

Preface

As the Classically-trained daughter of a Protestant pastor and as the author of a book on the concept of “reward” in the *Rigveda* and the *Avesta*, ALMUT HINTZE is very familiar with the phrase “the reward of the righteous” both in the *New Testament* and in the *Avesta*: μισθὸν δικαίου (Matthew 10.41); *miždəm ašaōnəm* (Y 1.25). In both Christian and Zoroastrian contexts, the “reward of the righteous” is of course the promise of eternal life: *ahlawān pad kardārīh pādāšn ī jāwēdān* “the righteous (receive) eternal reward for their actions”, as we read in the *Dēnkard* (Dk 5.8.10). A collection of essays such as the present volume cannot lay claim to immortality, academic papers being more ephemeral than eternal. Nevertheless, the editors and authors of this volume would like to present it to their dear colleague ALMUT as a modest reward for the many scholarly contributions with which she has enriched our studies. May she graciously accept it as a *pādāšn*, a “gift in return” for the many gifts she has bestowed on us and on our field of study.

It is our pleasant duty to express our thanks to all those who have made this volume possible: to ALMUT’s friends and colleagues who enthusiastically contributed so many excellent papers, to KIAN KAHROM for his meticulous typesetting, and to JOE CRIBB, to the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT), to the Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum (CII), to the Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l’Oriente (ISMEO), and to the Societas Iranologica Europaea (SIE), for providing generous subsidies towards the publication costs.

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The Editors