## Excerpt from:

# A Concise Elementary Grammar of the Sanskrit Language

## Jan Gonda

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#### Notes

This document contains a digitized version of the first two chapters of Gonda's book which describe the devanāgarī script and provide a reading exercise, respectively.

The font family Siddhanta has been used to render the devanāgarī characters. It was created by Mihail Bayaryn (Міхаіл Баярын) and is available for free.  $^1$ 

The *Siddhanta* font family provides multiple variations of devanāgarī glyphs. This document aims to provide Gonda's description of the devanāgarī script. Therefore glyphs have been chosen to match the original printed glyphs as closely as possible.

For some devanāgarī characters and ligatures there exist style variations. When relevant, they are included in the following manner:  $\pi$  [ $\pi$ ]. In the case of presenting a glyph that is normally added on to another glyph, a dotted circle ( $\circ$ ) is used as a placeholder to represent the latter.

<sup>1</sup>https://sites.google.com/site/bayaryn/

# THE SCRIPT

The most common of the Indic alphabets is the devanāgarī script, in which the individual signs as a rule express not only a vowel or only a consonant but a consonant with following vowel. The vowel which follows is  $\check{\alpha}$  if it is not specially designated. The devanāgarī alphabet is thus a syllabic script.

Consonant Signs with Following $\check{a}$					
Velars	क	ख	ग	घ	ङ
	ka	kha	ga	gha	$\dot{n}a$
Palatals	च	छ	ज	भ [झ]	স
	ca	cha	ja	jha	$\tilde{n}a$
Linguals	ट	ਠ	ड	ढ	ग्ग [ण]
	$\dot{t}a$	$\dot{t}ha$	$\dot{q}a$	$\dot{q}ha$	$\dot{n}a$
Dentals	त	थ	द	ਖ	न
	ta	tha	da	dha	na
Labials	प	फ	ब	ਮ	म
	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma
Semivowels	य	र	ল [ल]	व	
	ya	ra	la	va	
Sibilants	য় [হা]	ष	स		
	$\acute{s}a$	sa	sa		
Aspirate	ह				
	ha				

The visarga h is designated by a colon after the preceding letter:  $\exists sah$ ; the anusvāra m  $[m]^2$  by a dot over the preceding letter:  $\exists tam$ . m and h stand before k in the alphabet or, if they represent a nasal or sibilant, in the place of these symbols.

If the vowels stand in initial position and are not joined with the preceding consonant, then they are designated by the following signs:

ग्र [अ] 
$$a$$
, ग्रा [आ]  $\bar{a}$ , इ  $i$ , ई  $\bar{\imath}$ , उ  $u$ , ऊ  $\bar{u}$ , मृ [ऋ]  $r$ , मृ [ॠ]  $\bar{r}$ , ल  $l$ , ए  $e$ , ऐ  $ai$ , ग्रो [ओ]  $o$ , ग्रो [औ]  $au$ 

If vowels other than  $\check{a}$  are joined to the above symbols, then they are represented in the following way:

ा 
$$\bar{a}$$
 e.g. का  $k\bar{a}$ , धा  $dh\bar{a}$ , या  $y\bar{a}$  ि  $i$  e.g. चि  $ci$ , ति  $ti$ , यि  $yi$  ी  $\bar{\imath}$  e.g. नी  $n\bar{\imath}$ , भी  $bh\bar{\imath}$ , यो  $y\bar{\imath}$  ु $u$  e.g. कु  $ku$ , रु  $ru$ , शु [शु] or  $r$   $f$   $fu$  e.g. रू  $r\bar{u}$ , हू  $h\bar{u}$ , शू [शु] or  $r$   $fu$   $fu$   $fu$  e.g. कु  $fu$ , धु  $fu$ , हू  $fu$ ,  $fu$ ,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Gonda is in accordance with the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST) here, where the anusvara is transcribed with  $\dot{m}$ . However, the use of  $\dot{m}$  is also commonplace, e.g. in ISO 15919.

The omission of an initial a is designated by the avagraha  $\varsigma$ , e.g.: ते ऽपि te 'pi.

If a consonant without vowel is to be designated, then this is done by means of a stroke ्, called a virāma; e.g.: क् k, प् p, म् m.

If in a word or sentence two or more consonants immediately follow one another, then the above signs are joined in one group (ligature).

If the first of the consonants to be joined ends on the right with a vertical stroke, then it is placed first with loss of this stroke: 7 n + 7 ta: 7 n ta:

If the first consonant does not end with the vertical stroke, then the following consonant is joined under the preceding one with loss of its horizontal stroke: क k + 3 va: क kva.

Exceptions:  $\exists na$  and  $\overline{\neg}$  [ $\overline{\sigma}$ ] la as the second members of a ligature are usually placed underneath with loss of their horizontal stroke;  $\exists ma$  and  $\exists ya$  are in this case written after the first sign and in a more shortened form (s. below). Note also kta, kta, ksa, chya,  $j\tilde{n}a$ ,  $\tilde{n}ca$ ,  $\tilde{n}ja$ , nna, tta, dda, ddha, dna, dbha, pta, hna, hva.

r before a cons. and before r is designated by a hook placed above ( $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$ ); the latter stands completely to the right: rka: र्क. r after a cons. is represented by a stroke placed under it: pra: प्र. Especially to be noted: tra त्र. More than two consonants are joined according to the same rules: s. below.

## LIST OF THE MOST COMMON LIGATURES

क kka, क्ख kkha, क्त kta, क्त्य [क्ता] ktya, ऋ ktra, क्त्व [क्त] ktva, क्थ ktha, क्र kna, क्म kma, क्म kya, ऋ kra, ङ्ग [ङ्ग] kla, क्त kva, च्च [क्ष] kṣa, च्म [क्ष्म] kṣma, च्य [क्ष्य] kṣya, च्व [क्ष्व] kṣva — ख्य khya, ख khra — ग्द gda, ग्ध gdha, ग्न gna, ग्म gbha, ग्म gma, ग्य gya, ग्न gra, ग्म grya, ग्न [ग्ल] gla, ग्व gva — ग्न ghna, घ्म ghma, घ्य ghya, ग्न ghra — ङ्क ṅka, ङ्ग [ङ्ग] ṅkṣa, ङ्ग ṅga, ङ्क ṅgha, ङ्म [ङ्ग] ṅma.

च च्रि cca, च्छ ccha, च्छ cchra, च्छ cchva, ञ्च cña, च्म cma, च्य cya — छ्य chya, छ chra — ज्ञ [ञ्च] jja, ज्ञच [ञ्च] jjva, ज्ञ [ज्ञ्च] jjha, ज्ञ [ज्ञ्च] jjha, ज्ञ [ज्ञ्च] jjha, ज्ञ jja, ज्ञ्च jja, ज्ञच jja, ज्ञच

इ tka, ह ttha, ट्य tya — ठम thya, ठू thra — इ dga, ट्य dya — दा [ङ्ग] dhma, ट्य dhya — एट [ण्ट] nta, एठ [ण्ठ] ntha, एड [ण्ड] nda, एढ [ण्ड] ndha, एव track = 1 track = 1

त्क tka, त्त tta, त्य ttya, च [त्र] ttra, त्व ttva, त्य ttha, व tna, त्य tpa, त्म tma, त्य tmya, त्य tya, त्र tra, त्य trya, त्व tva, त्स tsa, त्म्न tsna, त्स्य tsya — थ्य thya — इ dga, झ dgya, झ dgra, इ dda, इ ddra, इ ddva, इ ddha, झ ddhya, झ dna, इ dba, झ dbha, झ dbhya, झ dma, च dya, झ dra, झ drya, झ dva, झ dvya — भ dhna, भ dhma, भ dhya, भ dhra, भ dhva — त्त nta, त्य ntya, त्र ntra, न्य ntha, त्य nda, च्छा nddhya, न्इ nddra, न्य ndha, न्य ndhra, त्र nna, न्म nma, न्य nya, त्र nra, न्व nva, न्स nsa.

स pta, स्य ptya, प्र pna, प्म pma, प्य pya, प्र pra, प्र प्रा pla, प्स psa — प्य phya — ब्ज [ज] bja, ब्द bda, ब्थ bdha, ब्न [ब्र] bna, ब्ब [ब्र] bba, भ bbha, ब्र bra — भ्य bhya, भ्र bhra — म्न mna, म्प mpa, म्ब mba, म्भ mbha, म्य mya, म्न mra, म्न [म्न] mla.

य्य yya, य्व yva — कं rka, र्ज rja, धं rdha — ल्क lka, ल्य lya, हा or ल्ल [ल्ल] or हा [हा] lla, ल्व lva — व्य vya, व्र vra.

श्र or श्व [श्व] śca, श्र śna, श्य [श्य] or श्य śya, श्र śra, श्र्य śrya, श्र [श्र] śla, श्र śva, श्व śvya — प्क şka, प्क şkra, ष्ट ṣta, प्ट ṣtya, ष्ट ṣtra, प्टा [प्र्य] ṣtrya, प्ट ṣtva, प्ट ṣtha, प्टा  $\verb"sta"$   $\verb"sta"$   $\verb"sta"$ , प्टा  $\verb"sta"$   $\verb"sta"$ , प्टा  $\verb"sta"$ , प्ट

ह्न [ह्न] hna, ह्न [ह] hna, ह्म hma, ह्म hya, ह्न [ह] hra, ह्न [ह] hla, [ह्न] or [Е] hva.

# Symbols for the numerals

#### WORD DIVISION

Within a sentence word division occurs if a word ends in a vowel, anusvāra or visarga and the following word begins with a cons., just as according to §§7–9; 15. Otherwise either phonetic fusion or union into one syllabic sign occurs with observance of the pertinent sandhi rules.

#### PUNCTUATION

This script depends solely on I for the designation of a minor sentence segment or the end of a half strophe, and on I to designate a large segment or the end of a strophe.

# READING EXERCISE

त्रस्माकं मुद्रशालये वेद - वेदान्त - धर्मशास्त्र - प्रयोगasmākam mudraṇālaye veda-vedānta-dharmaśāstra-prayoga-

योग - सांख्य - ज्योतिष - पुरागेतिहास - वैद्यक - मंत्र - स्तोत्रyoga-sāṃkhya-jyotiṣa-purāṇetihāsa-vaidyaka-maṃtra-stotra-

कोश - काव्य - चम्पू - नाटकालंकार - संगीत -नीति- कथाग्रंथाः  $ko\acute{s}a-k\ddot{a}vya-camp\bar{u}-n\bar{a}tak\bar{a}lamk\bar{a}ra-samg\bar{\iota}ta-n\bar{\iota}ti-kath\bar{a}gramth\bar{a}h,$ 

बहवः स्त्रीणां चोपयुक्ता ग्रंथाः बृहज्ज्योतिषार्णवनामा bahavaḥ strīṇāṃ copayuktā graṃthāḥ bṛhajjyotiṣārṇavanāmā

बहुविचित्रचित्रितोऽयमपूर्वग्रन्थः । संस्कृतभाषया bahuvicitracitrito 'yam ap $\bar{u}$ rvagranthah. sa $\bar{u}$ sk $\bar{u}$ tabh $\bar{u}$ say $\bar{u}$ 

हिन्दीमार्वाड्यन्यतरभाषाग्रन्थास्तत्तच्छास्नाद्यर्थानु-

 $hind\bar{\imath} m\bar{a}rv\bar{a}dyanyatarabh\bar{a}\\ \bar{\imath}\bar{a}granth\bar{a}stattacch\bar{a}str\bar{a}dyarth\bar{a}nu-$ 

वादकाः चित्राशि पुस्तकमुद्रशोपयोगिन्यो यावत्यस्साvādakāḥ citrāṇi pustakamudraṇopayoginyo yāvatyassāमग्र्यः स्वस्वलौकिकव्यवहारोपयोगिचित्रचित्रितालिmagryaḥ svasvalaukikavyavahāropayogicitracitritāli-

खितपत्रवत्पुस्तकानि च मुद्रयित्वा प्रकाशन्ते सुलभेन khitapatravatpustakāni ca mudrayitvā prakāśante sulabhena

मूल्येन विक्रयाय। येषां यत्राभिरुचिस्तत्तत्पुस्तकाद्यु-  $m\bar{u}lyena$   $vikray\bar{a}ya.$   $ye,\bar{a}m$   $yatr\bar{a}bhirucistattatpustak\bar{a}dyu-$ 

पलब्धय एवं नव्यतया स्वस्वपुस्तकानि मुमुद्रयिpalabdhaya evaṃ navyatayā svasvapustakāni mumudrayi-

पुभिः सुलभयोग्यमौल्येन सीसकाचरैः स्वच्छोत्तṣubhiḥ sulabhayogyamaulyena sīsakākṣaraiḥ svacchotta-

मोत्तमपत्रेषु मुद्रिततत्पुस्तकानां स्वस्वसमयानुसारे- mottamapatreṣu  $mudritatatpustak\bar{a}n\bar{a}m$   $svasvasamay\bar{a}nus\bar{a}re$ -

गोपलब्धये च पत्रिकाद्वारातैः प्रेषगीयो ऽस्मि ॥ nopalabdhaye ca patrikādvārātaiḥ preṣaṇīyo 'smi.

## Using the default glyphs of the font Siddhanta

अस्माकं मुद्रणालये वेद - वेदान्त - धर्मशास्र - प्रयोगasmākaṃ mudraṇālaye veda-vedānta-dharmaśāstra-prayoga-

योग - सांख्य - ज्योतिष - पुराणेतिहास - वैद्यक - मंत्र - स्तोत्रyoga-sāṃkhya-jyotiṣa-purāṇetihāsa-vaidyaka-maṃtra-stotra-

कोश - काव्य - चम्पू - नाटकालंकार - संगीत -नीति- कथाग्रंथाः  $ko\acute{s}a-k\ddot{a}vya-camp\ddot{u}-n\ddot{a}tak\ddot{a}lamk\ddot{a}ra-samg\ddot{\imath}ta-n\ddot{\imath}ti-kath\ddot{a}gramth\ddot{a}h,$ 

बहवः स्त्रीणां चोपयुक्ता ग्रंथाः बृहङ्ग्योतिषार्णवनामा bahavaḥ strīṇāṃ copayuktā graṃthāḥ bṛhajjyotiṣārṇavanāmā

बहुविचित्रचित्रितोऽयमपूर्वग्रन्थः । संस्कृतभाषया bahuvicitracitrito 'yam apūrvagranthaḥ. saṃskṛtabhāṣayā

हिन्दीमार्वाड्यन्यतरभाषाग्रन्थास्तत्तच्छास्राद्यर्थान्hindīmārvādyanyatarabhāṣāgranthāstattacchāstrādyarthānu-

वादकाः चित्राणि पुस्तकमुद्रणोपयोगिन्यो यावत्यस्सा-  $v\bar{a}dak\bar{a}h$   $citr\bar{a}ni$  pustakamudranopayoginyo  $y\bar{a}vatyass\bar{a}$ -

मग्र्यः स्वस्वलौकिकव्यवहारोपयोगिचित्रचित्रितालिmagryaḥ svasvalaukikavyavahāropayogicitracitritāli-

खितपत्रवत्पुस्तकानि च मुद्रयित्वा प्रकाशन्ते सुलभेन khitapatravatpustakāni ca mudrayitvā prakāśante sulabhena

मूल्येन विक्रयाय। येषां यत्राभिरुचिस्तत्तत्पुस्तकाद्युmūlyena vikrayāya. yeṣāṃ yatrābhirucistattatpustakādyu-

पलब्धय एवं नव्यतया स्वस्वपुस्तकानि मुमुद्रयिpalabdhaya evaṃ navyatayā svasvapustakāni mumudrayi-

पुभिः सुलभयोग्यमौल्येन सीसकाक्षरैः स्वच्छोत्तṣubhiḥ sulabhayogyamaulyena sīsakākṣaraiḥ svacchotta-

मोत्तमपत्रेषु मुद्रिततत्पुस्तकानां स्वस्वसमयानुसारे- mottamapatreṣu  $mudritatatpustak\bar{a}n\bar{a}m$   $svasvasamay\bar{a}nus\bar{a}re$ -

णोपलब्धये च पत्रिकाद्वारातैः प्रेषणीयो ऽस्मि ॥ nopalabdhaye ca patrikādvārātaih presaņīyo 'smi.