

# Review of: "Designing a Hypothetical Model of Fourfold Vedic Music Therapy (FVMT) from the Aśvamedhic Uttaramandrā-Gāthā"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article provides an intriguing idea, and there are good reasons why this part of the rite could be one of the starting points of music therapy. The connections between Ayurvedic medicine and the choice/nature of music are well presented, also the requirements for songs performed by the king and priests. However, what needs to be included is proof of the king's mental state during the ritual, i.e. how significant the need for such spiritual support was. As the sources indicate, only "strong", i.e. persons with good financial status, were ready to perform such a ritual. Knowing that the maharajas had access to both education and mind-balancing bodymind-type teachings (such as yoga, especially Raja Yoga) and considering that only a self-confident king would dare to take on such a challenge as Aśvamedha, it would be good if the article would also refer to some so-called 'failure'-cases (e.g. if the horse did not return) or similar. The description of the ritual also clearly indicates the meditative character of the singing, which could be opened up more.

Overall, valuable opening and contribution not only to the field of therapy but also to traditions, rituals and maharajas' life.