



**Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune and SOAS, University of London,
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proudly announce the course

An Introduction to the Avestan Language

Made possible through a generous donation from France, this free course enables students of all backgrounds to study the ancient language of Zoroastrianism.

The course is designed to provide students with a clear understanding of the basic principles of the Avestan language in a way that enables them to translate simple Avestan texts.

Dates: Monday, 6 July – Friday, 17 July 2015

Venue: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India

Teacher in Charge: Almut Hintze, Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism,
SOAS, University of London

Those wishing to attend should email the completed attached registration forms to:

shrikant.bahulkar@gmail.com

bhandarkarinstitute@gmail.com

Attendance of this course is free of charge.

For more details, please contact:

Prof. Dr. S. S. Bahulkar, Honorary Secretary In-charge
Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune 411 004 India

Email: shrikant.bahulkar@gmail.com

Phones: +91-9272296556 (Cell Phone)

+91-20-25661363 (Office, Direct Line); +91-20-25656932 (Office)

An Introduction to the Avestan Language

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

6–17 July 2015

Mon-Fri: 11am–1pm & 2–4pm

About the course. The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute is delighted to announce a short term course in Avestan Language and Literature that has been made possible thanks to the donation of a donor from France. The course will be conducted at the Institute from 6–17 July 2015. This course is an introduction to the language of the Avesta, the earliest and sacred text of the Zoroastrian community in Iran, India and a world-wide diaspora. No prior knowledge of the language is required, but familiarity with Sanskrit will be an advantage as Avestan will be studied in comparison with Vedic Sanskrit. The course is designed to provide students with a clear understanding of the basic principles of the Avestan language in a way that enables them to translate simple Avestan texts and to analyse their grammar. Students who complete the course successfully will be able to handle simple primary sources of the Zoroastrian religion in the original Avestan and to assess critically translations made by various scholars. The course is based on lessons covering basic grammar and on the reading of texts. The essential course books are in English and no knowledge of any other specific language will be required, though a general familiarity with standard grammatical terminology and concepts will be an advantage.

Significance of the course. This course has been made possible thanks to a donation of an anonymous donor from France. It is designed to benefit students and scholars of various disciplines and the wider public, in particular the Parsi community. It contributes to Oriental Studies, Vedic Studies and Indian Culture by teaching the Avestan language in a comparative perspective that takes into account the common Indo-Iranian heritage shared by Vedic and Avestan. The course thus contributes to Vedic as well as Zoroastrian Studies.

The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute is ideally suited for hosting this course thanks to its excellent location and collections of books and documents, in particular of Avestan manuscripts. The course is designed to contribute to BORI's outstanding reputation as a centre of Oriental Studies.

The course teacher. Prof. Almut Hintze is Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism in the Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London. Holding degrees from the universities of Heidelberg, Oxford, Erlangen and Berlin, her field is Indo-Iranian Studies with special emphasis on Avestan language, Zoroastrian literature, beliefs and religious practice. Her major publications include a study of the semantics of words for 'reward' in Vedic and Avestan (2000), commentaries and annotated editions of Zoroastrian sacred texts, such as the Avestan Zamyād Yašt (1994) and the Yasna Haptanghaiti (2007), and, with Dastur F M Kotwal, a facsimile edition of the Khorde Avesta and Yasht manuscript E1. She is currently leading a team of young scholars working on an edition and translation of the Avestan and Pahlavi versions of a major Zoroastrian ritual, the Yasna.

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Course Structure
6–17 July 2015
Mon-Fri 11am–1pm & 2–4pm

Day 1 Monday

morning session: Introduction to the Avestan language and literature

afternoon session: Introduction to Avestan Grammar: sounds and script

Day 2 Tuesday

morning session: Avestan Grammar: Cases and nominal a-stems

afternoon session: Practical exercises

Day 3 Wednesday

morning session: Avestan Grammar: Thematic verbs and their conjugation & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 4 Thursday

morning session: Avestan Grammar: Nominal stems in -ah & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 5 Friday

morning session: Ablaut and Vowel Gradation; Root presents & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 6 Monday

morning session: Causative present; present participle & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 7 Tuesday

morning session: Root nouns and their inflection & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 8 Wednesday

morning session: Primary and Secondary endings; nu-presents & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 9 Thursday

morning session: Noun inflection: *i-* and *u-* stems & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

Day 10 Friday

morning session: Noun inflection: *ā-*, *ī-* and *ū-* stems & practical exercises

afternoon session: Reading of texts

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REGISTRATION FORM

Full name of the Applicant:

Nationality and Citizenship:

Passport No. (only for non-Indian citizens):

Issued on: ____/____/20____ (dd/mm/yyyy); Valid till: ____/____/20____
(dd/mm/yyyy)
(Attach copy.)

Date of Birth: ____/____/19____ (dd/mm/yyyy) Gender:

Address:

Phone Numbers with ISD codes:

Cellphone No.:

E-mail ID:

Whether the applicant requires accommodation:

Education (general):

Acquaintance with Avesta:

Photograph signed across

Signature of the Applicant

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): ____/____/2015