

Let any one study this Table and he must, I think, admit that it indicates an original connexion or family likeness between the Phœnician and earliest Indian or Brāhma letters, whilst it also illustrates the fact that the plastic hand of the Brāhmins has greatly modified and expanded the original germs, without, however, obliterating the evident indications of their connexion with the Phœnician.

4	3	2	1	2	3			4
CORRESPONDING ENGLISH	ARCHAIC ROMAN	ARCHAIC GREEK	PHŒNICIAN	BRĀHMA	DEVELOPMENTS OF BRĀHMA			MODERN NĀGARĪ
A	Α	Α	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓
K	Κ	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓
G	Γ	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓
T	Τ	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓
TH*	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	थ
D [§]	Δ	Δ	Δ	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	द
P	Ρ	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	प
B	Β	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	ब
Y	Υ	𐀀	𐤀	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	य
V	Ϝ	Υ	Υ	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	𑀓	व

* This is for the Greek *theta*, which is represented in this Dictionary, according to present usage, by *th*, although *t* or *ʰ* would be a more scientific symbol.

§ According to Professor Bühler, the Brāhma. 𑀓 became Nāgarī थ *dh*, from which द *d* was evolved.

And indeed the modest equipment of twenty-two letters which satisfied the Phœnicians, Greeks, and Romans, to whom the invention of writing was a mere human contrivance for the attainment of purely human ends, could not possibly have satisfied the devout Hindū, who regarded his language as of divine origin, and therefore not to be expressed by anything short of a perfect system of equally divine symbols. Even the popular Prākṛit of King Aśoka's edicts seems to have required nearly forty symbols¹, and the

¹ Some of the inscriptions had not the full complement of vowel-signs. As a matter of fact I find that in some inscriptions a list of only thirty-five letters in all is given, while in others there are thirty-six, and in others again thirty-nine. Professor Bühler says (p. 82 of his latest work published in 1898) that the ordinary Brāhma alphabet has forty-four letters traceable in the oldest

inscriptions (including the Bhaṭṭiprolu) which with *au* (derived from *o*) would make forty-five, and with the mark for Visarga which 'first occurs in the Kushana inscriptions' forty-six. The common reckoning for the vowels, as taught in indigenous schools, makes them only twelve.