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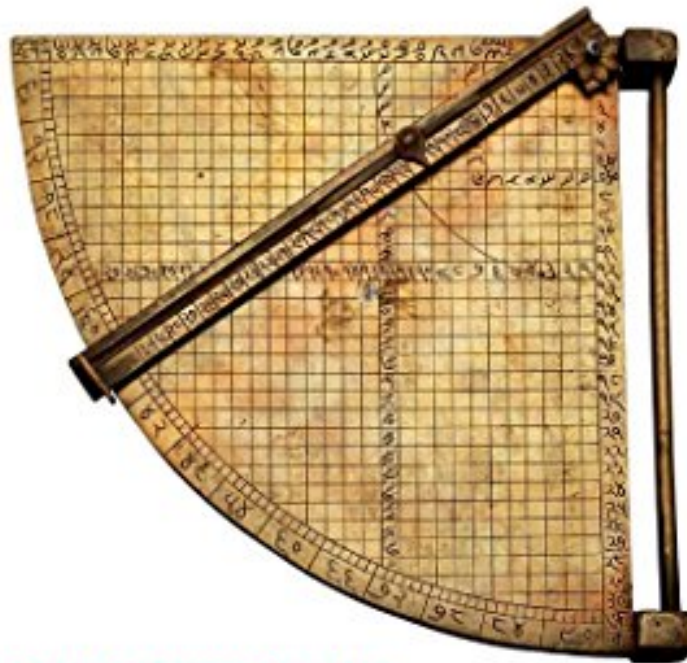
The Siddhntasundara of Jnarja: An English Translation with Commentary

Toke Lindegaard Knudsen

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The Siddhāntasundara of Jñānarāja **An English Translation with Commentary**



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Toke Lindegaard Knudsen : The Siddhntasundara of Jnarja: An English Translation with Commentary before

purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Siddhantasundara of Jnarja: An English Translation with Commentary*:

A treasure for anyone interested in early modern India and the history of mathematics, this first English translation of the *Siddhantasundara* reveals the fascinating work of the scholar-astronomer Jnarja (circa 1500 C.E.). Toke Lindegaard Knudsen begins with an introduction to the traditions of ancient Hindu astronomy and describes what is known of Jnarja's life and family. He translates the Sanskrit verses into English and offers expert commentary on the style and substance of Jnarja's treatise. The *Siddhantasundara* contains a comprehensive exposition of the system of Indian astronomy, including how to compute planetary positions and eclipses. It also explores deep, probing questions about the workings of the universe and sacred Hindu traditions. In a philosophical discussion, the treatise seeks a synthesis between the cosmological model used by the Indian astronomical tradition and the cosmology of a class of texts sacred in Hinduism. In his discourse, which includes a discussion of the direction of down and adhesive antipodeans, Jnarja rejects certain principles from the astronomical tradition and reinterprets principles from the sacred texts. He also constructs a complex poem on the seasons, many verses of which have two layers of meaning, one describing a season, the other a god's activities in that season. The *Siddhantasundara* is the last major treatise of Indian astronomy and cosmology to receive serious scholarly attention, Knudsen's careful effort unveils the 500-year-old Sanskrit verses and shows the clever quirkiness of Jnarja's writing style, his keen use of mathematics, and his subtle philosophical arguments.

"The book is an important contribution to a long scholarly tradition, and the author's effort and expertise are both first-rate. Translation and commentary projects like this one are the indispensable contributions that most influence and enable future progress in better understanding this ancient history and culture." (Dennis W. Duke, Florida State University)"This book is a very important contribution to the history of mathematics. The author deserves compliments for his efforts and expertise. The book also demonstrates the knowledge and wisdom of ancient Indian mathematicians and their mathematical skills. There is an urgent need to preserve original manuscripts in Sanskrit. The reviewer strongly recommends Knudsen's book to all those who are interested in the history of astronomy and mathematics." (Girish Kumar Ramaiah Zentralblatt Math)"This is a scholarly yet readily readable work of great merit... In this text the multi-layered complexities have been superbly unpicked with the author's crystal clear writing giving interpretations in a rigorous yet accessible style. The original poetry is often crafted by the translator into a pleasing English verse... This is a fascinating and well written scholarly text which acts as a welcome reminder that the Indian astronomical tradition is of great mathematical value independent of its parallel applications in Indian astrology." (Kevin J. Davis Mathematical Gazette)"Opens new doors of research, understanding and challenges for the scholarly community." (S.L. Singh Mathematical s)"... this is an admirable piece of work and a very welcome addition to the English-language literature on Indian astral sciences." (Journal for the History of Astronomy)About the AuthorToke Lindegaard Knudsen is an assistant professor of mathematics at State University of New York at Oneonta.