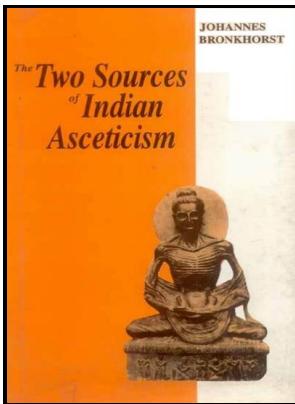


Asceticism and healing in ancient India - medicine in the Buddhist monastery

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Asceticism and Healing in Ancient India: Medicine in the Buddhist Monastery

Evidence from the medical mythology of the Atharvaveda suggests a conscious effort by savants of this tradition to combine aspects of the priestly and the medical traditions, perhaps to authorize the latter in a society dominated by the former and to make the healers equivalent to the sacrificial priests at least within the arena of medical ritual. Drawing on a wide range of literary, archaeological, and secondary sources, this portion of the study provides a comprehensive picture of ancient Indian medicine in its socioreligious context. The so-called Great Bath in the citadel area of Mohenjo-daro might have served as a special place for the higher orders to bathe and perform religious ablutions in sacred waters.

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