## Contents

Preface									•			•			•		•		•							XI
Transliteration		•							•			•					•			•						XIII
Introduction	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•			• •	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	XV

#### Part One

# LEGENDS OF THE SELF-MILKING COW AND THE BLEEDING LINGAM AS A POLYTHETIC CLASS

Ι.	The Self-milking Cow	5
	1. Variations in the motif of the self-milking cow	5
	2. Variations in other motifs of the milk legend	11
	3. Variations in the purpose of the milk legend	15
	4. Cow-milk-miracles in Indian tales other than <i>sthala purāņas</i>	19
II.	The Bleeding Lingam	23
	1. Variations in the motif of the bleeding <i>lingam</i>	24
	a) Changes regarding the vital fluid	24
	b) Other signs of life: bodily fluids and emanations	30
	c) Other signs of life: birth, growth, and movement	35
	2. Variations in other motifs of the blood legend	41
	3. The blood motif in Indian tales other than <i>sthala purānas</i>	46
<i>III</i> .	The Self-milking Cow and the Bleeding Lingam	48
	1. Substitutions, inversions, omissions and reminiscences	51
	2. Milk and blood in different "movements" of the same legend	57
	3. Milk and blood in other tales of India and neighbouring countries	60



### Part Two

## PROTOTYPICAL ELEMENTS IN LEGENDS OF THE SELF-MILKING COW AND THE BLEEDING LINGAM

Α	Culture-specific Motifs	69
Ι.	The Complex Figure of Śiva	71
	1. The female <i>lingam</i>	72
	a) Deities other than Śiva in <i>lingam</i> form	72
	b) Juggling with the opposites of male and female	73
	2. Śiva's taste for violence	77
	a) The violence of the gods directed against others	78
	b) The self-torture of the gods	78
	c) The devotee's violence in the name of the gods	79
	d) Śiva's "masochism"	81
II.	Snake and Anthill	84
	1. The snake	84
	a) Snake metaphors, similes and beliefs	85
	b) The snake in temple legends	87
	2. The anthill	93
	a) The anthill connected with deities	94
	b) The anthill in other qualities	95
III.	The Sanctity of the Cow and Her Products	99
	1. The sacred cow	99
	a) Theories of origin	99
	b) The sanctity of the cow and <i>ahimsā</i>	102
	c) The cow in temple legends	104
	2. The sacred products of the cow	106
	a) Milk metaphors and similes	107
	b) Speculations on the origin of milking in India	109
IV.	The Rite of Abhiseka	113
	1. Abhiseka as a polythetic-prototype concept	117
	2. Multiple purposes of <i>abhiseka</i>	119

В	Culture-free Motifs	122
I.	Non-Indian Parallels to Motifs in Indian Milk and Blood Legends	122
	1. Cow, milk, snakes and blood	122
	2. Miscellaneous motifs	129
		12)
II.	Colours	134
	1. Individual colours in temple legends and other contexts	134
	2. Colour combinations in temple legends and other contexts	139
	3. Mental determinism with regard to colours	142
III.	Numbers	148
	1. Favourite numbers in temple legends	148
	2. Favourite numbers in rational contexts	156
	3. Theoretical considerations on numbers in culture	158
		150
IV.	Structure and Redundance	164
	1. Contrasting dyads	164
	2. Contrasting triads	167
	3. Redundant pairs	169
	a) Identical pairs	170
	b) Pairs of similars	171
	4. Higher redundancies	174
	Final Remarks and Further Suggestions	182
	1. Myth and meaning	182
	a) Doubtful meanings of myth	182
	b) Myth and music	186
	c) Myth and dream	188
	2. The polythetic-prototype notion	189
	a) Characteristics and potentials	189
	b) Philosophical implications	192
		192
Net	es	197
	of Temple Legends used	220
		220
	liography	235 249
	ssary	
	ex	251
Plat	es	255

### IX

#### Contents