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V O R W O R T

SAGT mir, wie habt Ihr gedacht,
wie habt Ihr gesprochen,
habt Ihr so wie wir gelacht,
woher seid Ihr aufgebrochen?

G. Sch.

53 Autoren aus drei Kontinenten haben zu diesem Band „Indogermanica“ aktuelle Ergebnisse aus ihren jeweiligen Forschungsgebieten beigetragen. Ihrem Engagement, ihrer Mühe und ihrem Vertrauen hoffe ich mit diesem Buch zu entsprechen und danke ihnen herzlich für ihre Beiträge, die aufzeigen, wie reich das Arbeitsgebiet der Indogermanistik ist. Ihre Untersuchungen sind durchdacht und komplex, sie geben Anstöße, erschließen Zusammenhänge, sie verlangen eine intensive Lektüre, die mit der Erkenntnis der Tragweite der Ergebnisse belohnt wird. Denn da wir Menschen über die Sprache miteinander kommunizieren, ermöglicht ihre Analyse Erkenntnisse über unsere Herkunft, Entwicklung und Geschichte, die ihrerseits wiederum vielleicht dazu beitragen können, uns einander besser zu verstehen, die Kommunikation der Völker auf der Basis eines umfangreicheren Wissens voneinander zu intensivieren und zu optimieren. So mag der Blick auf die Vergangenheit eine friedliche Zukunft der universalen Menschheit ermöglichen.

Die mit mathematisch strenger Argumentation im Studiolo gewonnenen Ergebnisse der Indogermanistik sind jedoch weniger attraktiv und haptisch greifbar wie die prominent präsentierten Realien ihrer Nachbarwissenschaft, der Archäologie, die spätestens seit Erkundung der Pharaonengräber eine romantisch-mystische Schatzgräberaura umweht. Deshalb wird die Indogermanistik öffentlich nicht ihrer Bedeutung entsprechend rezipiert. In Zeiten kurzlebigen, plakativen und daher bevorzugt knapp gehaltenen „Infotainments“ ist dieses intensive Studium nach PR- und Marketingkriterien schwer zu vermitteln, erscheint es doch schon den Wissenschaftsministerien als suspektes Orchideenfach, da es nicht nach Rentabilitätsgesichtspunkten zu evaluieren ist. Rechtfertigungszwänge sind jedoch nach dem Wissenschaftverständnis im Humboldtschen Sinne nicht vorgesehen. Ohne in die Defensive oder gar in Resignation zu verfallen, ist zu beklagen, daß der renommierte Lehrstuhl für Indogermanistik an der Universität Regensburg mit dem Weggang von Prof. Dr. Gert Klingenschmitt mit dem Wintersemester 2005/2006 seinen Lehrbetrieb einstellen mußte.

Dabei ist die Vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft der Indogermanistik, der Altästik, der Semitistik, der Turkologie, Hethitologie, Etruskologie usw. ihrer Aufgabenvielfalt gewahr. Es gilt, um nur die vorrangigsten Bereiche zu nennen, frühe

INDO-IRANIAN *gar* ‘TO RAISE ALOFT’

The¹ existence of an Indo-Iranian set-root *gar* ‘to raise (one’s hand or weapon preparatory to striking)’, an etymological equivalent of Greek $\beta\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omega$ ‘to throw, hurl, hit’, is disputed in both Avestan and Vedic Studies. Thus, while some scholars, for instance MAYRHOFER, *EWAia* I 470, assume that there is sufficient evidence for a Vedic root *gar*ⁱ³ ‘ausholen (zum Schlag), aufheben (Waffe)’, a cognate of Avestan *gar* attested in the form *ni-γrāire*, others, e.g. KÜMMEL in *LIV*² 208 n. 1, reject the assumption of IIr. cognates of Greek $\beta\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omega$. In what follows I propose to examine the Avestan and Vedic evidence for such an IIr. verb.

1. Avestan *gar* ‘to raise aloft’

The only Avestan evidence for a root *gar* ‘to raise (a weapon)’ is the isolated form *ni-γrāire*, which occurs only in Yt 10.40 (twice) but, according to Geldner’s edition (Avesta II 134), without variant manuscript readings. Bartholomae, *AirWb.* 512 posits a verb *ni-gar* ‘to strike down’, of which *ni-γrāire* would be a 3pl. middle from a present stem *grā-*. The latter would be formed like the Greek aorist $\varepsilon\text{-}\beta\lambda\eta\text{-}\tau\omega$. KELLENS, *Verbe av.* 164 rightly objects that Avestan does not have either present or aorist forms of this type. It is more likely, therefore, that BAILEY’s analysis (1956, 97) is correct. He segments the word as *ni-γr-āire* (with 3pl. middle ending *-āre*).² Since the ending *-āre/-re* is primary, *niγrāire* can only be the form of a root present.³ With the preverb *ni-*, Bailey argues, the verb *ni-gar* would thus mean ‘to bring (a weapon) down upon’:

Yt 10.40
*karətacit aēšam hufrāiiuxta
yōi niγrāire sarahu mašiiākanām*

¹ I am grateful to Elizabeth Tucker (Oxford) for valuable comments on an earlier draft of this article.

² While Bailey’s alternative segmentation *ni-γrā-ire* is only possible if the underlying root ends in a laryngeal, as in the case of Grk. $\beta\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omega$, it is excluded in his own analysis because he connects *niγrāire* with the anit-root Ved. *har* ‘to take’. KÜMMEL, *Stativ und Passivaorist* 147 n. 19 rightly comments that one would expect ***γar* if the underlying root was set.

³ Although KELLENS, *Verbe av.* 164 classifies the form as belonging to a present in *-ā* (“à suffixe rare” with reference to Parth. *gr'y-* ‘to incline, slide, fall down’, NP *girāystan*), he considers a root present to be more likely in spite of the fact that no other evidence for such a present exists.

*aśəmnō.janō bauuaiti
 yaθa graṇtō upa.~tbis̄tō
 apaiti.zan̄tō miϑnāiti
 miϑrō yō vouru.gaoiiaoitish
 vazracit̄ aēšam huniuuixta
 yōi niγrāire sarahu mašiiākanqm
 aśəmnō.janō bauuaiti
 yaθa graṇtō upa.~tbis̄tō
 apaiti.zan̄tō miϑnāiti
 miϑrō yō vouru.gaoiiaoitish*

Their very swords, well wielded,
 which are brought down on the heads of men,
 do not slay with the blade⁴
 because Mithra of wide cattle-pastures,
 who has not been acknowledged, remains⁵ enraged, provoked.
 Their very cudgels, well directed,
 which are brought down on the heads of men,
 do not slay with the blade
 because Mithra of wide cattle-pastures,
 who has not been acknowledged,
 remains enraged, provoked.

The Avestan form *niγrāire* would thus attest a root present of *gar* ‘to raise (one’s hand or weapon preparatory to striking)’ which, according to Bailey, forms a reduplicated present *jīgharti* in Vedic. More importantly, he equates the Av. phrase *vazra° ... niγrāire* (Yt 10.40) with the Ved. expression *vájram á jigharti* (RV 5.48.3) which he translates as ‘he brings the club down upon’. While GRASSMANN 421 regards *jigharti* in RV 5.48.3 and 4.17.14 as a present of the root *ghar* ‘to drip, sprinkle’, which here would have the meaning ‘to throw’, BAILEY 1956, 98 f. points out the semantic difficulty presented by such divergent meanings and, taking up Geldner’s earlier suggestion, posits a separate Vedic root *ghar*, which would be a variant of *har* ‘to take’.⁶

⁴ If it is accepted that in the course of transmission of the text metathesis of *-nm-* to *-mn-* occurred, possibly under the influence of the middle participles’ suffix, then the first member of the compounds *aśəmnō.jan-* ‘not slaying with the blade’ and *aśəmnō.vid-* ‘not piercing with the blade’ is *śanman-* ‘blade’. Av. *śanman-* has been equated by both Humbach and Henning with Ved. *ksádman-* ‘blade’, see KELLENS, *Noms-racines* 71 f., MAYRHOFER, *EWAia* I 422 with references.

⁵ The form *miϑnāiti* belongs to the verb *mit* ‘to remain, rest’, see KELLENS, *Verbe av.* 177 with n. 11.

⁶ GELDNER, *Rig-Veda* III 128 ad 10.6.4 d; II 54 ad 5.48.3 b. BAILEY 1956, 98 also notes that Geldner does not refer to Iranian. That Av. *gar* ‘prendre’ corresponds to Ved. *har* is also suggested by BENVENISTE, *Journal Asiatique* 225, 1934, 178–180, but the Av. compounds with *aibī*, adduced by him, belong to *gar* ‘to welcome’, see KELLENS, *Noms-racines* 21–27,

Bailey’s equation of Ved. *ghar* ‘to take’ with Av. *gar* in *niγrāire* requires the assumption that the supposed Vedic variant *har* ‘to take’ begins with either a pure or labio-velar and that Av. *niγrāire* is to be separated from both Vedic *apa-garⁱ* ‘to raise (one’s hand or weapon preparatory to striking)’ and Greek βάλλω ‘to throw, hurl, hit’. A morphological problem, not addressed by Bailey, is posed by there being both a reduplicated (Ved. *jighar-*) and a root present (Av. *niγrāire*) for the same root IIr. **ghar*. This is on the basis of one example apiece, for the other instance adduced by BAILEY 1956, 96 for Av. *gar* ‘to take’ belongs to homonymous *gar* ‘to welcome’.⁷ Furthermore, in the context of RV 5.48.3 a special use of *jigharti* ‘to drip, sprinkle’ would be plausible, because the verb forms part of a metaphor in which the *vájra-* is a figure for the Soma extracted with the pressing stones:

RV 5.48.3

á grávabhir ahanyébbhir aktúbhír váriṣṭham vájram á jigharti māyíni /

In the daylight he (the god-fearing man) squirts⁸ the choicest mace (i. e. Soma) down upon the magic one with the pressing stones.

The root *ghar* ‘to drip’ could also underly the form *jigharti* in RV 4.17.14, where the object *vájra-* is probably implied, although there is no reference to any liquid:

RV 4.17.14

ayám cakrám iṣanat súryasya ny étaśam rīramat sasrmāṇám /
á kṛṣṇá īm juhurāṇó jigharti tvacó budhné rájaso asyá yónau //

This one here spun the wheel of the sun, he stopped Etaśa who had sprung forth.⁹ Being angry,¹⁰ he “sprinkles” it (i. e. the *vajra-*) upon the black (horse), on the bottom of the skin, in the lap of his aerial world.¹¹

NARTEN, YH 88-90. Support for Bailey’s analysis could derive from the use of the Vedic compound *pra-har*, which according to E. TICHY (in SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 120 n. 332) is the technical term for threatening with a weapon. However, the two passages referred to contain rather forms of the verb *pra-bhar* (*prá bharā* RV 1.61.12, *vrtráya prá vadhmám jabhāra* RV 2.30.3 quoted below p. 254).

⁷ See preceding footnote.

⁸ ATKINS 1950, 36 translates ‘sprinkles, squirts’; OLDENBERG, *Noten* I 345 ‘spritzt er den trefflichsten Vajra (den Soma)’; RENOU 1954, 382: ‘(Indra) throws the *vájra* on the demon by sprinkling it (against him)’.

⁹ The form *sasrmāṇám*, which is a perfect participle formed with the thematic suffix *-māna-*, occurs here instead of the expected athematic *sasrāṇá-*, see NARTEN 1969, 81 f. (= *Kl. Schr.* 128), KÜMMEL, *Perfekt* 552, 602 (with two different translations of the perfect participle).

¹⁰ As argued convincingly by INSLER 1968, *juhurāṇó* is a perfect participle from *harⁱ* ‘to be angry’ and not, as previously assumed by other scholars, from *hvar* ‘to go astray, deviate’; see also KÜMMEL, *Perfekt* 602.

¹¹ Translation of padas b-d after INSLER 1968, 222, who renders *jigharti* as ‘strikes’.

BURROW 1957a, 136 f. objects to Bailey's supposition of a variant *ghar* on the grounds that *har* 'to take' forms a perfect *jahāra*.¹² Instead, he posits another new root *ghar* 'to whirl, brandish, swing (a weapon)' with a past participle *ghūrṇa-* 'whirled, brandished, swung'¹³ for those passages discussed by Bailey where the meaning of *ghar*, *jīgharti* appears difficult to reconcile with *ghar* 'to sprinkle'. Burrow further objects that Bailey does not account for Ved. *garī* 'to raise (one's hand or weapon preparatory to striking)' which would go very well with Greek *βάλλω* and also yield a reasonable equivalent of Av. *gar* in *niγrāire*. Consequently he retains the old equation of Av. *gar* in *niγrāire* with the Vedic verb *garī* (*gur*), whose meaning he posits as 'to propel'.

The only alleged Avestan cognate of this root, Yt 10.40 *niγrāire*, is eliminated by INSLER 1967. Elaborating on an earlier suggestion by Windischmann,¹⁴ he emends *niγrāire* to ^x*niγnāire*, thus retrieving a 3pl. stative of the common root *jan* 'to slay', of which a 3sg. stative *niγne* is attested in Yt 10.104 (= Y 57.29).¹⁵ Insler argues that the transmitted form *niγrāire* involved a scribal error "due to the very close orthographic similarity between the signs for *r* and *n* in the Avestan script system" (p. 262). He does not, however, adduce examples of the alleged confusion of the signs. Instead, he supports his emendation with a syntactic argument. In Vedic, the verb *ni-han* may participate in three different syntactic figures. In the most common, the weapon utilized is in the accusative as the object of the verb while the person or bodily part struck with the weapon is in the locative. Since this syntactic construction is also found in Yt 10.40 and 101, Insler reconstructs an Indo-Iranian expression **ni tásmi vázram jhanti* 'he strikes the cudgel down on him' (p. 264).

The proposal yields a text which is immaculate, syntactically plausible and with a verbal form fitting well into the paradigm of the root *jan* 'to slay'. But perhaps the strongest argument in favour of the emendation is, as pointed out by INSLER, *ibid.* 260 f., the fact that the distribution of the old stative ending *-āre/-re* is very limited in Avestan. Apart from the disputed form, there are only ^o*mruuāire* from *mrū* 'to speak', *sōire* (= Ved. *sére*) from *si* 'to lie' and *åghāire* from *āh* 'to sit'.¹⁶ While statives of these three roots and of *jan* 'to slay' are well documented, such a formation would be difficult to justify for an isolated root *gar* 'to raise (one's hand or weapon preparatory to striking)' otherwise unattested in

¹² Along similar lines, MAYRHOFER, *EWAia* II 804 comments that *har* probably does not have forms with **ghar*.

¹³ More details on this are given by MAYRHOFER, *EWAia* I 515.

¹⁴ WINDISCHMANN, *Mithra* 35.

¹⁵ A full list of references to Insler's predecessors adopting this interpretation is given by KELLENS, *Noms-racines* 152 n. 3. The emendation is favourably considered by him, *Verbe av.* 164, and accepted, for instance, by KÜMMEL, *Stativ und Passivaorist* 147 and in *LIV* 186 n. 1.

¹⁶ HOFFMANN/FORSSMAN p. 203.

Avestan. Insler's syntactic argument, however, although superficially attractive, is not quite so compelling because the construction involving the weapon in the accusative and the object hit in the locative is also found in the case of other roots from this semantic field. For instance, it holds equally well for Bailey's Vedic cognate *jigharti*. More seriously, there is the palaeographic observation, not addressed by Insler, that the signs *n* and *r* are not usually confused.¹⁷ The spelling of *w*, *n*, ‘ and *r* by the same vertical stroke in the Pahlavi script was disambiguated by the inventor of the Avesta script. While the vertical stroke is used for *n* only, *r* is graphically represented by the letter *l* of the Pahlavi script.¹⁸ As a result, in the extant manuscripts *n* and *r* differ distinctively in so far as *n* is either a straight or a wavy short vertical stroke while the upper part of *r* slants upwards to the left and rises well above the main body of the text.

A graphic confusion of *r* and *n* being unlikely, the emendation could be made plausible with the phonetic argument that *✗niγnāire* was assimilated to *niγrāire* during the course of oral tradition, possibly under the influence of Mithra's epithet *grantaō*, which occurs repeatedly in the context of the verbal form.¹⁹ The postulated assimilation of *✗niγnāire* to *niγrāire* should have resulted from a Vulgate pronunciation which at some point entered the manuscript tradition of F1's ancestors. Such corruption would have happened fairly early in the transmission of the text because of the consistent spelling with *-r-* in the manuscripts belonging to the F1-line. Although GELDNER, *Avesta* II 134 does not record any variant readings, a manuscript which he did not have at his disposal when editing the Avesta does yield decisive support to Insler's emendation: a spelling with *-n-* is attested in ms. J 18 of J. M. JamaspAsa's collection, where the reading is *niγnāiri* the first time (fol. 138v l. 4) and *niγrāira* the second (fol. 138v l. 9). Although J 18, dating from 1827 A. D., is a recent and often incorrect manuscript, the reading with *-n-* is likely to be lectio difficilior because the unique position taken by J 18 is confirmed by numerous other instances of variant readings which suggest that this manuscript was either influenced by, or even belonged to, a tradition independent of F1.²⁰ Since all mss. of the F1-line transmit the reading with *-r-*,

¹⁷ Cf. also the cautioning comment by KELLENS, *Noms-racines* 152 n. 3. There is, however, rare evidence for confusion of *r* and *n* in Yt 15.53, where K40 has *vimərəkore* whereas F1 and other mss. have *vimanəkarə*. Confusion of the two signs is assumed by HUMBACH 1973, 188 in Vd 18.4, where he emends *aštrqm ✗ainīm* for *aštrqm mairīm* edited without variants by GELDNER, *Avesta* III 112.

¹⁸ HOFFMANN 1971, 72 (= *Aufs.* I 324).

¹⁹ I owe some clarification of this point to a discussion with P. O. SKJÆRVØ.

²⁰ The manuscript is described by HINTZE, *Zamyād-Yašt* 56 and 1989, 45-48. Another Khorde Avesta and Yašt codex, J19, of J. M. JamaspAsa's collection was equally not at Geldner's disposition, but, like J18, was kindly made available to me by Dastur Dr. K. M. JAMASPASA. Yt 10.40 is on fol. 198r l. 3-7, but unfortunately, the first section from *karətacit* to *vouru.gaoiaoitīš* has been omitted by the scribe. In the second half of the stanza, beginning with *vazracit*, the reading of the verbal form is corrupt: *ne garāre*

that with *-n-* must belong to a tradition independent from the F1-line. In view of this new manuscript evidence, on the one hand, and of the morphological problems involved in positing a rare (stative) formation for an otherwise unattested Avestan root *gar*, on the other, it seems preferable on balance to accept Insler's suggestion. His assertive concluding comment that the emendation of *niγrāire* to *✗niγnāire* "should be adopted by all those working with Avestan material" (p. 264), is therefore justified.

Although the emended 3pl. form *✗niγnāire* fits well into the paradigm alongside a 3sg. stative *niγne*, the question remains as to why a root with punctual-terminative meaning like *jan* 'to hit, slay' takes stative endings. This problem is to be seen in connection with the root present formed by Av. *jan*, Ved. *han*. From a theoretical point of view, the root present is equally unexpected because Indo-Iranian action verbs which form athematic root presents usually have stative, durative or iterative verbal character. GARCÍA-RAMÓN 1998, 141, 146 f. consequently postulates that IE **g^when*, like other action verbs, originally had durative-iterative verbal character 'to hit repeatedly'. Under certain circumstances, the meaning 'to hit repeatedly' could become 'to slay, to kill'. Such an assumption of the root's durative-iterative verbal character would account for the forms of an athematic root present in both Vedic and Avestan, on the one hand, and for those with stative endings, attested in Avestan only, on the other. In Yt 10.40 the syntactic context of the stative *✗niγnāire* suggests the meaning '(the swords/maces) are struck repeatedly (on the heads of the mortals)'.

2. Vedic *garⁱ* 'to raise aloft'

In Vedic, forms which some scholars connect with an IIr. root *garⁱ* 'to raise (one's hand or weapon preparatory to striking)',²¹ are considered by others to belong to the homonymous root *garⁱ* (*gur*) 'to welcome, honour, praise'.²² Members of the latter group argue that when compounded with the preverb *ápa* the root *garⁱ* (*gur*) acquires the opposite meaning 'to blame, revile, abuse', just like the verb *ápa-vad* in Vedic Prose. The compound *apa-gur* would therefore denote the utterance of verbal abuse immediately prior to the physical attack.

Yet already the Dhātupāṭha records a separate root *garⁱ* (*gur*) 'to raise (a weapon)', glossed as *udyamane* 'raise aloft', in addition to *garⁱ* (*gur*) 'to welcome, honour, praise' and *garⁱ* (*gir*) 'to swallow'. Moreover, Sāyana comments on RV 5.32.6 *apagūryā*: *ūrdhvam vajram udyamya apagūryā* '(means) having raised the cudgel'. SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 117 n. 318, 118 suggests that Sāyana may

(fol. 198r l. 4). The readings of J19 often agree with J10 rather than F1.

²¹ For instance GELDNER, *Rig-Veda* II 31, WACKERNAGEL/DEBRUNNER 1942, 159 and MAYRHOFER, *EWAia* I 470.

²² For instance by BÖHTLINGK/ROTH, *PW* II 766 f., GRASSMANN 402 f., DELBRÜCK, *Ai Syntax* 447, and more recently by SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 116-122 whose conclusions are accepted, for instance, by KÜMMEL, *Stativ und Passivaorist* 147 n. 19; *LIV²* 208 n. 1.

have based his interpretation on the Dhātupāṭha gloss and, moreover, may also have misunderstood it in so far as the true sense of the gloss *udyamane* is ‘to raise one’s voice’. That is the meaning of the verb *ud-yam* in two Rigvedic passages where it occurs with the object *vácas-* ‘word, speech’. Against this view, however, is the context of RV 5.32.6-7, where not only does *apa-gur* occur but so also does *ud-yam* with the clear meaning ‘to raise a weapon’ (*vádhara-*):

RV 5.32.6

tám cin mandānó vṛṣabháḥ sutásyoccair índro apagúryā jaghāna //
Indra, the bull, intoxicated by the pressed (Soma), having raised (his arm) aloft,²³
slew precisely this one.

RV 5.32.7

úd yád índro mahaté dānaváya vádhar yámīṣṭa sáho ápratítam /
yád im vájrasya prábhṛtau dadábhā víśvasya jantór adhamám cakāra //
When Indra raised his murderous-weapon, his unopposed force, against the mighty
Dānu-son, when he outwitted him in brandishing the cudgel, he made him the
lowest of all creatures.

Stanza 7 clarifies stanza 6 in so far as *úd* . . . *vádhar yámīṣṭa* explains *apagúryā*, i. e. in the way that Sāyaṇa understood it. Moreover, the passage mentions a trick used by Indra against his enemy (*yád im vájrasya prábhṛtau dadábhā* ‘when he outwitted him in brandishing the cudgel’). Narten convincingly interprets this verse as alluding to a special technique employed by Indra when fighting against Vṛtra.²⁴ His ploy is referred to as *māyā-* in other, less explicit passages, such as RV 1.80.7 and RV 1.32.4:

RV 1.32.4

yád indráhan prathamajáṁ áhīnām á̄n māyínām ámināh protá māyáh /
When you, O Indra, slew the first-born of the dragons, then you outwitted even
the deceptions of the deceitful ones.

The same device further used by Indra against his enemy is also referred to in the context of the second attestation of *apa-gur* in RV 5.29.4:

RV 5.29.4

ád ródasī vitarám ví škabhāyat samvivyānás cid bhiyáse mrgám kah /
jígartim índro apajárgurānah práti śvasántam áva dānavám han //
Then he stemmed heaven and earth apart. Having cloaked himself he frightened
the wild animal. Indra, raising (his arm), slew the voracious, hissing Dānu-son.

²³ SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 116 interprets *uccaih* as ‘loud’ which would characterize a *verbum dicendi*. However, in the Samhitās (here and in the Atharva Veda) the form has the local meaning ‘high’, the metaphorical use ‘loud’ being attested only from Vedic Prose onwards.

²⁴ NARTEN 1988-90, 148 n. 14 (= *Kl.Schr.* 386). On the practice of deception or trickery as applied in combat, see INSLER 1969, 23-24, where the relevant expression in RV 5.32.7 is translated as ‘when he tricked him into the impact of the cudgel’. On *pra-bhar* as a technical term for threatening with a weapon, see above p. 3 n. 6.

The perfect participle *samvivyānāḥ* ‘having cloaked himself’ describes the trick which Indra used to frighten Vṛtra. More details are found in RV 2.30.3:

RV 2.30.3

*ūrdhvó hy ásthād ádhy antárikṣé 'dhā vṛtráya prá vadham jahhāra /
mīham vásāna úpa hím ádudrot tigmáyudho ajayac chátrum índrah //*

For he stood upright in the sky and thrust his murderous-weapon at Vṛtra. Enveloping himself in a cloud he had run up to him. Having a sharp weapon, Indra defeated the enemy.

GELDNER, *Rig-Veda* I 313 interprets *mīham vásānah* ‘enveloping himself in a cloud’ as referring to a ploy by *Vṛtra*. However, apart from the awkward change of subject that this involves, RV 5.29.4 *samvivyānāḥ* confirms that it was Indra who was cloaked in a cloud while approaching the serpent in order to slay it. It is in this situation that the verb *apa-gur* occurs, immediately preceding Indra’s action of ‘slaying’ (*han*) the serpent.

In any case, the passages quoted suggest that Indra employed a physical trick rather than a verbal one – as would be implied if *apa-gur* meant ‘to revile, abuse’ – in the situation immediately preceding the act of slaying. Moreover, none of the innumerable allusions in the RV to his great feat mentions that the god made an insulting speech before slaying the serpent. In its two Rigvedic attestations (RV 5.29.4 and 5.32.6), *apa-gur* occurs as an absolute and a participle respectively, without object but qualifying the verb *han* in both instances. The syntactic context suggests that the action denoted by *apa-gur* immediately precedes, and forms part of, that expressed by the verb *han*.

Not only in the Rigveda but also in Vedic Prose forms of *apa-gur* occur in the textual vicinity of the verb *han* ‘to slay’. From the Taittirīya Saṃhitā onwards, forms of *gur* with prefixes *apa*, *ava* and *ud* appear particularly in legal contexts where *apa-gur* denotes an action immediately preceding a physical attack. It describes the first of three stages by which one person inflicts bodily injury on another with a weapon. The verbs characterizing the different stages are *ápā-gur* for the one before the attack, *ní-han* ‘to strike down’ for the second stage referring to the blow with a weapon, and finally *lohitam kṛ* ‘to shed blood’, describing the effects of the blow.²⁵

A comparable distinction is also found in Zoroastrian law where special terms for various offences, defined in Vd 4.17-43, N 42 and FiO 25b (= KLINGENSCHMITT, FiO § 699-704), form part of its legal terminology. While there are some differences between the lists of the Videvdad and that of the Farhang-ī ōīm, the latter enumerates six offences in order of increasing gravity. The Middle Persian terms are *āgrift*, *ōirišt*, *arduš*, *xwar*, *bāzā-zanišnīh* and *yād*. All concern physical attack and any possible injury resulting therefrom. The mildest one, *āgrift* (‘glpt,

²⁵ The relevant passages are quoted by OERTEL, 1931, 287f.; BURROW 1957 b, 9-11; SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 117f.

Av. *āgərəpta-* from *ā-grab* ‘to seize’), is committed by rising up to grasp a weapon (*snaθəm usəhištaiti* Vd 4.17) with the intention of hitting an innocent person (KLINGENSCHMITT § 699, Vd 4.18-21). The second, *ōrišt* (+’*wwylšt*, Av. *auuaoirišta-* from *auua-uruuaēs* ‘to turn (a weapon) towards, against someone’, AirWb. 168f.) denotes the offence of wielding a weapon against such a one (FiO § 700, Vd 4.21-25). The Videvdad explains that one attacks (*yat̄ frašusaiti* Vd 4.17) with a weapon turned against another person (*auua-uruuaēs*). The third, Av. *arəduš-*, MP *arduš* (’*ldwš*), applies when one actually hits another person with a weapon with the intention of inflicting an injury (*aēnō.manayha paiti.ašnaoiti* Vd 4.17) but without causing a visible wound (FiO § 701, *arədusa snaθa jaiṇti* Vd 4.26, 29). As suggested by BARTHOLOMAE, AirWb. 194, the noun *arədus-* belongs with the Vedic verb *ard*, the meaning of which was established by GOTŌ as ‘to stagger, lurch, flounder’.²⁶ Both the Vedic cognate and the position taken by the Av. term *arəduš-* in the hierarchy of physical attacks suggest that *arəduš-snaθa-* denotes a stroke which causes the victim to shake and lose balance but without being visibly wounded (*xvara-*).

The fourth offence entails a visible injury, *xvara-* (FiO 702), of which the Videvdad distinguishes three types. One does not bleed (*yō narəm viñrūməṇtəm x'arəm jaiṇti* ‘the one who strikes a man a wound that does not bleed’ Vd 4.30, 33), the second does (*tacat̄.vohunīm x'arəm jaiṇti* ‘he strikes a wound characterized by running blood’ Vd 4.34, 36) and the third one results in a broken bone (*astō.biðəm x'arəm jaiṇti* ‘he strikes a wound characterized by a broken bone’ Vd 4.37, 39). Of the latter, the FiO distinguishes two types. As convincingly argued by Gert Klingenschmitt, the specific case of hitting and injuring someone’s arm is called *bāzujata-* in Av. and rendered into Pahlavi as *b'c'y znšnyh* (*bāzā-zanišnh*, also written *b'c'y MHYTWN-šnyh*, KLINGENSCHMITT § 703 with n. 2, N 42), while the other one, Av. *yāta-*, Pahl. *y't lwbsn /yād rawišn/*, entails doing the same to someone’s leg (§ 704, N 42). The fifth and final offence is a fatal stroke (*frazābaodajhəm snaθəm jaiṇti* ‘he strikes a fatal stroke’ Vd 4.40, 43).²⁷

²⁶ GOTŌ, *I. Präsensklasse* 102-104 and 1993, 119f., cf. also *LIV*² 223f. The Vedic causative *ardāya-* ‘make shake violently, set in violent motion, shake to pieces’ appears both with *vitrám* and the demons destroyed by Indra as direct objects, see JAMISON, *áya-Formations* 107 with n. 2, GOTŌ, *I. Präsensklasse* 104. Accordingly, *arəduš-* is a derivative with suffix *-uš-* from the root *ard* ‘to shake’. The suffix *-uš-* attached directly to the root has the same function as *-as-* and denotes the carrying out of the action expressed by the verbal root (*AiGr.* II 2 pp. 229, 489). In the expression *arəduš-snaθa-* the syntactic relationship between the two nouns is that of an apposition if *arəduš-* is a substantive. Alternatively, *arəduš-* could also function as an adjective, cf. on adjectives in *-us-* *AiGr.* II 2 p. 490f.

²⁷ According to BARTHOLOMAE 1899, 6 n. 1 and AirWb. 1005 n. 3, *fra-zā-* in *frazā-baođah-* stands for *fra-zyā-* and comes from *zyā* ‘to harm’, thus also DUCHESNE-GUILLEMIN, *Composés* 72. It is more likely, however, that the compound contains the root *zā* ‘to leave behind’. The Ved. equivalent *hā* forms a compound *fra-hā* ‘to leave, desert, abandon, quit’ and a feminine root noun *prahá-* which occurs as a technical gambling term denoting an ‘advantage’, but whose precise meaning is difficult to determine, see SCARLATA,

Although different vocabularies are used in Iranian and Vedic, the first two stages of the Zoroastrian system, preceding the actual attack and denoted by Av. *āgərəpta-* (Pahl. *āgrift*) and *auuaoirišta-* (Pahl. *ōirišt*) respectively, resemble *apa-gur* in Vedic law. Av. *arəduš-* (Pahl. *arduš*) and the blow to produce a non-bleeding wound, Av. *vīxrūmant- x^vara-*, correspond to the Vedic second stage denoted by *ni-han* ‘to strike down’, while the varieties of Av. *x^vara-* (Pahl. *xwar*) involving blood as well as the ‘fatal blow’, Av. *frazābaodah- snaϑa-*, agree with Vedic *lohitam kr* ‘to shed blood’. The Vedic and Avestan correspondences are summarized in the following table:

Types of physical injury in Vedic and Avestan

Stage	Offence	Vedic	Avestan
One: Preparing for an assault	Seizing a weapon with the intention of physical attack	<i>apa-gur</i> ‘to raise (one’s hand or weapon preparatory to striking)’	<i>āgərəpta-</i> seize a weapon <i>auuaoirišta-</i> turn a weapon against a person
Two: Carrying out an assault without shedding blood	Hitting a person with a weapon but without shedding any blood	<i>ni-han</i> ‘to strike down’	<i>arəduš-</i> <i>snaϑa-</i> a stroke which causes the person hit to shake and lose balance
Three: Carrying out an assault with shedding blood	Hitting a person with a weapon so as to shed blood	<i>lohitam kr</i> ‘to shed blood’	<i>x^vara-</i> <i>tacat.vohunīm</i> a bleeding injury <i>x^vara-</i> <i>astō.bid-</i> injury resulting in fracture: 1. <i>bāzujata-</i> of the arm 2. <i>yāta-</i> of the leg
			<i>frazābaodah- snaϑa-</i> a fatal stroke

As in the Rig-Vedic passages, in Vedic Prose the action denoted by *apa-gur* immediately precedes that expressed by the verb *han*. That such action consists in raising one’s arm in preparation for a stroke is suggested by the position taken by Ved. *apa-gur* in the classification of physical injuries. Like Av. *āgərəpta-* and

Wurzelkomposita 698-700. As an exocentric compound and an epithet of a blow or strike (*snaϑa-*), the literal meaning of *frazābaodah-* is ‘characterized by leaving perception’. That perception (*baodah-*) leaves the body at the moment of death, is stated in Vd 7.2 *išarə pasca para.iristīm ... us haca baodō aiiāt̄* ‘immediately after death ... perception will go away from (the body).’

auuaoirišta-, it denotes the handling of a weapon in preparation for a physical attack.

3. Conclusion

This investigation shows that while the alleged Avestan evidence for *gar* ‘to raise (one’s hand or weapon preparatory to striking)’ has to be abandoned, forms of this root *are* attested in Vedic. There remains, however, the semantic problem of how to reconcile the meaning of Vedic *gar* with that of Greek *βάλλω*. The latter refers to ‘hitting by throwing’ using a weapon such as a spear, stone or arrow²⁸ while, as rightly pointed out by KELLENS, *Noms-racines* 151 n. 3, the cudgel is a weapon which is not thrown but held in the hand when striking an enemy. Yet in spite of their different use, Vedic *gar* and Greek *βάλλω* are semantically close since both describe aspects of an action aimed at hitting an enemy with a weapon either held in or released from the hand. If the two verbs are etymologically related, the older Greek application would be that of hitting by throwing a weapon such as a spear or a stone, while the shooting of an arrow would be a later use. In order to achieve the maximum impact of the weapon thrown – at least as far as spear and stone are concerned – the aggressor has to raise his arm forcefully and aim precisely. This part of the action, which is essential and decisive for its success, is denoted in Vedic by *gar*, reinforced by the preverb *apa* ‘away’. The path of the weapon from the aggressor’s hand to the enemy remains outside his control regardless of whether the weapon is hurled through the air or forcefully struck down on the victim while being held in the hand. In both forms of aggression, the success of the blow entirely depends on the preparatory stage of raising the arm and aiming precisely. Such stage is highlighted by the Vedic verb *apa-gur*, while the meaning of Greek *βάλλω* focuses on the success of the action when the victim is hit.

It may therefore be suggested that in IE the root **gʷelh₁* denoted the action of raising an arm with a weapon in one’s hand in order to hit an enemy. The weapon could either be used to strike the victim while being retained in the aggressor’s hand or released and thrown through the air. In Greek, a semantic specialization took place in which the meaning was narrowed down to hitting an enemy with a weapon thrown at them. In Vedic the verb has become obsolete, presumably because of pressure from the homonymous roots *gar* ‘to welcome’ and *gar* ‘to swallow’. The verb in its original meaning survives only in two Rigvedic attestations and later as a legal technical term denoting, like its antecedent in the Rigveda, the forceful raising of one’s arm preparatory to striking with a weapon.

²⁸ TICHY 1979, 201 f.; SCHAEFER, *Intensivum* 119 with references.

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