

## ROOTS OF RITES

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The present paper starts with the discussion of the PIE root  $*(H)reh_1d^h$  ‘to do (it) rightly; to prepare (correctly/carefully); to achieve (purpose, success)’, well attested in (at least) four IE languages – Indic with Vedic *rādh* ‘to achieve (the purpose), to succeed’ and *rādhas-*, n. ‘favor; (ritual) gift’, Iranian with Avestan *rād* ‘to do right; to comply with’, *rādah-*, n. ‘care; generosity’, Germanic with Gothic *ga-redan* ‘to take care, to make provisions’, and Slavic with OCS *ne-raditi* ‘to take no care, to neglect’.

After an assessment of the root structure and further potential cognates of the root  $*(H)reh_1d^h$ , we shall discuss issues of word-formation of its derivatives in the four language groups concerned – focussing on the ones that perfectly match from both formal and semantic point of view – and the reconstruction of the exact meaning of the *Gleichungen* in their oldest attestation contexts as well as on (inherited) formulaic expressions and common phraseological collocations that can shed additional light on the original semantic field(s) of the root itself.

Since one of the matching contexts on the Indo-Iranian side of the attestations represents not only a formal parallel between derivatives of the same PIIr. root  $*(H)raHd^h/*(H)rHd^h$  (< PIE  $*(H)reh_1d^h$ ) but also a recently discovered ritual parallel between Vedic and Avestan liturgy (on which Sadovski, *Fs. Lubotsky*, in prep. for press), the second part of the paper focuses on four further roots designating ritual activities and used in the same expressions of archaic ritual poetry. This contextualization will demonstrate a series of matching phraseological formulae between archaic [Yajur] Vedic mantras and passages of the Yasna and the Vīsprād, on the base of which we can make a further step for the reconstruction of common concepts of inherited Indo-Iranian ritual terminology. Presenting material from the database of the new *Etymological Dictionary of the Iranian Noun* (in preparation for the Leiden Indo-European Etymological Dictionary Series), we shall try to make more precise statements on the reconstruction of the verbal and nominal roots for ritual activities concerned as well as on the derivational morphology, semantics and contextual function of their derivatives.