

## 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.

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