

He consequently procured Atyarāti's defeat and death at the hands of Amitratapana Śuṣmīṇa Śaibya.¹

¹ Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, viii. 23. Cf. Weber, *Indische Studien*, I, 214.

Atri.—Neither Atri himself nor the Atris can claim any historical reality,¹ beyond the fact that Maṇḍala V. of the Rigveda is attributed, no doubt correctly, to the family of the Atris.² The Atris as a family probably stood in close relations with the Priyamedhas³ and Kaṇvas,⁴ perhaps also with the Gotamas⁵ and Kākṣivatas.⁶ The mention of both the Paruṣṇī and the Yamunā in one hymn⁷ of the fifth Maṇḍala seems to justify the presumption that the family was spread over a wide extent of territory.

¹ For Atri in the Rigveda, see Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, 145. Cf. also Av. ii. 32, 3; iv. 29, 3; Mantra Brāhmaṇa, ii. 7, 1; Taittiriya Āraṇyaka, iv. 36, etc.; Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, ii. 2, 4.

² Cf. Rv. v. 39, 5; 67, 5; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, xxiv. 3; Aitareya Āraṇyaka, ii. 2, 1.

³ Cf. Rv. i. 45, 3; 139, 9; viii. 5, 25; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, viii. 22.

⁴ Cf. Rv. i. 118, 7; v. 41, 4; x. 150, 5.

⁵ Cf. Rv. i. 183, 5.

⁶ Cf. Rv. x. 143, 1.

⁷ Rv. v. 52, 9. 17. Cf. Ludwig, Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 128, 142; Bergaigne, *Religion Védique*, 2, 469; Oldenberg, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 42, 212-215; Hillebrandt, *Vedische Mythologie*, 3, 310.

Atharī.—This word occurs only in the Rigveda,¹ and the sense is doubtful. Roth,² followed by most interpreters, renders it 'point of a lance,' but Pischel³ thinks that it means 'an elephant.'

¹ iv. 6, 8.

² St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.

³ *Vedische Studien*, I, 99.

Atharvan.—The name in the singular denotes the head of a semi-divine family of mythical priests,¹ of whom nothing historical can be said. In the plural the family as a whole is meant. In a few places an actual family seems to be referred to. Thus, for instance, they are mentioned as recipients of gifts in the Dānastuti² ('Praise of Gifts'), of Aśvattha's

¹ See Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, 141. In the Vamśa of the Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, ii. 6, 3, Atharvan

Daiva is characteristically the pupil of Mrtyu.

² Rv. vi. 47, 24.