Avestan texts—despite efforts to claim the Vedic situation as a model for the Long Liturgy.

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