



Facilitated and organised first time in A.P. by
SAMATHA LOKSEVA SAMITHI
(Regd. Trust Vide Regn. No. BK-IV/142/07)



ATHIRATHRAM

Extracts from reviews

Due to the energetic perseverance of Professor Staal ...he succeeded in fully recording one of the most complicated Vedic rituals, that of the Fire altar. The present work gives a complete record of this ritual according to the interpretation of the ancient manuals current among the Nambudiri brahmin community. Apart from the unique documentary value of this venture, Agni points to new ways of looking at end studying the Veda and its ritual, as well as its transmission over the centuries.

J.C HEESTERMAN

Institute Kern

Almost immediately after the completion of this historic Atiratra- Agnicayana, an eagle flew over the ritual enclosure and an hour later, the first monsoon rains came pouring down. In ancient India these were auspicious signs that guaranteed that the sacrifice was successful. Today there is no need for such signs. For future generations will look with admiration on what has been achieved here. With this epoch-making initiative, Frits Staal and his collaborators have earned the gratitude of the history of civilization.

KLAUS MYLIUS

All of us Indologists, historians of religion or of culture, ethnologists, and linguists, are indebted to Frits Staal for his decades of inspired studies among his Nambudiri friends. With *Agni*, a work of surpassing beauty and intelligence, he has joined a scholarly lineage established by Albrecht Weber four generations ago, a sakha dedicated to advancing our understanding of the Vedic ritual heritage and its civilizational matrix.

DAVID M. KNIPE

Journal of Asian studies, 1986